

continue to be, accepted willingly by the people of the Dominion in the knowledge that their sacrifices in this respect will contribute materially to the food resources of their kinsfolk in the United Kingdom whose heroic spirit throughout the war period, despite the hardships of severe food-rationing, has been an inspiration to all.

As one of the United Nations, New Zealand has assumed heavy and important responsibilities which must be borne to the full extent of the country's resources until final victory is won. In the ultimate settlement of peace the effective voice that New Zealand desires, and is entitled, to raise will undoubtedly depend in large measure not only on the contributions and the sacrifices already made in the common cause, but also upon the heavy burdens which it is found possible to maintain during the remaining course of the war. While sustaining its military effort to the maximum extent it is essential that New Zealand should at the same time collaborate with the other United Nations and, in particular, with the members of the British Commonwealth in all plans for the attainment of final victory and for the preparations for peace.

There has been the closest consultation on all these matters with the United Kingdom and with the other Dominion Governments, and my Prime Minister will shortly attend a Conference in London for the purpose of exchanging views with the other Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth on matters of common interest.

Of greatest significance for the more speedy defeat of the enemy and for the possibility of a lasting peace have been the recent momentous conferences between the leaders of the great United Nations at Cairo and Teheran. These meetings were preceded in Moscow by that of the Foreign Secretaries of the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America, which foreshadowed the establishment of an international organization of all peace-loving nations to maintain peace and security in the post-war period, and paved the way for the still more authoritative meetings between the heads of the three Governments. For the first time the great leaders met face to face and made common cause. At the Cairo Conference far-reaching decisions were made covering the prosecution of the war against Japan, and a declaration was issued denoting the intention of the allied powers to deprive Japan of the territories she had acquired by aggression. Plans for the joint conduct of the war against Germany during the coming year were concerted at Teheran and decisions made which will bring it to a speedier conclusion.

In these and other international discussions my Government have been kept advised and have, whenever necessary, stated their views. It has, in fact, been their constant aim to ensure that New Zealand shall participate to the full as a Sovereign power in discussions and plans for the reordering of world affairs.

My Government have participated in a number of international conferences directed towards world reconstruction, and on the 9th November, 1943, signed the Agreement providing for the establishment of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Arrangements are being made for the representation of this Dominion at the conference of the International Labour Office to be held in the United States of America in April next.

The question of New Zealand's participation in discussions relating to post-war international economic collaboration has been constantly under review. In their study of proposals relating to international monetary and exchange control, and questions of post-war commercial policy, my Ministers regard it as essential that a high level of employment in all countries should be a fundamental condition of better standards of living throughout the world. They trust that it will be possible to obtain an international agreement to pursue in all countries domestic policies aimed at full employment, and to this end it is proposed to advocate and support, in the transition period from war to peace, such forms of international economic collaboration as should make it unnecessary for countries to adopt policies of aggressive economic nationalism.