

C 278702

4th June, 1940.

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for Canada to state that an Order-in-Council, P.C. 2218 of May 23rd, 1940, has been made under the Visiting Forces Act to cover the position of Canadian Forces in Bermuda and Jamaica. This action is similar in principle to that taken by P.C. 3391 of November 2nd, 1939, and amendments covering the position of Canadian Forces in the United Kingdom.

A summary of the operative portions of the Order of May 23rd, as cabled to this Office, is as follows:-

- (1) That all Military Forces of Canada at present in the West Indies and Bermuda do serve together therein with the Military Forces of the United Kingdom and the Military Forces of the said Colonies, assisting in the West Indies and Bermuda.
- (2) That in respect of any Military Forces of Canada serving in the West Indies and Bermuda those parts thereof as may from time to time be detailed for that purpose by the appropriate Canadian Service authorities as from time to time designated by the Minister of National Defence shall act in combination with those Forces of the United Kingdom at present in the West Indies and Bermuda and those Forces of the said Colonies to which the same have been so detailed.
- (3) The appropriate Canadian Service authorities are authorized to take such action as may be necessary to effect the attachment of members of the Military Forces of the United Kingdom and of the said Colonial Possessions to the Military Forces of Canada and vice versa.

The Bermuda Forces will be detailed to act in combination at all stages.

It will be necessary for the appropriate authorities to take such action as may be required to give effect to the above arrangements. Special reference in this connection should be made to Section 5 of the United Kingdom Act and to action taken by the Army Council and other United Kingdom authorities, following upon the passing of Canadian Order-in-Council P.C. 3391 referred to above. We are not, however, clear whether action in this regard should be taken in London or in Bermuda and Jamaica. If the former it would be appreciated if the required steps are taken here; if the latter, if instructions could be given to the Colonial authorities in Bermuda and Jamaica for action to be taken by them.

The High Commissioner has been requested by the Canadian Government to forward to Ottawa copies of any Orders-in-Council that have been made, or any action taken under Section 5 of the United Kingdom Act, and also copies of any Orders or other action taken pursuant to the request made above.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) L.B. PEARSON
Official Secretary.