

With reference to the eventual composition of the Conference, I am sure that the House will have noted the observations made yesterday by Right Hon. Mr. Macmillan at Westminster. These are his words:

I am glad to note Mr. Khrushchev's latest letter recognizes ... (that) ... until the form of the meeting has been agreed it would be premature to lay down which countries, which are not members of the Security Council, should attend, or by whom they should be represented.

I agree with that particular view, at this stage, when there will have to be negotiations with respect to the time, with respect to the agenda and other matters. I would say this, however; that it will be for the Security Council to decide what nations, which are not members of the Security Council, should come to the table of the Security Council. That is a procedural matter for the Security Council. I saw it in operation on Monday and Tuesday of this week, for example. The Council, by formal resolution presented by the chairman before one meeting on Monday started and before the two meetings on Tuesday started, asked the representatives of the United Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan to come and be present at the Council table. I say again, Mr. Speaker, that is a matter for the Security Council to decide.

However, I express anxiety lest these matters having to do with who will sit and who will go to the meeting should jeopardize the holding of that meeting. Questions of this sort should not be insuperable or prevent the proposed meeting of the Security Council. In my opinion they should be treated and considered as secondary. With respect to this meeting in New York, whatever the date may be, I have in mind that it is desirable also, if some means can be found, to have the opinions of the numerous countries concerned, because no plan that may be evolved in the Security Council will be successful unless the proposals are accorded the approval of the peoples of those regions.

One of the problems we in Canada must always keep in mind is a concern, for example, lest the prosperity of Israel should not be safeguarded in the forthcoming negotiations. Surely it will be possible to get the views of the Middle East countries whatever the procedural device may be. Many problems, as I indicated a moment ago, will arise on the subject of time, on the subject of the agenda and prior consultation. But when the Prime Minister spoke in this House on July 25 about the possibility of holding such a meeting within the Security Council he deliberately used words which took into account the flexible procedure that would have to be devised if this conference is to be brought into being.