

heavy burdens, but they have helped us and they have made their contribution to an achievement which I think will stand out as one of the great successes of this war. This Conference has raised many great problems, but what has been achieved is a victory of great promise, as it opens the prospect of wise counsels and wise decisions and great settlements for our world.

v Sir Firoz Khan Noon:

Mr. Prime Minister, My Lords and Gentlemen. It has been a source of real pleasure for us, the Maharaja and myself, to come here and sit round this table with the Prime Ministers and discuss Empire problems, and we sincerely hope that there will be similar opportunities in the future for consideration of matters of mutual interest. We have many chances of coming to England and making contact with His Majesty's Government, but we feel that, for the development of friendly relations and a powerful Commonwealth, it is very necessary that we should make contacts with the representatives of the Dominions also, and it is from that point of view that we consider this meeting is of special value. This meeting has also shown to us that, in the wider policy of the Commonwealth, there are no differences at all between the Dominions and ourselves, or His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and ourselves, and it is on that ground that we can look forward with hope and patience to the growing spirit of this political association. I should, however, like to mention one thing, that this is all due to one great factor and that is the characteristics of the British people. I was here in 1940 and I know the troublous times through which we passed in those days, and I, for one, was enormously impressed by the determination and bravery and sense of duty to freedom displayed by all the men and women of this country, and may I be permitted to say that that determination is typified in the leadership that you, Mr. Prime Minister, have provided personally for this Commonwealth of Nations. It is the clear-headedness of the leader and his policy which enables the various component parts to stay together, and you personally have, through your leadership, taken the Empire and the