

CANADA A PACIFIC NATION

Successful completion of the war against Germany has left Canada free to turn its effort to the final phase of World War II - defeat of Japan. The first western nation to declare war on Japan, Canada has made it clear that not until Japanese aggression has been completely wiped out will this country lay down arms.

During debate on foreign policy in the House of Commons last summer, Prime Minister King said:

"I would make it perfectly clear that the policy of the government is to see that our appropriate part is taken in the war against Japan to the very close of the war."

Again in his V-E Day speech from San Francisco, Mr. King said:

"Our national war effort must and will continue until the war in the Far East has also been won... There must be no pause until total victory has been achieved."

Geography has made Canada as well as the United States a Pacific nation. Canadians know that there can be no security or well-being for them so long as Japan remains dominant in Asia and the Pacific. Not only will Canadian navy, army and air force units help defeat Japan, but Canadian factories will continue to supply the allies with weapons of war for use in the Pacific.

Canadian participation in the war against Japan was fully discussed by Prime Minister King, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and the allied chiefs of staff at the Quebec conference in September, 1944. At that time, however, it was felt that not until the end of European hostilities could the exact size of Canada's contribution be determined.

In his statement of April 4, 1945, to the House of Commons on Pacific war participation Mr. King said:

"The matter (Canada's participation) was discussed in principle at Quebec. It was agreed at that time that the actual form and extent of the Canadian forces to be engaged could not be finally settled until the strategic situation which will exist after European hostilities have terminated could be assessed with greater accuracy, and that when that time came the appropriate Canadian contribution to the defeat of Japan would be determined with United Kingdom and United States authorities in the light of the situation then existing."

Again in his welcoming address to Major-General B.M. Hoffmeister, commander of the Canadian Army Pacific Force, on June 14, 1945, Prime Minister King spoke of the discussions at Quebec:

"The whole question of Canada's part in the war against Japan was discussed by myself and other members of our government with Mr. Churchill and the late President Roosevelt, and with their chiefs of staff and our own at the meeting held in Quebec last September...."

"The government believed the Canadian people wanted our country to bear its just share of the burden of defeating Japan. We were no less concerned to make Canada's effort as effective as possible. We were anxious, therefore, to lay our plans well in advance for the very difficult and complicated task of transferring our military strength from action against Germany to action against Japan."