

and the United States of America.

56. The Canadian reply to the United States invitation was as follows:

"The Canadian Government welcomes the proposal made by the United States Government on July 11th for the convening at an early date of a conference of the eleven state members of the Far Eastern Commission to discuss a peace treaty for Japan. It views with satisfaction the provision in the United States proposal for the eleven Powers primarily interested in the settlement with Japan to participate fully from the beginning in the preparation of the Japanese peace treaty, and also the suggestion that voting should be by a simple two-thirds majority. The proposal that the Conference be convened at deputy and expert level may require comments later when detailed proposals have been made regarding the agenda and procedure for the Conference.

"As the Canadian Government has accepted an invitation from the Australian Government to attend a meeting of representatives of the Governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations in Canberra on August 26th for the purpose of exchanging views informally on the Japanese peace settlement, it would find it difficult to be represented at a conference in the United States on the suggested tentative date of August 19th. The Canadian Government, therefore, hopes that some other early date can be agreed upon that will not conflict with the discussions arranged to take place in Canberra."

57. In conversation in Washington with General Hilldring, the Canadian Ambassador ascertained that the United States had proposed August 19th without expectation that it would be acceptable, but as an indication that in the United States view the Conference should begin at an early date. General Hilldring expressed the hope that the first meetings might take place not later than September. He mentioned the possibility of having a short opening session lasting perhaps a week which the Secretary of State, General Marshall, and the other Foreign Ministers present at the General Assembly Meeting could attend, and explained that the main reason why the United States had initially suggested that the first meeting should be at the deputy level was because of pressure on the Secretary of State.

58. Mr. Wrong was informed that replies had not been received by July 22nd from the Soviet and French Governments, but that other Governments approached had without exception indicated agreement on the three points to which the United States attached principal importance, (1) a conference of the eleven primarily interested States, (2) decisions by a two-thirds majority, (3) a beginning in the near future. General Hilldring observed that the United States proposal was the result of prolonged consideration in the State Department, and that its central feature was