

(b) Mr. Mackenzie King, soon after he became Prime Minister, had to make a crucial decision on the Chanak crisis in 1922 without Parliament, though in this case his reserved reply was based on the principle that in any positive commitment Parliament would have to be consulted, and it was not then in session. He asked Mr. Lloyd George whether it should be summoned, and was informed that this was no longer necessary. Mr. King's action, however, was regarded as tantamount to an equivocal refusal to underwrite Britain's foreign policy - a decision made by the Administration without Parliamentary participation. He was afterwards taken to task for this by Mr. Meighen, who spoke for the Opposition, who re-asserted the Laurier policy of no commitments without Parliamentary sanction, but who apparently broke this principle by his own impromptu "Ready aye ready" without prior consultation of either Parliament or his own party. Mr. King could perhaps justify his own action of evading an Imperial involvement, after consulting with only the few Cabinet Ministers who were in town, by arguing that as a Prime Minister and Cabinet are presumed to command a working majority in Parliament, and that leadership is presumed to be expected and actions presumably will be endorsed by the parliamentary majority, when submitted for approval, the Government was acting on behalf of Parliament, during its recess. Replying to Mr. Meighen's subsequent criticism, On February 1, 1923,