

initial soundings would thus be limited to the United States, Japanese and Chinese Governments. Other soundings, e.g. of Russia, would come at a somewhat later stage.

MR. EDEN said that two points only remained for him to emphasise. The first was that any public announcement should be carefully drafted so as to make it clear that the Pact would not be at the expense of China.

His second point was that the United Kingdom Government ought to have complete discretion as to the manner of sounding the Japanese Government, i.e. either by approaching them on behalf of the Commonwealth or by responding to the recent Japanese advances. This was an aspect which had been usefully emphasised by Mr. Savage.

MR. CASEY reminded the Meeting that the original Australian proposal started from the probability of an Anglo-Japanese rapprochement.

MR. NASH enquired how the problem was affected by the recent agreement between Germany and Japan.

MR. EDEN said that this agreement certainly introduced a complication, in so far as it was a deterrent to Russia. M. Litvinoff, however, had told him that he was in favour of a Pacific Pact. It would be necessary of course to remember Soviet susceptibilities throughout.

The proposal as to procedure made by Mr. Lyons was approved, subject to the amendment to (iv) suggested by Mr. Chamberlain, i.e. that the initial steps should be to sound the United States, Japanese and Chinese Governments.

Publication  
of Committee  
Reports.

4. MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD said that a suggestion had been made to him that the Principal Delegates should be asked to sanction the publication of Reports of Committees after they had received approval, without waiting until the