

37. The Secretary reported that the Prime Minister had expressed the opinion that any national ceremony on an extensive scale, at this time, would be most inappropriate and would produce an unfortunate effect, both within and outside Canada.

38. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that national ceremonies on a large scale would be inappropriate at the present time and referred the matter of final arrangements to the Minister of National Defence for Air, in consultation with the Prime Minister.

Army; promotions

39. The Minister of National Defence reported that it was proposed to transfer Major-General Spry from the command of the 3rd Division to the command of Reinforcement Units in the United Kingdom, and to appoint Brigadier Keebler to command the division, with the rank of Acting Major-General.

40. The War Committee noted with approval the Minister's report.

Army; return to Canada of Forestry Corps personnel

41. The Minister of National Defence, referring to the decision taken at the meeting of February 28th, said that arrangements had now been completed whereby these units^x, less a small number of technical personnel, would be returned to Canada commencing next month. The movement would be completed by September.

(Departmental aide memoire, March 21, 1945).

42. The War Committee noted with approval the Minister's report.

Balloon attacks; biological warfare;
special committee

43. The Minister of National Defence, referring to the discussion at the meeting of March 7th, said that a balloon had recently landed in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This indicated that the Japanese were continuing their experiments.

The Committee set up by the War Committee had reported that it was desirable to notify certain Dominion and Provincial Government officials as to the possible dangers of this form of warfare. It was proposed, in consequence, that the Department of Agriculture, the Dominion Forestry Service of the Department of Mines and Resources, and officials of the Provincial Governments, be notified in terms

x - (In the United Kingdom)

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
Volume XVII, January - May 1945, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 17)

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