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April 27, 1946

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Dominion - Provincial Conference

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Notes re statement to be made by The Prime Minister at plenary session - April 29, 1946.

The statement should begin by mentioning the circumstances which occasioned the calling of the Dominion-Provincial Conference, namely that, during the war, to meet a national emergency, the Provinces yielded up certain of their sources of revenue to the Dominion.

It should be frankly admitted that it was intended that these sources would be returned when the war was over. The statement should say that the war had lasted longer and occasioned greater expenditures than could possibly have been foreseen at the time.

The Japanese war had been added to the German war in the interval.

Be sure and say at beginning a clearer statement is made of the aim of the Dominion's proposals - to see that the Dominion government gets a chance to discharge its duties in the external field, and the provinces fully theirs. No desire to invade, etc. Also emphasize agreement is only for three years.

It was foreseen that the situation following the war would be more difficult to cope with than had been believed. Also that the period of transition from war to peace would be extremely difficult because of loss of markets, chaotic conditions in the world, etc.

Then bring in fact that war with Germany came to an end before Dominion-Provincial conference was arranged. (Give date). State when plenary conference met.

Bring in dramatic circumstances that before it had concluded announcement was made of the destruction wrought by the atomic bomb and cessation of hostilities against Japan.

Then bring out the circumstances of the appointment of the Co-ordinating Committee; show its relation to the Conference; decision to have a permanent Economic Committee reporting to its own government.

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