

meeting, having agreed that they would not question any point on which there had been agreement among the five, and that only the other points could be discussed.

After the work of the conference had been finished, the council met in New York, and agreed to the final terms of these treaties with the satellite enemy states. Then the other nations, including Canada, signed the treaties. Obviously Canada was not satisfied with that procedure and was worried about the German settlement which was to come later.

The next step seems to have been in December, 1946. The council of foreign ministers meeting in New York set March 10 as the time for the next meeting and named Moscow as the meeting place, the purpose being to discuss the German and Austrian settlements. They went further and called a meeting of their deputy foreign ministers at London on January 14, the job of the deputies being to take the preliminary steps preparatory to the meeting of the council of foreign ministers itself.

When we came here on January 30 we were told by the Minister of External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent) what had happened. Apparently on December 31, 1946, Canada was invited to make submissions to these deputies of foreign ministers. She was to make submissions in writing and to have the privilege of making supplementary submissions orally. I would ask the Minister of External Affairs to correct me if I am wrong in any of these details. After these submissions had been made, the deputies were to study them and to report to the council of foreign ministers.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: In view of the request which the hon. member has made, he said the invitation was received in December. As a matter of fact it was received by the Canadian ambassador in Washington on January 4.

Mr. GREEN: It was dated December 31.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: It is found on page 12 of *Hansard* of January 30 of this year. Canada then submitted what she called an improved procedure for the functioning of the meeting of deputies, which will be found at page 13 of *Hansard*. From that improved procedure it appears that Canada wanted the conference extended to include all the allies. The minister's statement is not absolutely clear on the point, but I gather that was the intent from reading what appears on page 13 of *Hansard*. On January 17 the deputies invited Canada to appear in London on January 25. On January 20 Canada wrote asking an assurance that she would be given an opportunity to discuss

[Mr. Green.]

her submissions either with the deputies or with the council of foreign ministers. Then we find certain press dispatches on January 23. There is one from the Vancouver *Province* headed "Dominion to Boycott Big Four Peace Parley". It reports a statement from the Department of External Affairs.

An external affairs department spokesman said emphatically that unless Canada gets assurance she will be allowed further participation, she will have nothing whatever to do with the treaties.

The minister shakes his head and I am glad he does, because I would be surprised if an official of the department made such a statement. If it was made it was an unwise statement. The press dispatch goes on to point out that Australia was demanding full representation at all sessions of the deputies' council and expressing resentment of any efforts for a "Big Power peace".

Then there are these significant words:

Australia's demand for an equal voice with the big four powers is sharply opposed by Russian deputy foreign minister Feodor T. Gousev.

The United States, France and Britain, in the deputies' discussion, had expressed willingness to let the smaller nations in on all discussions. The Minister of National Defence did not make clear this afternoon whether that is still the position, that all the "Big Four" except Russia have been quite willing for Canada and the other nations to take part in the discussions.

Mr. CLAXTON: I am sorry if I did not make it clear. That is my understanding.

Mr. GREEN: That is the minister's understanding. In any event, on January 25, Canada did not appear before the deputies although she had been invited to do so. On January 29 she was told that the deputies had no power to give the assurance that had been asked. On January 30, Canada filed written submissions concerning the German settlement and about a month later filed submissions concerning the Austrian peace treaty.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Again because of the invitation. The hon. member calls them submissions. They were preliminary views and were stated to be such.

Mr. GREEN: We want to get this right.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: I thank the minister for his correction. Again, I would point out, we find Great Britain on our side. On February 27, last week, there were press dispatches from