

in the United Kingdom, and to some extent elsewhere in the British Commonwealth, it may be regarded by some people as impeding cooperation with other Commonwealth countries.

I think it might be well, therefore, before agreement with the United States on a date for publication, to inform the United Kingdom of what we are doing and to tell them that we are willing to make an agreement with them in similar terms. We could thus establish our position clearly as prepared to cooperate closely with the United Kingdom in defence matters while ruling out schemes of exclusive Commonwealth defence arrangements.

The State Department are inclined to favour early publication. They think that the international scene is now as propitious as it is likely to become and that it would be well to have the agreement a matter of public record before any new tensions arise. I understand that they will not secure formal approval of the Recommendation from the President until the eve of publication, so that they cannot be accused of keeping secret the fact that they have entered into a defence arrangement with Canada.

From our own point of view I am satisfied that the agreement is useful and ought to be welcomed by other Commonwealth countries. The problems to which its publication may give rise relate to the interpretation which may be placed upon it and not to its substance.

HW.

Agreed
HW.