

"We are in a feverish scramble to get through the work—an unhealthy atmosphere in which we are liable to push things through for the sake of getting them finished. The Russians are taking advantage of this state of affairs to reopen all sorts of questions in the hope that, out of mere weakness, we shall give in to them. Their tone and manner seem daily to become more openly truculent and antagonistic....

"However hot, tired and bad-tempered the other delegates may become, [Edward Wood, Lord] Halifax remains cool and Olympian and makes benevolent, cloudy speeches which soothe but do not satisfy. Senator [John] Connally of the U.S. delegation roars at his opponent, waving his arms and sweating. It is somehow reassuring to come out from the committee meetings into the streets and see the people in whose name we are arguing so fiercely and who do not give a damn how the Charter reads. Sailors hand in hand with their girls (this is a great town for walking hand in hand) on their way to a movie or a dance hall.

"19 June 1945.

"The Soviet delegates have got very little goodwill out of this Conference. They use aggressive tactics about every question, large or small.... Their system has some unfortunate results from their point of view. They have no elbow-room in committee tactics—they cannot vary their method to allow for a change in mood and tempo of the Conference. They are paralysed by the unexpected. They always have to stall and cable home for instructions. It is unfortunate from our point of view as well as theirs that they should have made such a bad showing, for I think they are proposing to make a serious effort to use the organization and are not out to wreck it.

"28 June 1945.

"Back in Ottawa. The Conference is over. It is going to be a little disconcerting at first living alone again, after our group existence in San Francisco. The hotel sitting-room which Norman Robertson and Hume Wrong shared was a meeting place for members of our delegation, and there was a perpetual flow of drinks on tap. There we foregathered to talk Conference gossip. The pace of the Conference got more and more hectic towards the end. Meetings would end at four or five a.m., when we would fall into bed and drag ourselves up three or four hours later.

"It also became increasingly difficult to relate the conference to other events going on in the world and form an estimate of the real importance in the scheme of things of what we were doing in San Francisco. While we were there, the war against Germany was won, the occupation of Germany took place, the Russians installed themselves in Prague and Vienna and made their first bid for a port on the Adriatic.... We were preoccupied with the Battle of the Veto and with the tussles over the powers of the General Assembly and the provisions for amending the Charter. How much were these mere paper battles? How much was the San Francisco Conference a smokescreen behind which the Great Powers took up their positions? These doubts were floating about in the backs of our minds, but we had not much time for doubts—the daily timetable was too gruelling."