

tion of the peace settlement with Germany. These proposals are all alike, in that they all provide for associating the representatives of the other powers in the work of peace-making through periodic communication and information, and also through opportunities for consultation and study.

Some of the plans proposed the establishment of committees, the functions of which would not be such as to provide for participation in negotiations but to carry on consultations and to provide the channel of communication between the council of foreign ministers and the other allies. The proposed committees have been called committees for information and consultation. All the plans make provision for other committees with varying numbers and terms of reference for the study of questions either of general or of particular interest. All the proposals that the deputies have been considering, although they provide for consultation and study by varying methods on the part of the associated allies, do not appear to make provision in their present form for any real participation in the actual drafting of the settlement by any body other than the council of foreign ministers.

So far as we can tell, none of the plans provides that any part of the draft settlement shall be placed at the disposal of the associated allies for review and revision at any stage prior to the calling of a general peace conference. I do not think I need give a detailed account of these various proposals. Instead, I shall give some indication of the general estimate we have made of them in terms of the extent to which they fulfil what would appear to us to be the essential requirements. Before I do that, I should like to refer specifically to one of these plans, namely, the Soviet plan which the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) referred to, and of which it is easier to speak because it has been published in the press. That is why I am in a position to discuss it more fully than the others about which I have received information from our high commissioner in London and also from our ambassadors in Washington and in Paris.

The Soviet proposals, like some of the others, provide for a committee to exchange information and views. This is called, in the Soviet plan, a standing committee of the deputies. This committee would be empowered to communicate information, hear views and discuss particular subjects with interested states. It could also set up special ad hoc committees to study separate questions. Essentially the standing committee is designed to carry on consultation by the method which was used by the special deputies in London.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

The most novel and, from the Canadian point of view, the most objectionable part of the Soviet plan is the distinction which it contains between associated states with direct interest and the others which it would regard as not having a direct interest. I suppose this is to carry out the terms of the Yalta and Potsdam agreements that they would consult with states having a direct interest.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. gentleman but he has spoken for forty minutes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go ahead.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I thank hon. members. I have a little more information on this matter which may be of interest.

The countries which the Russian plan would regard as directly interested are those which were occupied during the war. This would include Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Byelorussia, the Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania. The others, said to be without direct interest, would be the commonwealth countries and Brazil. The directly interested countries would take part in the discussion and study of these subjects assigned to them by the special deputies, whilst the others could only witness these discussions without participating in them.

This plan, in my estimation, embodies a curious and inadmissible definition of the countries which are directly interested. The Soviet deputy would include Albania and Luxembourg among those states with direct interest, and would exclude Canada. I cannot imagine that the Soviet authorities really expect us to take seriously a distinction which would bring about that consequence. The Soviet representative in London who presented these views to the special deputies is Mr. Gousev who was Soviet minister in Canada in 1942 and 1943. Mr. Gousev cannot be under any misapprehension as to the nature of Canada's contribution to the defeat of Germany and of Canada's interest in the defeat of Germany. He cannot really think that a country which mobilized a million men, more than half of whom served in combat zones in the war against Germany, made a contribution to the defeat of Germany of less consequence than the war effort of Albania and of Luxembourg. He, of all people in the Soviet administration, is in a position to know the significance of Canada's industrial state in the war, for it was during his period of office in Ottawa that negotiations were begun which resulted in the delivery to the U.S.S.R. of war supplies under mutual aid to the value