

why he would like to have permission from this Committee to be absent during that period. It reads:

I have a long standing date to attend important meetings in Vienna and London during the period May 9 to May 17. As this will necessitate my absence from Ottawa, may I ask the members of the Public Accounts Committee if I could be excused from attending its meetings during this time. Mr. George Long, C.A., the Assistant Auditor General, would take my place.

I should explain that a new world body was founded recently by the Auditors General of over seventy countries which goes by the title of Supreme Audit Institutions. Last summer an International Secretariat was formed and financed by the Austrian Government and a Board of Governors established to guide its work, which is composed of representatives of twelve countries. I have accepted an invitation on behalf of Canada to serve as a Governor on this board representing not only Canada but also the Auditors General of all of the British Commonwealth countries. The board is also anxious for me to attend because of my position as Chariman on the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations and specialized agencies.

Last fall I advised the Chairman of the Board of Governors that I would make every effort to attend its first meeting this May but only providing my absence at that time did not conflict with the work of the standing committee on Public Accounts of the Parliament of Canada whose approval I would wish to have before absentsing myself from Ottawa.

I should appreciate receiving your advice and that of the members so that appropriate arrangements may be made for the convenience of all concerned.

Gentlemen, this is the letter from Mr. Henderson. It is self-explanatory, and I might say I thing a great honour to Canada and to himself.

Mr. WINCH: If I could have a seconder, I would like to move that this Committee appreciates the great honour which has been extended to the Auditor General of Canada; that he be excused from attendance at the Public Accounts Committee from May 9 to May 17, and that this Committee wishes him all success at this most important meeting.

Mr. TUCKER: I second the motion.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Henderson, we shall excuse you for those meetings, and Mr. Long, we will look forward to having you with us.

Mr. HENDERSON: Thank you very much, sir. It is a meeting that actually the board had proposed to hold earlier than this, namely, last fall, but they postponed it because I was unable to go last fall, and then they proposed it this spring after your Committee had been formed.