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TO SPEAK.

ADDRESS BY THE Rt.Hon. W.L. MACKENZIE KING, Prime  
Minister of CANADA, before the PLENARY SESSION of the PARIS  
CONFERENCE, August 2, 1946

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Mr. President:

The nations represented at this Conference have willingly accepted the invitation of the Great Powers to be associated with them in the task of making peace with Italy and the Eastern European belligerents.

It was with particular pleasure that the Government of Canada received this invitation at the hands of the Government of France. The special ties between Canada and France reach back for more than 400 years. During two centuries, our countries shared a common history. Twice in the past thirty years, in the defence of civilization, French and Canadian fighting men have been valiant comrades on the battlefields of Europe. Canada is happy, today, to be associated with France in rebuilding the peace of Europe.

Canada's interest in the successful outcome of the deliberations of this Conference is obviously less immediate and direct than that of some of the participating countries. Clearly, there are many countries represented here that will be more closely and directly concerned with the specific solutions of questions of territorial boundaries, population transfers, war damage indemnities and so on. I can truly say that Canada has no specific national interest in the adoption of any particular formula for the solution of individual conflicts and differences which, in the aggregate, will constitute the general settlement. But we have a vital and compelling interest in the kind of settlement that results from these deliberations. Our principal duty and interest lies, it seems to me, in helping the countries more directly concerned to work out agreed solutions which are fair and likely to endure. Our concern as a nation is to see that, as far as we can help to make them so, the peace treaties will be based upon broad and enduring principles of justice and equity. Canada seeks no territory, no reparations, no special concessions of any kind, but we do seek to build a lasting peace.

Canada's interest in the peace springs from deep within the heart of Canada's nationhood. It might have been thought from our geographical position, that we were remote from and had no concern with central Europe. But the fact that we were early in