

accrued, accruing or incurred thereunder be affected by such variation, extension or revocation.

On August 25, two days later, I sought to indicate as clearly as I could, not only to this country but to all parts of the world, what might be expected in the way of united action on the part of our country if a situation developed such as was threatening at the time. This was done in the following statement to the press:

The government are continuing to give the closest attention to the grave developments in the European situation in the light of information being received.

As stated yesterday, should it become apparent that the efforts to preserve the peace of Europe are likely to be of no avail, parliament will immediately be summoned.

The government have been proceeding with complete unanimity in outlining the policy which they will announce the moment parliament is summoned, should that step become necessary. Meanwhile, all possible precautionary measures are being taken to meet whatever eventuality may arise.

Was there any member of the House of Commons, when he read that this government was outlining a policy which it had reached with complete unanimity, who thought the government was doing other than informing the world that when parliament met we would bring down the policy which we have brought down to-day? We were giving full notice to the world at that time as to just where we believed this parliament would stand.

May I here pause to say this? I have said all along that as regards Canada's entry into war, and obligations ensuing therefrom, no commitments would be made until parliament met, that parliament would decide the momentous question of peace and war; whether or not this country is to go into war. Now I wish to make perfectly clear at this moment, that parliament has been summoned and is here to-day to decide that question. That question is not decided as yet. The government have reached their decision upon policy; they have announced their policy, and it is for the hon. members of this house to say whether or not they stand by the government's policy as it has been announced and as it is being announced to-day.

I ask hon. members, as they are considering the matter, to ask themselves this question: Had the government proceeded more rapidly than it did with respect to any of the measures pertaining to apprehended war, or had the government failed to take any of the steps which we have taken since war threatened, would we not have been held seriously responsible by the members of this parliament as it is assembled today? I ask hon. members, could we have proceeded with more in the way of expedition

or at the same time with more circumspection in seeking, until parliament met, to safeguard this country against apprehended war, or could we by any means have given to parliament an earlier opportunity at which to decide whether we were to go a step further and cooperate with Great Britain and the countries that may become involved in the present war? It was only on Sunday last, September 3, that Great Britain announced that a state of war existed between her and Germany. This is Friday, and parliament assembled yesterday the seventh instant.

Now I should like to place on the record if I may the cablegram which I sent on August 25 to the Reichsfuehrer, Herr Hitler, the cablegram sent to the president of the Polish republic and the communication which was sent to Premier Mussolini; also the replies which were received. These documents appear in the White Paper, but I think it would be to the advantage of the house to have them also on *Hansard* for purposes of possible future reference.

Telegram of August 25, 1939, from the Prime Minister of Canada to Herr Hitler, Reichsfuehrer.

The people of Canada are of one mind in believing that there is no international problem which cannot be settled by conference and negotiation. They equally believe that force is not a substitute for reason, and that the appeal to force as a means of adjusting international differences defeats rather than furthers the ends of justice. They are prepared to join what authority and power they may possess to that of the other nations of the British commonwealth in seeking a just and equitable settlement of the great problems with which nations are faced.

On behalf of the Canadian people, but equally in the interests of humanity itself, I join with those of other countries and powers who have appealed to you, in the firm hope that your great power and authority will be used to prevent impending catastrophe by having recourse to every possible peaceful means to effect a solution of the momentous issues of this period of transition and change in world affairs.

Telegram of August 25, 1939, from the Prime Minister of Canada to the president of the Polish republic.

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