

Point of View
of New Zealand.

After the Attorney-General had welcomed Mr. Berendsen and briefly explained to him the position reached at the Meetings to date, Mr. Berendsen summarised the New Zealand point of view as follows.

Successive Governments in New Zealand had never attached the same importance to the theoretical aspects of the association of Members of the British Commonwealth as certain other Dominion Governments had done. New Zealand was fully satisfied with the existing position and arrangements. When the proposal was made that there should be these preparatory meetings of Experts on Constitutional Questions, the New Zealand Government had felt some doubt whether any useful purpose would be served by such meetings, except perhaps that the discussions might clarify the questions under consideration and so facilitate the subsequent examination of them by Ministerial Delegates.

The New Zealand Delegation, as such, had as yet had no opportunity of considering in detail the matters which had been discussed at the previous meetings of the Committee, and he was not therefore in a position to indicate the views of the New Zealand Delegation. Speaking personally, however, he said that while New Zealand herself did not think it necessary or desirable to clarify her constitutional relations with the United Kingdom and the other Members of the Commonwealth, she would not wish to object if other Members of the Commonwealth took a different view. He thought that there was a strong case in logic based on the conclusions reached in 1926, 1929 and 1930 for the proposals of the Union of South Africa.

New Zealand attached the utmost importance to the possession of the common status by all persons belonging to every part of the Commonwealth, and she would gladly