

of the various allies. All those matters have been put out as suggestions of a way in which the allies might be appropriately associated at an early stage in the preparation of the actual draft of the treaties after the council of foreign ministers have themselves agreed on what will be the general lines of the settlement and before a conference is called to consider a complete draft.

Mr. GRAYDON: Should Canada not make some direct representation to the Moscow meeting?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I am sure that those representations will be made to the Moscow meeting. In addition to the representations that are made in writing, there are innumerable contacts between the Canadian government and the foreign offices of the United Kingdom, the United States and France; and I have no doubt that all the details of these plans are matters about which the foreign ministers have full information.

Mr. GRAYDON: The other question was this, and is asked in view of Mr. Massey's statement and in view of the question I asked. Will the government give an answer as to why the occupation force in Germany was withdrawn when it was?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The occupation force in Germany was withdrawn because we were left out. We were told by the great powers that there would be three zones; that there would be a fourth if France wanted one, but there were not to be any others; and that their commanders were to constitute the government of Germany. I suppose the Russians might perhaps have accepted our cooperation; the French might have accepted our cooperation; the United States might have accepted it and the United Kingdom might have accepted it; but we would not have had any occupation force of ours taking any separate part in the legal occupation of Germany.

Mr. GRAYDON: But we were there for a year.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No.

Mr. GRAYDON: Yes.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Our troops were there when the surrender occurred, and we could not fly them out overnight. We immediately started to demobilize our forces and to remove them just as expeditiously as transportation conditions permitted. When we had succeeded in removing our troops from the area, we appointed a military liaison to the government constituted by the four allied commanders, as I stated in my previous remarks.

Mr. J. A. BRADETTE (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, before I proceed with my remarks, I wish to make a brief allusion to the activities of the standing committee on external affairs. I have the heavy responsibility and also the honour to be chairman of that committee, and am ably seconded by the vice-chairman, the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon). We started to function in the fall of 1945 and, through the cooperation which was accorded by every member of the committee, and which continued through every one of our meetings, I believe we succeeded to a very large extent in doing what we set out to do. When we started to function, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) was then Secretary of State for External Affairs, and he cooperated with us to the fullest extent although he found it impossible to be present at our discussions, and the same good will was shown by the officials of the department. This year the new department was formed, and the heavy responsibilities so ably discharged by the Prime Minister of Canada, were placed on the shoulders of the present occupant of that high position. He is fulfilling his obligations with his natural qualifications of high diplomacy and high statesmanship; and I believe this is the time and place to compliment our present Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent) upon the honour he has brought to himself, to parliament and to the whole of Canada.

I was very proud indeed that during this afternoon and evening there was no sign of subduedness in his voice or in those of previous speakers. I was afraid that when we received that resounding rebuff from the "Big Four" Canada would take it impatiently, but Canada took it with dignity, but with some resentment. However I never saw the population so electrified, or rather stupefied as when the Canadian people learned that we were *persona non grata* as far as the peace treaties with Austria and Germany were concerned. I am not again going to cover the ground which was so well covered this afternoon as to the great renown Canada won for herself during world war I and also during world war II. We can go to a peace conference with a fine symbol. We do not want any territorial aggrandizement; we have no quarrel with any nation. We can go there with an open heart and open mind. I know that public opinion in the countries of Europe, even public opinion in the four big nations, will be so strong that it will compel them to allow Canada to take its proper place in the deliberations at the coming peace conference.

I want to say just a few words about some of the things which happened under the treaty