

The form of title that will be recommended for use in Canada is:

“Elizabeth the Second, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and her other realms and territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.”

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PCO

Extrait des conclusions du Cabinet

Extract from Cabinet Conclusions

TOP SECRET

[Ottawa,] December 15, 1952

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ROYAL STYLE AND TITLES

3. *The Prime Minister* referred to the announcement of December 12th concerning the agreement reached in London on the Royal Style and Titles. He proposed to table the communique in the House of Commons and to indicate that the government would recommend to Parliament that the matter be dealt with during the course of the present session.

It had become clear at an early point in the special meetings that no single form of title would be generally acceptable to all the countries concerned. The result, in which Canada would be associated in her form of title with Australia and New Zealand, seemed satisfactory. A principal point of discussion with the Prime Ministers of the latter two countries had been whether the three titles should refer simply to the “United Kingdom” or to the “United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland”. The full style would be used in the United Kingdom title. Mr. Churchill had felt that it would not be possible for the United Kingdom to leave out specific reference to Northern Ireland but he had no objection to the shorter version being used by others. It seemed much preferable not to have a formal declaration by the other countries in their titles that Northern Ireland was a part of the United Kingdom as this was likely to give rise to controversy. Australia and New Zealand had agreed with that view.

The South African title would describe the Queen as “Queen of South Africa and of her other realms and territories” but would not include mention of the United Kingdom nor the phrases “by the grace of God” or “Defender of the Faith”. The title of Ceylon would be similar. Pakistan would refer to the “United Kingdom” with no reference to Pakistan specifically. It seemed clear that the government of Pakistan felt it would ultimately have to follow the same course as India and recognize the Queen simply as head of the Commonwealth.

There might be some discussion about retention for Canada of the phrase “Defender of the Faith”. While in the United Kingdom it had a special connotation through the established church, for Canada it could properly be regarded as referring to the role of the state in protecting the freedom of religious observance and in defending the faiths accepted by her people.