

Mr. COLDWELL: Well, when the McMahon Act came into being it would set aside this agreement of which we had knowledge, and which was very important to all the nations participating, did we draw this to the attention of the United States, and make any protest?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I speak subject to further examination.

Mr. COLDWELL: Perhaps I should not be asking this. I will ask the Prime Minister.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I had better say nothing more about this until the Prime Minister answers this afternoon. As I will be here again we can go into this matter in greater detail if he has not satisfied you—

Mr. COLDWELL: Curiosity?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: —curiosity. I was going to say that, but I do not mean curiosity in an unkind sense.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Stick?

Mr. STICK: May I ask a question? I thought we were going to go in rotation. I am speaking from memory now, but in the reply to the labour motion in the House of Commons, I think yesterday or the day before, on the foreign affairs debate, Mr. Churchill said that the present time would not be the time for the heads of the three powers—such as himself and President Roosevelt and Mr. Malenkov—to meet to control atomic energy, and he said, as I understand it, it would be better to wait until after the Geneva Conference before agreeing that a conference of that kind would be useful. I would like to have your views on that. The other question which bothers me is this: in going to Geneva invitations have gone out to those nations who have participated in the Korean war. As I understand it Russia has never recognized that she had anything to do with it. What is Russia's position in the Geneva Conference; she is not there as a belligerent and it is rather curious as to what her position is going to be? Those are the two questions I would like you to throw some light on if you can?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: As far as the first question is concerned, with respect, I would be inclined to agree with Sir Winston Churchill's judgment that the present moment would not be a good one to call a meeting of the heads of the three governments for the reason he gave. We are on the eve of a meeting at Geneva which will cover at least some of the ground which would be covered by such a heads of government meeting, and it surely would be well to find out the attitude of the governments concerned at Geneva before going ahead with an invitation for a high level meeting of that kind. As Sir Winston Churchill has been in the past a proponent of such a meeting I think if he feels it would be a little premature to have it at this moment his judgment on that matter should be respected. I am not expressing the opinion as to whether such a meeting might not be useful later on.

Mr. STICK: You think the timing would be a factor?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I think the timing would be a factor. Now, concerning the second question of Russia's position at Geneva. When we discussed the question of a Korean peace conference, a Korean political conference, at the United Nations Assembly, the resolution to that effect really invited all the participating governments, those U.N. governments participating in military operations there, but that same resolution recognizes that it would be essential to have Russia there if there is to be a Korean political conference.

Mr. STICK: On what grounds?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: Because a Korean political settlement which was agreed to by the United Nations side, and with which the U.S.S.R. had nothing to do, would be a pretty unrealistic settlement, because they would have no responsibility for making it effective. They could on the other hand do a good deal