

Australian command of the BCOF.

50. The Canadian Government has considered the possibility that an effort may be made at Canberra to reach agreement on a single Commonwealth policy for the peace treaty with Japan and it is their view that any suggestion of this nature should be resisted. It is the Canadian view that it is neither in the interest of Canada nor of the Commonwealth as a whole to adopt the "one voice" approach to international affairs. Formalization of the Commonwealth relationship in the way which may be suggested by the Australian representative at the Canberra talks would in the Canadian view destroy the flexibility of relations under which the Commonwealth has so far successfully developed. For similar reasons Canada would oppose the doctrine of "prior consent". In this connection the Canadian delegation to the Canberra conference should pay particular attention to relations with the press. It will be necessary to guard against the impression being given that a Commonwealth policy is being decided. It should be made clear that the conference is for consultation and an exchange of views and is not for the purpose of reaching agreement on common policy.

51. Canada must pay particular attention to the effect which any tendency towards a Commonwealth bloc approach to international affairs would have on its relations with the United States. Canadian interests in the Pacific area would seem to correspond more closely with those of the United States than with the interests of the Antipodean members of the Commonwealth. The Canadian delegation should therefore avoid being committed at Canberra to any policies which would prevent the consideration and possible acceptance of United States proposals which have not yet been made known to the Canadian Government.

VII. UNITED STATES PROPOSALS FOR PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE ON JAPAN OF POWERS REPRESENTED ON THE FAR EASTERN COMMISSION

52. On July 11th General Hilldring conveyed an oral invitation to representatives of Countries Members of the Far Eastern Commission in the following terms:

"The Government of the United States desires to hold, as soon as practicable, a Conference composed of representatives from the eleven States Members of the Far Eastern Commission to discuss a Peace Treaty for Japan, but such a Conference to be outside the Far Eastern Commission. Such an eleven-power Conference is advocated because it would provide a broad representative basis of participation to include all of those nations with a primary interest in Japan. It is the view of this Government that other States at war with Japan should be given an opportunity to present their views while the Treaty is being drafted, and that after the draft has reached a sufficiently advanced stage it should be considered by a general conference of all the States at war with Japan.