

Collected by Conference 1937
C-123301

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Printed for the Imperial Conference. May 1937.

C-103-1

v.p. 3

SECRET.

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E. (37) 14.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1937.

AGENDA AND SUGGESTED PROCEDURE.

Memorandum prepared by the Joint Secretariat of the Conference.

Agenda.

1. The Agenda for the Conference, as arranged in telegraphic correspondence between the Governments concerned, was announced in the United Kingdom on the 11th March, 1937, in the following terms:—

“The Imperial Conference, which will open on the 14th May, will afford an opportunity for discussion of matters of common interest to the Members of the British Commonwealth, under the following heads:—

- (1) Foreign Affairs and defence.
- (2) Constitutional questions.
- (3) Trade, shipping and air communications and allied questions.

As regards foreign affairs and defence, the agenda will include the examination of the general situation, together with any relevant questions of a less general character which may require consideration.

As regards constitutional questions, particular subjects proposed for consideration are certain matters relating to nationality, treaty procedure, the international status of Members of the British Commonwealth and channels of communication between them.

As regards trade, shipping and air communications and allied questions, the following will be the main headings:—

- (a) General review of the progress of Empire trade and questions arising therefrom.
- (b) Review of the work of the Imperial Economic Committee and other intra-Imperial organisations in the economic sphere.
- (c) General questions arising in connection with shipping policy including a review of the work of the Imperial Shipping Committee.
- (d) Civil air communications.

It has been generally agreed by His Majesty's Governments that any questions arising out of the Ottawa Agreements can best be dealt with as occasion offers in separate discussions between the individual Governments concerned and apart from the Imperial Conference.

It is hoped that there will also be an opportunity during the course of the Imperial Conference for exchanges of views on the subject of migration within the Empire.”

Suggested Procedure.

2. It is proposed that, in accordance with precedent, some of the principal items on this Agenda, e.g., item (1), Foreign Affairs and Defence, and item (3) (a), General Review of Empire Trade, should be discussed, at any rate in the first

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W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 174, pages C123201-C124159)

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