

At the Imperial Conference of 1923 a resolution was passed (and was reaffirmed in 1926) to the effect that while it was for the parliaments of the different parts of the Empire to decide the nature and extent of defence, "The primary responsibility of each portion of the Empire is for its own local defence".

The Imperial Conference of 1926 laid down the following general formula:

"Their position (i.e., that of Great Britain and the Dominions) may be readily defined. They are autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

With reference to the general conduct of foreign policy we find the following:

"It was frankly recognized that in this sphere, as in the sphere of defence, the major share of responsibility rests now and must for some time rest with H.M. Government in Great Britain. Nevertheless all the Dominions engaged to some extent, and some to considerable extent, in the conduct

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