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36. On June 20th a telegram from the Dominions Office informed the Canadian Government that in the United Kingdom view the object of the Canberra conference would be first, to discuss the procedure to be adopted in reaching a Japanese Peace Settlement and second, to exchange views on broad lines regarding basic issues affecting the future treatment of Japan. The United Kingdom authorities pointed out that the Canberra Conference should not aim at the production of any agreed British Commonwealth draft for the Japanese Peace Treaty, further, that the way should be left open for informal discussions with United States authorities. Shortly afterwards, a message was received from the Australian Secretary of State for External Affairs in the following terms:

"We have given consideration to the scope of the forth-coming conference in Canberra of British Commonwealth representatives with a view to full discussion and as approach to broad agreements on main policies, we propose the following provisional agenda."

On the procedural side it was suggested that discussion should be under six headings:

- (1) Which countries are to participate in the Japanese Peace Treaty,
- (2) Method of voting,
- (3) Proposed date, urgency of proceeding with settlement,
- (4) Venue,
- (5) Approaches to be made to the United States and other Governments regarding steps to be taken for a Peace Conference,
- (6) Whether single instrument or more.

It was also proposed that the opportunity should be taken to discuss matters outside the Japanese Settlement of common interest to Members of the Commonwealth. These included the style and title of Commonwealth representatives in the United Kingdom and the Dominions, the title of the Dominions Office, the possible war use of Pacific bases and the proposed Nauru Trusteeship Agreement. The Canadian Government, on receipt of these communications again made known its view that the conference should not aim at the production of any agreed British Commonwealth draft for the Japanese Treaty, and indicated its opposition to any suggestion that the British Commonwealth should be represented as a unit at the Japanese peace conference. The Government stated its concern that the preliminary Commonwealth talks should not give rise to any misunderstanding in the United States, and informed other Commonwealth Governments of its intention to let the United States Government know of its views on the nature of the Commonwealth talks. The Canadian message went on to say that Canada did not agree to the addition of other subjects to the agenda of the conference which did not bear, directly, on the Japanese Settlement. The New Zealand Government was of similar view on the question of adding additional subjects to the