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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT: The following statement was issued August 25 by the Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King:--

"I stated in the House of Commons before Parliament prorogued, and again at the recent Liberal Convention, that, once a successor to myself in the Leadership of the Party had been chosen, I would confer with him as to future plans, and in particular the time at which it would appear to be most appropriate for me to seek retirement, from the Leadership of the Government.

"Since the Convention I have made clear to Mr. St. Laurent and my other colleagues of the Cabinet that in deciding upon the precise time of tendering to His Excellency my resignation as Prime Minister, I desired to be governed by what would appear to them to be most in the public interest, having in view the many matters to which the new leader is now obliged to give consideration, and for which he has to make suitable provision.

"A question to which, in this connection it has been felt necessary to give most careful consideration is whether I should seek retirement from office forthwith, thereby occasioning the immediate formation of a new administration, and the immediate transfer from myself to Mr. St. Laurent of the full responsibilities of office, or whether that step should be deferred until after the meeting of Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth to be held in London in October.

"The meeting in London is not, as some have assumed, in the nature of an Imperial Conference at which several ministers and their advisers will be present, and where decisions upon policy will be made. It is a meeting between the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and certain other nations of the Commonwealth to discuss matters of common interest in a manner which will permit of the freest possible exchange of views for reference back to their respective governments. The meeting had been planned originally for the months of June or July. It was deferred owing to the difficulty of securing a representative gathering at that time.

"Mr. St. Laurent feels that he should have a little more time to make the necessary preparations before assuming the duties of the head of a new administration. He also feels that it would be unfortunate were he obliged, almost immediately after assuming office, to be away from Canada for a possible absence overseas of some weeks, and this at a time when so many matters require consideration at home, a great number of which are related to the preparation of the business of the next session of Parliament. For these reasons, Mr. St. Laurent has expressed the wish that I should represent Canada at the meeting of Prime Ministers in London in October, and also head the Canadian delegation at the early sessions of the Assembly of the United Nations which meets in Paris next month. After consul-