

Memorandum re Meeting of
Cabinet War Committee

October 1st, 1940.

SECRET

Ottawa, October 1st, 1940.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Prime Minister's Office, in the East Block, on Tuesday, October the 1st, at 12 o'clock, noon.

There were present the following members:

The Prime Minister,
The Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe),
The Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar),
The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston),
The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe),
The Minister of National Defence for
Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald).

The Under-Secretary of State for
External Affairs (Dr. Skelton),
The Secretary (Mr. Heeney).

The Canadian Army - Programme for 1941 -
Home and Overseas.

1. The Minister of National Defence reported that the General Staff had been giving detailed consideration to the whole problem of army organization and development, in the light of their appreciation of the general strategic situation and requirements for the defence of Canada, and overseas operations in co-operation with the United Kingdom.

Copies of three memoranda prepared by the Chief of the General Staff, setting out Major-General Crerar's views as to an appropriate military programme for Canada for 1941 were distributed to members of the Committee, for their consideration.

(See Memorandum for the Minister of National Defence - "The Canadian Army", September 3rd, 1940, Memorandum - "Canadian Army Programme for 1941", September 24th, 1940, and "Appreciation - What should be the nature of Canada's military effort during the next year", September 25th, 1940.)

2. Mr. Ralston commented, at some length, upon the proposals outlined in General Crerar's
that they had been prepared

from the Czecho-Slovak government, in London, that Canada agree to receive a Czecho-Slovak Military Mission for propagandist purposes and to recruit for the armed forces persons of Czecho-Slovak origin.

After some discussion it was agreed that a reply should be sent through Mr. Massey, stating that the government could not welcome the idea of foreign missions conducting propaganda in Canada, that it was preferred that Canadians of Czecho-Slovak origin who wished to volunteer, should enlist in the Canadian forces; if, notwithstanding these views, it were still desired to send the mission, the government would permit recruiting of Czecho-Slovaks on the same conditions as governed recruiting for Norwegian and Polish forces.

Luxembourg -
Transfer of government to Canada

24. The Prime Minister referred to the decision made in this connection at the last meeting. The government of Luxembourg, however, had now decided to remain in London for the present.

Reported arrest of Canadian in Rumania

25. The Prime Minister referred to the arrest of a number of British subjects in Rumania. The U. K. government had sent a strong communication to the Rumanian government in this connection.

26. It was agreed that enquiry should be made as to whether a Canadian was amongst those arrested and, if so, Canada should associate herself with the protests being made by the United Kingdom.

Japanese and Chinese in British Columbia

27. The Committee discussed further the question of military training for persons of Japanese and Chinese racial origin in British Columbia.

It was suggested that the situation with respect to orientals in British Columbia should be thoroughly investigated before any final decision were made in this respect.

28. It was agreed that a Special Committee consisting of a representative of the Department of National Defence and a representative of the Department of External Affairs, and a representative of the R.C.M. Police, should look into the situation fully and report to the Committee, and that in the meantime no persons of Japanese or Chinese racial origin in British Columbia should be called for military training.

Relations with France -

"Free French Movement"

29. The Prime Minister submitted a number of problems which required decision, arising from the existence of the deGaulle movement. These involved principally the proposal to train French airmen in Canada, the status of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and the collection of funds.

30. After some discussion it was agreed:

(1) that, if the U. K. government were prepared to sponsor the partially trained French airmen whom General deGaulle wished to send to Canada, and were prepared to incorporate them in the R.A.F., the government would raise no objection to their training here. An enquiry which had been addressed to the U. K. government in this connection was, as yet, unanswered.

(2) that the government should not attempt to bring pressure to bear on St. Pierre and Miquelon for the purpose of forcing that colony to declare itself for General deGaulle.

(It was pointed out that the terms of the Declaration of Havana were involved and that, in the circumstances, Canada should take no part in supporting the Free French Movement in the American Hemisphere).

(3) that the government should neither assist nor interfere with any proposed collections of funds in Canada for General deGaulle's movement.

(4) that the Canadian deGaulle Committee