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The other Commonwealth delegations will no doubt in varying degrees also wish to avoid creating the impression that a Commonwealth panel is being formed in Canberra. In the recent proposals which the United States made to the member nations of the Far Eastern Commission for a preliminary Japanese peace conference it was suggested that conference decisions should be made on a two-thirds majority vote. In effect this would give the five Commonwealth countries a power of veto in the proposed conference. The United States were certainly aware of this fact when they made their proposal. It would be most undesirable, however, that these Commonwealth countries should prejudice their relations with the United States by allowing the impression to become current that they were planning to take advantage of their potential veto in the international conference.

In view of the numerous statements which have been made concerning the non-committal attitude which Canada will take at the Canberra conference I trust you will not hesitate to take the initiative in injecting a note of caution into the conference discussions concerning the dangers implicit in the circulation of reports, whether well or ill founded, which would lead the United States or any other government to think that a Commonwealth policy on the Japanese peace settlement is being formulated in Canberra. In this connection relations with the press assume considerable significance. It would be most unfortunate if reports of the type indicated above, whether based on corridor gossip or official press releases, should emanate from Canberra.

Before you leave Ottawa you will be provided with a brief containing material prepared in the Department of External Affairs for your use at the Canberra conference. This material is not in the form of instructions but is rather intended for your guidance in the conference discussions.

As you know, the Far Eastern Commission, of which Canada is a member, has during the past year and a half been formulating policies in conformity with which Japan is to fulfil her obligations under the terms of surrender. Decisions taken by the Far Eastern Commission for the occupation period will in a good number of cases have a bearing on decisions taken in the peace conference on similar subjects. In the course of our participation in the work of the Far Eastern Commission a start has been made in the process of determining Canadian policy with respect to Japan. While we will not be bound in any way to the continued support of these policies, the positions which we have taken on various issues in the Far Eastern Commission are a fair indication of what the Canadian line is likely to be in the peace conference.

On the basis of Canada's general interest in the establishment of peace and security in the Far East, of certain special Canadian interests and the precedents established in our participation in the work of

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