

to impose the death penalty for certain offences if the occupying power decided this was necessary in its military operation. The wording if the proposed United Kingdom reservation is as follows:

“The United Kingdom reserves the right to impose the death penalty in accordance with the provisions of Article 68, paragraph 2, without regard to whether the offences referred to therein are punishable by death under the law of the occupied territory at the time the occupation begins.”

6. The recommendations and conclusions of the Committee have been concurred in by the Deputy Ministers of all the Departments represented on the Committee as well as by the Civil Defence Co-Ordinator and the R.C.M.P.

7. These Conventions will not be binding upon the signatory powers until they are ratified. There is no time limit for ratification. The Conventions are to come into force 6 months after the date of deposit of 2 instruments of ratification. They are to come into force thereafter with respect to each High Contracting Party 6 months after the deposit of its Instrument of Ratification.

8. Order-in-Council P.C 1746, dated April 7, 1949, authorized the issue of Full Powers to “Emile Vaillancourt and Max Hirsch Wershof, or either of them, to negotiate and sign ad referendum in respect of Canada such Conventions as may result from the work of the Diplomatic Conference...”. In view of the terms of this Order-in-Council, it is not necessary to ask for new Full Powers. In view of the recent developments in Belgrade, I feel that Mr. Vaillancourt should remain close to his post and I, therefore, recommend that Mr. Wershof be instructed to proceed to Geneva for the Signing Ceremony.

9. In view of the instructions given to the Canadian delegation to the Diplomatic Conference at Geneva which were approved by the Cabinet and in view of Order-in-Council P.C. 1746, I do not consider it is necessary to refer this matter again to the Cabinet.

10. Do you agree?¹⁰⁰

A.D.P. H[EENEY]

¹⁰⁰ Note marginale:/Marginal note:
Yes LB P[earson]