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C. P. PRESSE 17

We all have a stake in helping, as best we can, to bring about wise and agreed solutions to the problems which the war has left in its wake. If our opportunity to shape decisions is limited, unfortunately we cannot, if peace should not be secured, place a similar limit on our liabilities. For this reason I hope that the Conference arrangements will permit of each member nation making its maximum contribution to the solution of the problems confronting us.

It would be unfortunate if, in this Conference, the real issues were to be obscured by any false antithesis between the interests of the larger and smaller nations.

The determining factor in the making of peace should not be the size or power of the participants, nor of their relative contributions to victory. The final test is what is right and what is just.

Already, difficulties have arisen and divisions have appeared in relation to procedure. Views strongly held have given emphatic expression, within these walls and without, in opposition to and in support of some of the proposals of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

I have been in public life a long time, perhaps longer than any one here. It certainly cannot be said of me that I underestimate the importance of being in the majority. It has not therefore been difficult for me to sympathize with the positions stated by both Dr. Evatt and Mr. Molotov. I have learned, however, that even better than a majority is unanimity and common consent.

With this in mind, I would like to see the four great powers willing to consider, and consider promptly, any changes in the foreign ministers' proposals which are seriously suggested and supported by strong arguments. I should like to see any suggested changes considered by them before a vote is taken. In other words, I would venture to suggest - and I believe the suggestion to be important - that the Council of Foreign Ministers should not wait, until the Conference has ended, to examine recommendations. I would suggest that the Council of Foreign Ministers all of whom will be attending the Conference, should meet from time to time, during the Conference, to review and discuss proposals as they arise out of our deliberations. This course would facilitate the immediate acceptance of any agreed modifications of the draft treaties. It would tend to avoid the necessity of votes and divisions. In saying that it is of the highest importance that we should, at this time, do everything possible to minimize divisions, I believe that I can speak for everyone here, - indeed for the