

13. If an earlier opportunity is not afforded, the Head of the Canadian delegation should take occasion when the discussion on procedure is opened to make a statement along the lines suggested in the previous paragraph, covering the following points:

- (1) It is fortunate that the United States proposal for an eleven-Power conference on the Japanese peace settlement was issued before the Canberra conference convened. In view of this circumstance it should not be necessary to discuss all the possible permutations and combinations of the peace making body and its voting procedure; it would seem preferable to discuss the merits of the conference proposal already put forward by the United States.
- (2) Canada has replied to the United States invitation in the following terms:-  
  
(Here quote the Record of Oral Statement, July 22, -attached).
- (3) Five of the nations invited by the United States on July 11 to a preliminary conference on the Japanese settlement are present at Canberra. The United States proposals call for conference decisions to be made on a two-thirds majority vote. The United States and everyone else knows that the member nations of the British Commonwealth therefore hold a measure of control over the decisions taken in an 11-Power conference under the voting procedure suggested.
- (4) None of these five Commonwealth countries would wish to prejudice their relations with the United States by deliberately agreeing in advance of the general conference to support any particular policies.
- (5) It would be most undesirable that the press should give other Governments or the general public the impression that Commonwealth delegations at Canberra are endeavouring to form a Commonwealth bloc or agree on the pattern for the Japanese settlement; care should therefore be taken in all formal and informal contacts with the press.
- (6) The Canadian view of the conference is that its main purpose is to provide for an informal and confidential exchange of views on the Japanese peace settlement. To ensure that no misunderstanding would arise from our presence at this meeting, we informed the United States before they issued invitations to the eleven-Power conference that we did not expect this meeting to result in any commitments being made on policy relating to the Japanese peace settlement. Furthermore, the Prime Minister, in a statement to the House of Commons on July 10, felt it advisable to say: "No decisions will be taken at this Canberra meeting which will affect the freedom of action of the Canadian Government at the Japanese peace conference which is