

C 271731

- 6 -

preparing the treaty and report their findings to the Council of Foreign Ministers. It did not appear from the terms of the invitation received by the Canadian Government to express its views to the Deputies that the participation in the German settlement which was contemplated for Canada would be adequate, and it seemed probable that it might be less satisfactory than had been the case in the settlement with Italy. The Canadian Government therefore made reservations concerning the procedure to be adopted, and indicated that the presentation of its preliminary submission on the substance of the German settlement would not prejudice in any way Canada's subsequent appropriate association with other active belligerent powers in the making of peace with Germany. In his statement of January 30, 1946, in the Canadian House of Commons Mr. St. Laurent said,

"May I emphasize in conclusion that the Government desires to play a helpful and constructive part in the German peace settlement. We are fully aware of the major interest in this settlement of those states which because of their power or proximity must carry the main responsibility for enforcing it. We realize also the difficulty of negotiating a settlement through procedures that will provide equitable and adequate recognition of the interests of all active allied belligerents. In the waging of war, however, Canada contributed her resources of men and material without reserve. No question of partial participation arose. It should be possible therefore to insure for Canada an opportunity to contribute to the negotiation of peace on the same basis of honourable partnership characterized by her contribution to the war".

13. Canada was not alone in protesting the apparent intention of the Council of Foreign Ministers to limit the participation of the lesser allies in the preparation of the German settlement. Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and South Africa also were concerned that the peace settlement with Germany should not be drafted exclusively by the Council of Foreign Ministers without adequate provision for the participation of the other allies.

14. The Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers in their meetings at London and Moscow, and the Foreign Ministers during their Moscow sessions (March 10 to April 25, 1947) devoted considerable time to the procedural question of what form of association in the settlement should be accorded to allies not Members of the Council. Agreement in principle was reached that the German peace treaty would be prepared by the Council of Foreign Minister and that in its preparation the Council would consult allied states neighbouring on Germany and which had actively participated with their armed forces in the war. In respect to this consultation the establishment of 4 permanent committees for the study of German questions was considered. These were:

- (1) Committee on the political and constitutional structure of Germany
- (2) Committee on Territorial adjustments and Related Problems