

There is one other development which I should draw to your attention.

At the end of May, the European Emergency Economic Committee held its first meeting. This meeting seems to have gone fairly well. As I understand the position, at that meeting there was some talk of the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Food and Agriculture. I believe that at the meeting which was held in London yesterday, consideration was to be given to the terms of reference, constitution, purpose, and so forth of the Sub-Committee. From advice I have received from the Ministry of Food, it seems pretty certain that the Sub-Committee will be established, although I have not had any official confirmation to that effect as yet.

This development occurred at a time when British Ministers had themselves been considering the desirability of explaining the international food situation, as they saw it, in the light of the Washington discussions, to the Ministers of the Executive Departments of the various European Governments who were concerned with food and agriculture. The short notice at which the meeting of Ministers has been called is, I understand, due to the desire of British Ministers to infuse vigour from the outset into the deliberations of the E.E.E.C. Sub-Committee.

Finally, I should tell you that as far as the Ministry of Food is concerned, they are determined that the E.E.E.C. Sub-Committee will deal only with general matters of common interest. It will not deal with the allocation of particular commodities. In no way will it, so to speak, poach upon the work of the Combined Food Board. The main idea will be to see that each country helps itself and helps its neighbours to the maximum possible degree by the pursuit of domestic policies which are appropriate to the circumstances of today.

Let me close by advising you that if the Canadian Government should decide to send a representative, our Embassy in Washington will do its utmost to assist in securing air passage, if this should be desired.

In closing, let me repeat the apologies for the very short notice which you are being given regarding this Conference. I believe that official information is being sent to the Government of Canada by the Dominions Office."

Hutton has arranged for air priority for me on B.O.A.C. leaving Saturday. I anticipate receiving priority for passage returning at the end of next week in order to keep my engagement at Guelph during the following week.

I shall be pleased to have from you tomorrow any information or instructions that would be useful in my participation in this Conference. Ends.