The Canadian Government has very earnestly considered the proposed treaty of Mutual Assistance submitted to it by you in your communications of October twenty-fifth nineteen twenty-three and April eleventh nineteen twenty-four and has also examined the documents accompanying the draft. Realizing the vital importance of the subject and the devoted labour the formulation of the Draft Treaty has entailed and notwithstanding its profound sympathy with the objects sought to be attained the Canadian Government finds itself unable to conclude that these objects would be promoted by the arrangement suggested. It concurs generally with the conclusions on the subject expressed by the Government of Great Britain and submits only the following brief observations. Position of Canada in the British Empire is such that in spite of the fact that the application of the Treaty
to the continent of North America is by its terms conditioned upon its ratification by the United States of America. The question of Canada's adherence to it has a more practical aspect than it would otherwise have. Apart from indications that the Government of the United States of America was unlikely to find the plan acceptable in principle, Canada has already indicated disapproval of the interpretation of the terms of Article ten of the Covenant as implying an obligation upon her to intervene actively under that article. The proposed treaty creates an obligation wider in its extent and more precise in its implications than any which Article ten could be interpreted as imposing and it proposes moreover to transfer the right to decide upon the scope of the action, Canada should take from the Canadian Parliament to the Council of the League of Nations.

It is true that for the purpose of deciding upon the assistance to be given by Canada the Council would include a Canadian representative and that the draft limits the liability of a signatory in another continent to measures not involving Naval, Military or Air operations. But the presence of a Canadian representative on the Council would hardly compensate for the at least nominal transfer of authority and again Canada's position in the British Empire affects the protection afforded her by the continental limitation of which in any event the utility is uncertain since it appears doubtful if hostile action can widely or indeed safely be undertaken by any state upon the principle of limited liability. For these reasons and those expressed in the communication of the government of Great Britain above referred to the Canadian Government is of the opinion that the nature of the proposed treaty is such that so far as it purports to impose a future obligation to take specific action in
circumstances incapable of present definition it would be hopeless to expect the people of Canada to accept it and it is else of opinion that even if these provisions of the draft were generally approved and brought into operation their effect would neither be to minimize the danger of war nor to bring about any useful limitation of armaments. On the other hand the Canadian Government considers that every extension by general agreement of the facilities for formal regular early and informed public discussion of possible causes of war is to be welcomed. It omits to deal more at large with such of the provisions of the Draft Treaty as appear to be designed to bring about such an extension only because it conceives that these would not appear in their present form if the Draft were confined to provisions of that character.

(Signed) MCKENZIE KING,

Prime Minister.