

C 271768

Text of statement made by the Canadian representative, Mr. George Ignatieff, before the Security Council on March 28, 1947, concerning the United States Draft Trusteeship Agreement for the Japanese mandated islands.

"1. The general interest which the Government of Canada has in the Pacific area was demonstrated by the willingness of Canada to play a part as a belligerent in that area during the war. Canada has now an equal interest in the maintenance of peace and security in the Pacific region. For this reason, the Canadian Government has been happy to accept this opportunity to be present at a discussion affecting arrangements for the disposition of certain particular territories in the Pacific. The proposal that all members of the Far Eastern Commission should attend when the United States Draft Trusteeship Agreement for the former Japanese mandated islands was under discussion in the Security Council was taken by the Canadian Government to be a consequence of the interest which member states of that Commission have in the settlement of the Pacific, even though they may not all be intimately concerned with the details of all phases of that settlement.

"2. The Canadian Government is satisfied that the Japanese did not properly fulfil the terms of the mandate which were assigned to them. As a consequence of the war, Japan no longer exercises its mandatory authority. The Canadian Government is further of the opinion that no country could more fully and appropriately discharge the responsibilities involved in the administration of the former Japanese mandated islands than the United States. The Canadian Government is confident also that the administration of these islands by the United States will promote peace and security in the Pacific area. The actions of the United States, as the de facto administering power in the islands, in placing this draft trusteeship arrangement before the Security Council is welcomed as an evidence of the growing strength of the structure of international cooperation provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

"3. In the light of its general interest in this subject, the Canadian Government has examined the text of United States Draft Trusteeship Agreement. It considers that this Agreement is adequate in the present circumstances for protecting the interests both of the United Nations and of the inhabitants of the islands. We are hopeful, however, that as the system of Trusteeship Agreements develops, and possibly if revisions are made in the present Agreement, wide provision will be made for international supervision under the trusteeship clauses of the Charter. Finally, the Canadian Government is pleased to observe the general measure of approval which the Agreement has received, and in the light of the present situation warmly shares in this approval."