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FIELD MARSHAL SMUTS reverted to the problem of parent states which lacked the resources to develop and defend their Colonial possessions and instanced Portuguese possessions in Africa. He assured Mr. Churchill that South Africa had no territorial ambitions in that direction.

MR. CURTIN raised the same question in regard to Dutch possessions in the East Indies.

MR. FRASER thought that the Dutch would be our most willing collaborators and MR. CHURCHILL said that he would be most unwilling to see them dispossessed. Mr. Churchill added that the proposed world organisation might be empowered to require any nation, which proved unable to maintain a reasonable standard of administration and defence, to place its colonial territory in trust and at the disposal of the United Nations. He agreed that the regional commissions would have responsibilities in this direction. He also agreed that we should seek the collaboration of Powers with real strategic and economic local interests in the work of the commissions, but he could not agree to any unwarranted interference in the affairs of the British Empire.

MR. FRASER thought that it was essential to make provision for reports on colonial administration to be submitted to and discussed by some central international body. Neither COLONEL STANLEY nor MR. CURTIN favoured this suggestion.

MR. CHURCHILL said he regarded the discussion which had taken place as remarkably valuable. A great measure of agreement had been reached. He thought that some expression of the principles they had so whole-heartedly accepted should find a place in the document which was to be issued as a result of their conferences. Perhaps Colonel Stanley would prepare, in consultation with the Dominion representatives and Lord Cranborne, a few carefully framed paragraphs which would bring out the high moral principles they had in mind, demonstrate the high spirit of unity within the British corporate body, re-assure the powerful peoples with whom we had to work about our intentions, hold out the light of hope to the unfortunate and the weak whom we wished to succour and lay stress on the all-important objectives of peace and security, law and order throughout the world.

Mr. Churchill's suggestion met with complete agreement and FIELD MARSHAL SMUTS suggested that a draft might be prepared by officials for consideration by Prime Ministers with a view to inclusion in a statement for publication at the conclusion of the conference. MR. CURTIN added that in his view this statement should deal with all the subjects they had discussed. It might begin with the conduct of the war and what the British Commonwealth would do to ensure victory, deal with the future of the world and what the British Commonwealth was prepared to do to prevent further wars, suggest machinery for achieving these objects, including the well-being and security of backward peoples, and make some reference to the machinery for collaboration within the British Commonwealth for these purposes. This last subject would not, of course, be discussed until further discussion on the nature of the post-war settlement had taken place.

#### Programme of Meeting

After discussion, it was agreed that the item - Defence Co-operation within the British Commonwealth - should be postponed until further discussion on the nature of the post-war world settlement had taken place, and that the item - Transport and Communications - should form the Agenda for the meeting on the following day at 5.30 p.m.

Offices of the War Cabinet, S.W.1.

10TH MAY, 1944.

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