

THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE  
DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. King:

That it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve the following resolution:

Whereas the Government of Canada has been invited by the Government of the United States of America, on behalf of itself and of the governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of China, to send representatives to a conference of the United Nations to be held on April 25, 1945, at San Francisco in the United States of America to prepare a charter for a general international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security, and

Whereas the invitation suggests that the conference consider as affording a basis for such a charter the proposals for the establishment of a general international organization which have been made public by the four governments which participated in the discussions at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, and

Whereas the Government of Canada has accepted the invitation to send representatives to this conference,

Therefore be it resolved:

1. That this House endorses the acceptance by the Government of Canada of the invitation to send representatives to the conference;

2. That this House recognizes that the establishment of an effective international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security is of vital importance to Canada, and, indeed, to the future well-being of man-kind; and that it is in the interests of Canada that Canada should become a member of such an organization;

3. That this House approves the purposes and principles set forth in the proposals of the four governments, and considers that these proposals constitute a satisfactory general basis for a discussion of the charter of the proposed international organization;

4. That this House agrees that the representatives of Canada at the conference should use their best endeavours to further the preparation of an acceptable charter for an international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security;

5. That the charter establishing the international organization should, before ratification, be submitted to Parliament for approval.

Hon. J. W. de B. FARRIS: Honourable senators, if the only thing to be considered in this debate were the passing of the resolution, any further remarks would be out of place, because undoubtedly there is complete unanimity in the Senate with respect to the resolution, which simply records approval of the Government's acceptance of the invitation to attend the San Francisco conference, expresses our confidence in the delegation, and indicates that we are in favour of the proposed international organization. It is difficult to understand the mental processes of any peace-loving Canadian who opposes this resolution, and there is certainly not such a one

Hon. Mr. KING.

in this Chamber. But while the resolution may not justify further discussion, the occasion requires the fullest consideration, and I think this responsibility falls particularly on the Senate. As a group of men of experience, and I hope of some wisdom, it is fitting and necessary that our views and conclusions should be made available, by way of discussion here, to those who will go as delegates to the conference.

There is perhaps an even more important reason why we here should discuss the proposed international organization. In a democracy public opinion is always the power behind those who act for the democracy.

Hon. Mr. HOWARD: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. FARRIS: Therefore it is essential that we discuss the subject to give a lead to all the citizens of Canada. In the circumstances it is not sufficient that we give mere lip service to the proposal before us by voting for the resolution.

For these reasons, honourable senators, although a good many speeches have already been made in this debate—speeches which I think you will agree are a credit to the Senate and to Canada—I make no apology for continuing the debate.

The proposal is that once again the world join in an effort to achieve enduring peace. That, honourable senators, is a very ambitious proposal. It is one that in all the history of the world has never yet succeeded. Looking over the prospects, I think there is really only one encouraging reason why it may succeed at this time. I cannot bring myself to believe that it will succeed because we are going to have a better world than before. It is not my belief that human nature can possibly be improved by continued and awful brutality—and that is what we have experienced and have had to take part in for now nearly six years. If there is a real chance of this scheme succeeding at this time, when it never did before, it will be primarily for the reason that mankind now appreciates the consequences of another war as perhaps never before. From the experiences we have had twice in our own time we cannot help realizing that science, in what it has achieved and is likely to achieve in the immediate future, is so mastering the mechanics of annihilation that if there is another war civilization will be capable of complete self-destruction.

In sending our delegates to San Francisco we are seeking to evolve a plan for peace to become effective after the war is over. But first it is essential that there shall be victory—and with the greatest satisfaction we are conscious of how much better the prospects for that victory look to-day than ever before.