

#### U. K. GOVERNMENT'S VIEW

The United Kingdom government considered that all the countries which are specially concerned in the settlement with Japan, by reason of their contributions to the defeat of Japan, the degree to which they suffered from Japanese aggression, and their vital interest in the future peaceful development of the Pacific areas, are entitled to be represented as principal parties in that settlement, and that their exclusion would prejudice the efficacy of a settlement in which they have the right to be consulted at every stage.

The United Kingdom government believed that in the light of the experience which has been gained, both in the discussions of other peace settlements and in the far eastern commission, the adoption of a voting procedure which would confer the right of veto on the four major powers would be likely to retard the conclusion of an early settlement in the far east and would not provide equitable representation of the interests of all the principal combatants. It could not, therefore, accept the proposals advanced by the Chinese government for the procedure to be followed at the Japanese peace conference.

The United Kingdom government also reiterated its view that there is nothing in the protocol of the proceedings of the Berlin conference of 1945, which established the council of foreign ministers, which makes obligatory the use of the procedure of that body, as suggested by the U.S.S.R., for the consideration of the peace settlement with Japan.

#### CANADIAN ATTITUDE

The views of the Canadian government with respect to the procedure to be followed in the preparation of the Japanese peace treaty remain the same as those communicated in the reply to the original United States proposal of July 11. It is the hope of the Canadian government that the other powers concerned will agree that the procedure outlined in the United States proposal is the one which would be most conducive to the conclusion of an early and equitable settlement in the Far East. It is also our hope that the convening of a conference on this basis will not be long delayed.

When parliament reassembles after the Christmas recess we shall no doubt have an opportunity to hear a report from the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) on the conference of representatives of governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations which was convened in Canberra at the end of August to discuss in a preliminary and confidential way some of the problems of the Japanese peace conference. I trust that there will also be opportunity for discussion of some of the substantive questions relating to the Japanese peace settlement and Canada's interests therein.

Mr. GREEN: Have all the members of the commonwealth taken the same stand with regard

to the Chinese and Russian proposals?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I speak subject to correction, but my understanding is that that is the view, at least of all those represented at the Canberra conference.

**PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS:** Both Houses of Parliament adjourned Dec. 19 over the Christmas holidays. The House of Commons meets again Jan. 26; the Senate, Jan. 27. Addresses were adopted to continue in force till the end of March the Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947, and the Agricultural Products Act. Second reading debate on the Emergency Exchange Conservative Act, authorizing import controls, was not completed. Approval has also to be given to the Geneva trade pacts.

Debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was not concluded.

#### "MICMAC" COLLISION

**INQUIRY BOARD'S REPORT:** Announcement of the findings of the Formal Investigation under the Canada Shipping Act into the collision between H.M.C.S. "Micmac" and the freighter S.S. "Yarmouth County" off Halifax Harbour on July 16 last has been made by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. The Commissioner finds that "the damage, loss of life and injury to personnel was caused by the default of the Commanding Officer of the H.M.C.S. 'Micmac' and not by the default of the Master of the 'Yarmouth County'".

The report is signed by the Commissioner, Mr. Justice W.F. Carroll, Judge in Admiralty of the Exchequer Court for the District of Nova Scotia, and by the Assessors, Commodore G.M. Hibbard, R.C.N., retired, and Captain Robert A. Goudey, Master Mariner, retired.

The cause of the collision, according to the finding of the court, was that "H.M.C.S. 'Micmac' was not sounding its siren and entered the fog at too high a rate of speed and placed herself in a position from which she could not extricate herself. The fault attributed to the S.S. 'Yarmouth County' of not proceeding at a moderate speed did not in our best judgment contribute to the collision."

Expanding on this finding the court states: "The 'Yarmouth County' prior to entering fog was complying with Rules of the Road. The 'Yarmouth County' entered the fog at less than full speed and was sounding her fog whistle. The 'Yarmouth County' failed to reduce speed after entering fog."

"The 'Micmac' prior to entering fog bank was complying with Rules of the Road at sea. Just previous to entering he failed to comply with the Rules of the Road at sea."

"The 'Yarmouth County' in our opinion under the circumstances did not proceed at a moderate speed after entering fog and prior to collision. H.M.C.S. 'Micmac' approached and entered an area of low visibility at much too great a speed and was not sounding her siren."

