

COMMONWEALTH STATESMEN'S MEETING, 1945

(London, 4-13 April)

A Commonwealth Statesmen's Meeting (distinct from the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Meeting) was held in London to consider proposals for the Charter of United Nations

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

On the eve of the meeting of the United Nations at San Francisco which is to consider the establishment of a new world organisation to secure and maintain peace, we, the representatives of the countries of the British Commonwealth, have met together in London.

We are convinced that only the maintenance after the war of the close co-operation between the United Nations which has brought, and is bringing, success to their arms can prevent the recurrence of strife between the governments and peoples of the world. The countries of the British Commonwealth stand ready to play their full part in an international organisation for the purpose of preserving international peace and security and promoting human welfare.

We have examined, generally and in detail, the tentative proposals resulting from the Dumbarton Oaks conversations and we have had a valuable exchange of views. We are agreed that the proposals provide the basis for a charter of such an organisation, fully recognising that in certain respects they call for clarification, improvement, and expansion.

Each of the countries assembled here will be represented at the San Francisco Conference. Through their representatives it will be the purpose of the peoples and the governments of the British Commonwealth in all the continents to work for the establishment of a world order which will be worthy of the immense sacrifice made by our peoples and designed to unite the nations in assuring all men in all the lands economic and social advancement in conditions of freedom, peace, and concord.

13 April 1945

Heads of Delegation

Australia	The Rt Hon F M Forde, Deputy Prime Minister
Britain	The Rt Hon Lord Cranborne, Dominion Secretary
Canada	The Rt Hon Stanley Bruce, High Commissioner in London
India	Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member, Viceroy's Executive Council
New Zealand	The Rt Hon Peter Fraser, Prime Minister
South Africa	The Rt Hon Field Marshall J C Smuts, Prime Minister