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consideration be given by the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States to a procedure granting special privilege to the Great Powers, the suggestion may well be made that the British Commonwealth should be jointly represented in any peace negotiations carried on by the Great Powers. The implications of this possibility will be discussed in Section VI below.

V.

THE CANBERRA CONFERENCE

34. At an informal discussion of Commonwealth representatives in Moscow during the Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Mr. Bevin, having in mind statements made by General MacArthur concerning the advisability of an early settlement with Japan, expressed apprehension lest the United States announce plans for the Japanese Peace Treaty without consultation with other interested governments. Following on this discussion, the United Kingdom issued an invitation for an early meeting of the Commonwealth Governments in London to consider policies for the Japanese Settlement "with a view to an approach to the United States Government...". Shortly afterwards an invitation from the Australian Foreign Minister to participate in a similar conference at Canberra was received. The Australian view was that Canberra would be more appropriate as the conference site because Australia had been a primary base of operations against Japan, and because of the extent of Australian-New Zealand participation in the Japanese War. In response to these approaches, the Canadian Government, on April 19th, informed the other Commonwealth Governments that it would favour an informal exchange of views in Washington between the British Commonwealth representatives on the Far Eastern Commission rather than a formal conference. Further that such meetings, in its opinion, should not be expected to lead to the formulation of a single Commonwealth policy to which all members of the Commonwealth would be committed at a later stage of the Japanese Settlement. The United Kingdom considered however that the significance of the Pacific Settlement to Australia and New Zealand made it desirable to arrange for a meeting at the Ministerial level to ensure the fullest mutual understanding of the respective points of view, of Commonwealth Members both as regards procedure and the substance of the Japanese Settlement. The United Kingdom authorities expressed the hope that such consultation might be held in London rather than Canberra, and that the Canadian Government would find it possible to be represented.

35. As a result of representations made to the Prime Minister by Dr. Evatt urging the claims of the Canberra site, reply was made that it would be difficult to arrange for ministerial representation in Canberra. As an alternative an exchange of views on procedural question at the High Commissioner level in London, as well as continued discussions on matters of substance, by representatives on the Far Eastern Commission was suggested. In the meantime, the United Kingdom authorities had also been under considerable pressure from Australia and had decided to send ministerial representations to Canberra. In informing Canada to this effect, the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs expressed the hope that Canada would take a similar decision. After due consideration it was decided that Canada should be represented at Canberra on the ministerial level and that the Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Brooke Claxton would lead the Canadian delegation.