

99 Dundas Ave

Toronto. 12

June 22/36.

Dear Scott:

Herewith the manifesto which  
I believe, Elliott Reid mentioned to you.  
We would much like your comments as soon  
as possible as we hope to have a meeting in a  
week or so to discuss it and revise in the  
light of comments received. Also we  
would much appreciate the names of  
people whom you think might be induced  
to sign - preferably people whose names would  
carry some weight among particular groups or  
with the public generally.

Sincerely yours

R.A. Mackay.

June 22nd, 1936.

**A NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY FOR CANADA**

**Manifesto**

We, the undersigned Canadian citizens, concerned with the gravity of the present international situation and aware that in the event of war in Europe, Canada under the present indefinite terms of her membership in the League of Nations and the British Commonwealth of Nations is liable to be involved, consider that the time has come for Canada to take an unequivocal stand in the matter of participation in war overseas.

Accordingly we urge upon the Government of Canada the adoption of the following principles of external policy.

1. The primary considerations which should determine Canada's foreign policy are the promotion of the safety and welfare of the Canadian people and the maintenance of the unity of Canada as a nation.
2. Canada should declare her firm intention not to take an active part in any armed conflicts overseas.
3. Canada should immediately establish her right to declare neutrality in the case event of another member state of the British Commonwealth of Nations becoming involved in war.
4. The Parliament of Canada should immediately pass appropriate legislation to safeguard Canada's neutrality in the event of war.
5. Canada should continue as a member of the present League of Nations only on the condition that she is under no obligation to participate in economic, financial, or military sanctions.

6. Canada should declare her willingness to cooperate fully in establishing and working an effective League of Nations in so far as it is consistent with her geographical position.

We deeply regret any weakening of the unity of the British Commonwealth of Nations or of the League of Nations which may seem to result from the adoption of the above policy by Canada. But we feel that this policy has been forced upon Canada by the drift of events outside Canada over which Canada can have no effective control.

We do not believe that under the present conditions of disarmament and armed alliances in Europe Canada, with her very limited resources in men and materials, could intervene decisively in any armed conflict overseas, whatever the issues at stake. To think therefore that any participation by Canada in any overseas war would be sheer waste of Canadian blood and treasure. It would, moreover, be violently opposed by large sections of the Canadian people and would endanger the unity of Canada as a nation.

In order to safeguard the right of the Parliament of Canada to decide Canada's course of action in the event of war, legislation should immediately be passed by Parliament to provide for neutrality on the part of Canada, such legislation to go into effect immediately on the outbreak of war except in the case of invasion or threat of invasion of Canadian territory. In drafting such legislation the following subjects should be considered: enlistment of Canadian nationals in the armed forces of other states; recruiting by other states in Canadian territory; loans to belligerents; shipment of munitions and other supplies to belligerents.

We are fully conscious that enduring world peace can be preserved only by the creation of an effective League of Nations--a League which is able (1) to lessen international tension by the removal of some of its economic and psychological causes; (2) to compel the revision of treaties; (3) to effect a drastic reduction in national armaments; and (4) to enforce its decisions. We believe, however, that the creation of such a League is primarily an European problem, and that Canada as a North American country can not intervene successfully in European affairs to bring this about. At the same

time we think that Canada should state clearly that she is prepared to cooperate effectively in the creation of such a League and, if it is established, to undertake and to carry out loyally such obligations thereunder as are consistent with her geographical position.

In the meantime, in view of the patent weaknesses of the League as it is at present, in view of the grave possibilities of war incident to the application of sanctions against a heavily-armed, Great Power, as has been clearly shown during recent months, and in view of the proposed reorganization of the League on a basis of regional responsibility for the maintenance of peace, we think that Canada should secure her release from all obligation to participate in sanctions of every kind, or failing to obtain this should announce her withdrawal from the League of Nations. We think that this step is necessary both for the safety and welfare of Canada, and in fairness to other members of the League of Nations.