

Hon. Mr. GOUIN: In the days to come our great Commonwealth and the United States of America probably will have to bear again the bulk of the burden in order to maintain international peace. We should have no illusions about that. Such onerous duties should be accompanied by a greater influence in the councils of the United Nations. Our great and glorious country, Canada, is now of full age, enjoying the plenitude of her rights as a free, independent and sovereign state; and as such, the "Land of the Maple Leaf" undoubtedly is entitled to speak and to vote in her own name at the San Francisco conference or any other future international assembly.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. GOUIN: I concede to no other power, no matter how friendly, the prerogative of speaking on our behalf, unless, of course, on some special occasion we have agreed to make its representative our own official agent and mouthpiece. I admire the heroic people of Great Britain. I lived with them in the dark days of November and December, 1944. I shared their sufferings and their meagre rations, and with them I underwent the daily attacks of the V-1's and V-2's and I have the deepest personal admiration for the greatest statesman of the present world war, the Right Honourable Winston Churchill.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. GOUIN: Again and again I have paid my compliments to the indomitable courage of the valiant population of the British Isles. I wish to assure my friends over there that my compliments were perfectly sincere, and to state emphatically that the enemies of Great Britain are my enemies. But I am a Canadian citizen, and as such I want the representatives of Canada at the San Francisco conference to speak as Canadians; to stand, of course, at the side of the British delegation as members of the same family, but to bring their own individual contribution to the debates as the special envoys of Canada.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. GOUIN: We now come to the most-discussed provision of all in the proposals, the notorious veto clause. As honourable senators are aware, as a result of a further agreement between the United Kingdom, the United States, Soviet Russia and China, an amendment was added under Section C of Chapter VI, which, to be quite frank, gives the power of absolute veto to any of the four Great Powers already mentioned, and also "in due course"—whatever may be the exact meaning of those words—to my own beloved

Hon. Mr. GOUIN.

France. Through the power of the veto thus conferred upon them those five permanent members of the Security Council would really be above the law. Personally, I wish to register my formal protest against the injustice which would result from the adoption of such a system. It would, in my opinion, establish a flagrant discrimination in favour of the "Big Five", for undoubtedly not one of the five permanent members of the Security Council would vote for action against itself should it ever be guilty of an act of aggression against another state. Generally speaking, the international organization which is contemplated meets with my hearty approval, but unless the veto clause is modified, its innate defect will, I fear, be an ominous threat to the future peace of the world.

I admit at once that the solution of the problem is not to be found in a too broad interpretation of the doctrine of the sovereign equality of states, which I have just discussed and to some extent have discarded. I realize fully the difficulty of the situation, but I sincerely hope that our delegates will do their utmost to find an appropriate remedy for the anomaly which I have just criticized.

I wish also with all my heart that Poland were to be duly represented at the San Francisco Conference. Surely the admirable heroism, the terrible sufferings, of that glorious and tragic country entitle her to a seat among the United Nations!

I trust that when our Canadian representatives enter the conference hall at San Francisco their presence will be most cordially and enthusiastically welcomed. To-day no country enjoys a greater moral prestige than Canada. All the peoples of the world know the courage and the valour of our armed forces on the fighting front, and are familiar with the colossal, even miraculous, war effort which has been made by Canadian men and women on the industrial and agricultural fronts. Our contribution far exceeds anything which could normally be expected from a country of only eleven and a half million inhabitants. Canada has every right to be proud of the splendid record of her soldiers, her airmen and her sailors, her farmers and her workmen.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. GOUIN: During my recent mission overseas in connection with the educational services for our armed forces, everywhere in Europe it was my privilege to realize that in the esteem of the good people over there Canada has risen to the rank of a great international power. May I add that my work—under the direction of our devoted and competent education officers—has been the most interesting experience of my whole life. I have