

SECRET

Ottawa, June 11, 1942

ANGLO-RUSSIAN TREATY

8. THE PRIME MINISTER reported that word had been received of the successful conclusion of negotiations between the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. A treaty had been signed on May the 26th, and announcement of this event was being made today in London.

The Russians had withdrawn from their earlier demand that, in default of direct military assistance, the United Kingdom should commit herself to a guarantee of defined post-war frontiers for the U.S.S.R. They had accepted the alternative of a bilateral guarantee of assistance, to remain in force for twenty years, unless replaced by a system of collective security for the preservation of peace. The treaty, as signed, involved, therefore, no conflict with the U.S. policy.

The U.K. government had suggested that it would be helpful if the Dominions could make it clear that they approved of the Treaty, to which, however, no actual adherence on their part was now proposed. The line to be taken, as regards publicity for the Treaty, was contained in telegrams from the Dominions Office. The text of the Treaty and information concerning the negotiations had been communicated fully by the U.K. government. (Circular telegrams D. 289, 290, 291; and 292, June 1942, Dominions Office to External Affairs.)

9. MR. KING said that it was proposed to accede to the U.K. request and express the Canadian government's general approval of the Treaty in a communication to Mr. Churchill, which would be made public in the House of Commons. A draft telegram was submitted for consideration.

10. The War Committee, after discussion, approved, with certain amendments, the draft telegram submitted, and agreed that it be made public in the House of Commons, and tabled with the text of the Anglo-Russian Treaty.