

long-established practice of consultation within the Commonwealth on matters of interest to all its members. It was clear that each member retained its independence and freedom from commitment, but in addressing themselves to the problems before them, the delegates were animated by a common desire to secure a democratic and lasting peace settlement. Although, in accordance with practice at such Conferences, no formal decisions were taken, the discussions revealed a wide harmony of views among the nations of the British Commonwealth represented at the Conference.

The discussions made it appear that a close correspondence exists between the various views expressed at Canberra and those of the United States of America, as well as of the other powers primarily interested in the settlement.

The views of the interested Powers have already to a large extent found expression in certain key documents, notably the Potsdam Declaration and the basic policy decisions of the Far Eastern Commission, upon which eleven powers are represented. The acceptance of these two documents by eleven Powers encourages the hope among the delegations that agreement on the peace treaty itself may be reached speedily.

At an early stage of the Commonwealth talks the desire was expressed that a Peace Conference should be called without delay and begin on a policy-making governmental level, and that, on analogy with the Far Eastern Commission, all members of the United Nations that made a direct contribution towards winning the Pacific War should be represented, including the new dominion of Pakistan, which is expected to be admitted to the United Nations shortly. It was also thought that voting on matters of substance should be by two-thirds majority.

The territorial changes already proposed were examined, and the exchange of views indicated that the peace treaty should provide for the limitation of Japanese territory to the four main islands and such minor islands as the Peace Conference might determine.

Security against future aggression by Japan was a major concern of the Conference throughout all its discussions on all subjects. Delegates noted with satisfaction that General MacArthur and the forces under his command had already virtually completed the disarmament and demilitarization of Japan. The Conference therefore directed particular attention to ensuring that Japan would not be in a position to rearm or to recreate dangerous war potential. There was general acceptance of the view that encouragement should be given to the positive measures designed to bring about a democratic, peace-loving Japan which would have neither desire nor ability to menace other nations.