

reported that officials of the departments concerned had come to the conclusion that the conversion of Canadian built cargo ships to troop carriers would not be practicable. It had been suggested, however, that the possibility be explored of obtaining from the United States six C-3 type vessels which, with a troop-carrying capacity of 2,500 and a speed of 17 knots, could move 15,000 troops a month.

An explanatory document had been circulated.

(Memorandum, Quartermaster General to the Minister, March 19, and attached memorandum, Director-General, Shipbuilding Branch, to Minister of Munitions and Supply, March 16, 1945 - C.W.C. document 956).

6. General McNaughton admitted that it would probably be difficult to obtain such ships from the United States, and suggested that Munitions and Supply explore the possibility of constructing similar vessels in Canada.

There might be considerable advantages in having Canadian troop carriers operated by the Navy and this possibility might be examined.

7. The Chief of the Naval Staff, with reference to possible further construction in Canadian yards pointed out that heavy repair and maintenance obligations were taking up virtually all available capacity.

8. The Minister of Munitions and Supply observed that Canadian shipping formed part of the common Allied pool which, under agreement, would continue to allocate vessels until after the Japanese war. Any new Canadian construction would accrue to the pool rather than to purely Canadian use.

9. The Secretary suggested the desirability of impressing upon the U.K. government the importance of the maximum possible shipping being secured for the repatriation of Canadian forces and an enquiry as to the amount which would likely be available for the purpose.

10. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed:

(a) that a message be sent to the U.K. government, emphasizing the importance of the repatriation of Canadian forces from Europe as soon as possible after the defeat of Germany, requesting that U. K. authorities do everything possible to ensure the allotment of the maximum quantity of shipping for this purpose and enquiring as to the present prospects in this respect as to time and extent;

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