

THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Thursday, March 29, the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. King:

That it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve the following resolution:

Whereas the Government of Canada has been invited by the Government of the United States of America, on behalf of itself and of the governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of China, to send representatives to a conference of the United Nations to be held on April 25, 1945, at San Francisco in the United States of America to prepare a charter for a general international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security, and

Whereas the invitation suggests that the conference consider as affording a basis for such a charter the proposals for the establishment of a general international organization which have been made public by the four governments which participated in the discussions at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, and

Whereas the Government of Canada has accepted the invitation to send representatives to this conference,

Therefore be it resolved:

1. That this House endorses the acceptance by the Government of Canada of the invitation to send representatives to the conference;

2. That this House recognizes that the establishment of an effective international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security is of vital importance to Canada, and, indeed, to the future well-being of mankind; and that it is in the interests of Canada that Canada should become a member of such an organization;

3. That this House approves the purposes and principles set forth in the proposals of the four governments, and considers that these proposals constitute a satisfactory general basis for a discussion of the charter of the proposed international organization;

4. That this House agrees that the representatives of Canada at the conference should use their best endeavours to further the preparation of an acceptable charter for an international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security;

5. That the charter establishing the international organization should, before ratification, be submitted to Parliament for approval.

Hon. ARTHUR MARCOTTE: Honourable senators, about two years ago, while speaking on a resolution by the honourable senator from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) for the prosecution of war criminals, I expressed the opinion that if there was among the Allies a country which deserved a place at the conference table when the time came to adjudicate on peace terms, it was Canada. It has been stated in every part of the world by the leaders of the allied nations that in its contribution to the war effort Canada was second to none. For the size of our population and

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the limits of our resources as developed at the present time, we have done marvellously.

Just a few days ago it was stated in No. 43 of "Canada at War", on page 5:

This is the nation which, compelled by no treaty, agreement, commitment or promise, declared war on Germany September 10, 1939, a war to be waged to the end.

Proud words! A splendid record! But if it is true that we were not compelled by treaty, promise or agreement, there is another truth not to be forgotten, and that is that we were urged to join efforts with the Mother Country, with our sister nations of the Commonwealth and with our Allies, to fight to the limit for the salvation of our Christian civilization, our free institutions, our liberty, and for a lasting peace.

This war is not only the war of England, of the United States, of France, of the Soviet Republics, of the other Allies, including Canada; it is the war of every individual to save his liberty, his mode of living, his right to pray to God according to his conscience.

It may be said that the coming meeting at San Francisco is not the peace conference, but I would answer that it is more than that. It is the initial step to ensure that the next peace treaty will last, and that peace-loving nations will enjoy real peace for many years to come. That is why we endorse the determination of Canada to be represented at that meeting and to join in the mutual efforts to save the world from the horrible carnage and destruction which would be the inevitable results of another world war.

Just think for a moment of the progress made by science in the last four years in the ways of killing men and destroying property, and imagine what it would be after twenty or fifty years of further scientific discoveries. Yet you find some people, happily very few, who are opposed to Canada's being represented at the San Francisco conference. This is beyond comprehension.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MARCOTTE: May I cite just a few words written by a former isolationist, Arthur H. Vandenburg, United States Senator from Michigan, in the Saturday Evening Post of March 17, 1945:

I have always believed in American self-sufficiency. I have thought, and I still think, that we are, and can continue to be, as nearly impregnable as a modern power can be. But something desperately important has happened since Pearl Harbor. War has assumed a new and horrible countenance. Science has confronted human flesh and blood with mechanized disaster. This lethal ingenuity leaps from one horror to another. Robots are in their infancy. Our oceans no longer protect our ramparts.