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Former Italian Colonies: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced Saturday that in a letter dated October 20, 1947, the Canadian Government had been invited to express its views regarding the disposal of the former Italian Colonies to the Conference of Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France, which is in session at Lancaster House, London.

The Government of Canada has replied that at this initial stage it does not wish to take advantage of the opportunity to present the Canadian viewpoint on this question. The Canadian Government may, however, wish to make known its views on the disposal of Italy's former African possessions at a later date when the reports are available of the Commission of Investigation which it is anticipated will be sent out to the former Italian Colonies in accordance with the terms of the joint resolution of the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France, contained in Annex XI of the Peace Treaty with Italy.

The Government of Canada expressed a further wish to be kept informed to the fullest extent practicable of all important developments in the consideration of this question by the Conference of Deputies, including the substance of any opinions on the final disposal of the colonies which may be presented by other interested Governments.

Sugar Rationing Ends: The Honourable Douglas Abbott, Minister of Finance, announced Sunday evening that effective Monday morning, all rationing of sugar and edible molasses, in effect in Canada since July 1942, would be discontinued by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Price ceilings, Mr. Abbott stated, would be retained on both these items but at the same time an increase of one cent per pound in the lawful maximum price of sugar has been authorized.

This one cent per pound advance in the permitted ceiling will cover not only the regular statutory import duties which are concurrently being reinstated, but also the increased costs of cotton and jute bags and other materials. The ceiling price on molasses remains unchanged.

The Minister also stated that unless completely unforeseen circumstances arise there should be no further increase in sugar prices for the next year, and that if there is any significant and sustained decline in world market prices it is the intention of the Government to reduce Canadian prices on refined sugar accordingly. In accordance with past practice, the Sugar Administrator will recapture the full advance in price on all stocks of raw and refined sugar in the hands of refiners.

U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Visit: Halifax will play host to more than 4,000 officers and men of the United States Navy and Marine Corps when 16 units of Transport Division 22 of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet pay an informal visit to the East Coast seaport and naval base November 17 to 19, it was announced at Naval Service Headquarters.