

a public announcement by the Government of Canada that it proposed to enlist 1000 men into a fire fighting battalion, organized along the same lines as the Forestry Battalion, and that they would be sent to Britain as a flying squad to render aid to municipal fire fighting forces in the various cities of Great Britain.

(15) You asked me for my personal opinion and recommendation and without hesitation I would recommend that, either under the Department of Defense or under this Department, we form a battalion of firefighters of at least 1000 men and that these men be sent to Britain to aid the fire fighting forces of the various municipalities there. If this course were adopted, then the National Fire Fighters Organization in Canada should be called in, as well as the Executive of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, and a definite plan of enlistment worked out and the necessary organization set up. I would judge that some well known Fire Chief would have to be selected as the man in charge, bearing the same relative position in this proposed battalion as General White does in the Forestry Battalion. There would have to be officers under him. I expect that this battalion could be more effectively organized and set up through the Department of Defense, but if they feel that it is a civilian project, then I know that we would be only too happy in this Department to undertake the project at once.

(Sgd) T. C. Davis

Associate Deputy Minister.