

*The Address—Mr. Mackenzie King*

measures of economic, naval and air cooperation which are obviously necessary and desirable and which it is possible to undertake without delay. I have already referred to economic measures. The information we have obtained indicates that the most immediate and effective further means of cooperation would be a rapid expansion of air training, and of air and naval facilities, and the dispatch of trained air personnel. These measures we propose to institute immediately.

I wish now to repeat the undertaking I gave in parliament on behalf of the government on March 30 last. The present government believe that conscription of men for overseas service will not be a necessary or an effective step. No such measure will be introduced by the present administration. We have full faith in the readiness of Canadian men and women to put forth every effort in their power to preserve and defend free institutions, and in particular to resist aggression on the part of a tyrannical regime which aims at the domination of the world by force. The government, as representing the people of Canada, will use their authority and power to the utmost in promoting the most effective organized effort toward these imperative ends.

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the task before us may be long and terribly difficult. It is a task that will require all the strength and fortitude, all the effective organization of our resources, that we can achieve. There can be no doubt of the final outcome of the war. Whatever may be the initial trends in local actions, the resources, military and economic, on which the countries fighting for freedom can draw are fortunately greatly preponderant.

We cannot yet look forward to the conclusion or to the peace that must some day be made; but we must from the start remember that force alone can settle nothing; that force is helpful only in so far as it ensures the establishment and maintenance of enduring peace.

The efforts made after the last war to build up a new world order have tragically failed for the moment, but they have not been in vain. The people have still in their hearts the ideal of a world where change can come by peaceful means, where disputes can be settled by discussion and conciliation, and where the nations will increasingly find the interests they have in common stronger than the interests which divided them, and agree to the measure of world organization and subordination of excessive nationalism that are necessary to give expression to this conviction. We have through the operation of the League of Nations, experience of what can

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and cannot be done. We have a new realization of the urgency of the need, a new determination to avert the ghastly possibility of a world war every generation. The peoples of continental Europe must find in some way, through federal relationships or economic partnerships or rebirth of democratic institutions and the spirit of liberty, the art of learning to live together. The rest of the world that cares for freedom must strive in complementary ways alike for the repelling of to-day's aggression, and for the upholding of to-morrow's saner way of life.

I have, Mr. Speaker, indicated this evening, as far as it seems wise and prudent to go at the present time, the nature of the war efforts which this House of Commons during this present special session will be asked to support. I am pleased to be able to say that I hold in my hand communications from practically all the governments of the several provinces of Canada offering to support this administration in policies which it might put forward for the purpose of making the greatest possible concerted and united effort in the great cause in which we are engaged. I shall read these communications in the order in which they have been received. All are addressed to myself as prime minister.

The first to be received was a communication from the premier of the province of Saskatchewan:

Regina, Sask., Sept. 2, 1939

May I assure you of the sincere and whole-hearted cooperation of the government of this province in any plan the federal government may evolve to give effective cooperation to Great Britain in the present crisis and can assure you of the undivided support of the people of the province of Saskatchewan in any action that may be authorized by the parliament of Canada.

W. J. Patterson.

The next communication came from the premier of the province of Manitoba.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 3, 1939

Manitoba government has followed with deep anxiety the disturbing events of the past few days, the culmination of which has profoundly shocked the peace-loving peoples of the whole world. In the difficult and responsible task that now faces you and your colleagues in this time of national concern, I wish, at this early date to assure you of the fullest cooperation of the government of Manitoba. We have noted with interest and approval that your government is making plans to insure that Canada's contribution will be as worth while and effective as possible. In any such plans that you may make for the defence of freedom and the settlement of international disputes without resort to force you may count upon the assistance of any service of this province which can in any way be useful to those in authority in discharging such obligations as it may be found necessary for the nation to assume. Please feel