

SECRET.APPENDIX II.FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Statement approved at a private Meeting
of the Principal Delegates on
WEDNESDAY, 9th JUNE, 1937,
at 6.0 p.m.

The representatives of the Governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations gathered in the Conference, have in the course of their proceedings had an opportunity of exchanging views upon foreign affairs and the international situation as it affects their respective interests and responsibilities.

While no attempt was made to formulate commitments, which in any event could not be made effective until approved and confirmed by the respective Parliaments, the representatives of the Governments concerned found themselves in close agreement upon a number of general propositions which they thought it desirable to set out in the present statement.*

Thus they agreed that for each member of the Commonwealth the first objective is the preservation of peace. In their view the settlement of national needs should be sought by methods of co-operation, joint enquiry and conciliation. It is in such methods, and not in recourse to the use of force between nation and nation, that the surest guarantee will be found for the improvement of international

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* It was understood and agreed that nothing in this statement should be held to diminish the right of His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and the Government of India to advocate and support their statements of policy as submitted to the Assembly of the League of Nations in September, 1933.