Col. B's précis

I wonder just what you expect of me at this meeting? When your President invited me to be your chairman he said that he supposed my views would not be very dissimilar to those of the average public man in this country outside of the military services. I do not know just what I am to understand by that but I take it that he feels there is a difference of opinion in the U.S. between those who have some technical knowledge of these matters and those who have not. Amd the only difference of opinion that I could think might exist is that the man outside the services is more in favour of disarmament than the man who is in them.

I am not going to waste my time or yours by repeating the usual platitudes about the common interests and the common language of my country and yours, about the century and more of peace that has existed along our border. (Insert A) In this particular corner of North America we have kept the peace because it was the best thing to do, because there was no adequate reason for doing anything else. There is no doubt that our interests are very closely linked together. It is impossible for Canada to be prosperous if the U.S. is not prosperous, the U.S. still looks to Canada as its best customer. Peace in our case is obviously good business. I suppose that is why you find it possible to invite me as a Canadian to preside over this meeting, and I shall speak to you just as frankly as if I were not a Canadian

This is a political and a national organization. Its members are drawn from one side of politics in one country. Let me say at once that th subject which we are discussing today cannot be discussed in terms of politics or from the point of view of one country. That has been the trouble with almost all of the discussion that has ever taken place. There has been far too much politics and far too little policy. Disarmament, I repeat, is not a question for any party or any country: it is a question for the world. You must get outside the bounds of party and of country if you are going to give it the consideration it deserves.