

5) In these circumstances could some relief of the defence burden be achieved, as to

- (a) man-power
- (b) finance.

6) Mr. Bevin did not suggest either

- (a) contribution to a common pool, nor
- (b) any modification of present freedom of action within the Commonwealth.

But could there be a redirection of responsibilities so that each member assumed special obligations in respect of that part of the world in which it was chiefly interested.

- no return to 1939, when there had been no really co-ordinated plan of action in a common war effort.

- it would be a great re-assurance to know that each Commonwealth country had a certain force which could be speedily mobilised and concentrated in a particular area.

C. Comment by Commonwealth Ministers

1) Mr. Mackenzie King

- (a) no commitments but would make contents of memorandum (P.M.M.(46) 41 known to his colleagues for careful study;
- (b) Canada's own commitments were already much greater than before 1939, and the U.K. was not alone in having liabilities;
- (c) Military commitments of Canada to United Nations not yet known;
- (d) Could U.S. be asked to assume greater security obligations in Europe?