The Commissioner appends the following remarks: "We beg leave to say that in our opinion and in the opinion of counsel for the Commanding Officer of the H.M.C.S. 'Micmac', the said Commanding Officer was probably lulled into a sense of security by reason of the fact that he had the right to believe that radar was a very reliable aid to navigation."

#### DISCIPLINE MAINTAINED

The report states that "the 'Yarmouth County' was sighted by Commanding Officer of the 'Micmac' and port lookout William E. Degan ahead, slightly on port bow almost at instant of collision, slightly on port bow." The court further found that "the two ships came together, port bow to port bow". The two ships were in sight of each other "momentarily only, whilst in collision and passing." It further found that following the crash, discipline was maintained and proper steps were taken toward the saving of life and property on each ship.

The Court found that H.M.C.S. "Micmac" only was equipped with radar. The H.M.C.S. "Micmac" radar picked up an object "dead ahead approximately 500 yards distant. This object must have been the 'Yarmouth County'". In this connection, evidence given at the Formal Investigation by the Operations Officer reads: "That echo arrived at the same time as I heard 'hard a-starboard, full speed astern both engines'".

Evidence given by the Commanding Officer of the H.M.C.S. "Micmac" was to the effect that he sighted the "Yarmouth County" a few seconds before the collision. He told the Court that he immediately ordered "hard a-starboard, followed by full astern, both engines". The Commanding Officer testified that the order was carried out and his ship came around probably some 10 degrees "because otherwise I don't think any of us would ever have got back again".

**MILITARY ATTACHE TO TURKEY:** Colonel John Francis Bingham, of Winnipeg, has been appointed Canadian military attache to Turkey, Army Headquarters announce. He leaves shortly to take up his new duties.

Col. Bingham attended St. Andrew's College, Toronto, and schools in England before obtaining his commission in Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in 1932, serving with that regiment and as a junior staff officer until the outbreak of war when he was promoted captain. He obtained his majority in October 1941, while overseas.

By June of 1942 he was a lieutenant-colonel commanding the 1st Armoured Regiment (Royal Canadian Dragoons). Later he commanded the 12th Armoured Regiment (Three Rivers) and by August 1944 was a brigadier commanding the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade.

From December 1944 until August 1945, he was Brigadier, Royal Armoured Corps, at Headquarters First Canadian Army.

On his return to Canada he became commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps training establishment at Camp Borden. In 1946 he was transferred to Army Headquarters, Ottawa, as Director of Army Cadets.

Col. Bingham's father, Lt.-Col. R.F. Bingham, is on the Reserve of Officers.

**NO ARMY VACCINATION FOR FLU:** The Canadian Army is not considering the vaccination of all personnel against influenza, as is the case in the United States where mass vaccinations are being carried out by the U.S. Army.

Canadian military officials, on the advice of the Canadian Public Health Association and the Department of National Health and Welfare, have rejected, for a number of reasons, any plans they may have had to immunize the troops. Chief of these is two-fold -- that the immunity conferred on the individual is of short duration and that the present vaccine affords protection against only two of many known types of the disease. Authorities also point out that many people suffer rather violent reactions after the administration of the influenza vaccine.

**NEW RECRUITS NOW ENLISTING:** More and more new recruits with no previous military training are being attracted into the Canadian Army Active Force which, only a matter of weeks ago, was composed of about 99 per cent veterans. A survey of recent enlistment figures reveals that at the present time two out of every three new enlistments are young men who, because of their extreme youth, did not see service in World War II. Prior to the current recruiting campaign, or from April 1 to the end of September, barely 160 new recruits made the grade for the new Army. In at least one three-week period since then, this six-month total has been more than doubled, and the ratio is being stepped up daily.

The Army, as did the Navy and the Air Force, launched a recruiting drive September 30. This drive will continue on a modest scale to the end of the present fiscal year. Although response has been good, a great many of those who have made enquiries concerning enlistment or re-enlistment have been unable to meet the higher peacetime educational and physical requirements. Even so, successful applicants are being signed on at the rate of 10 per day or approximately 300 per month.

**FORCES AT ATTENTION WHEN "O CANADA" PLAYED:** Whether or not military personnel should stand at attention when "O Canada" is played was settled once and for all this week with the appearance of an official ruling on the subject. In future, all ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force not only will come to attention, but officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers will salute.

The order refers only to members of the