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Request for Forestry and Transport units

TELEGRAM

From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

*Mil. Co-op Army
Rly & Transport
Units.*

SECRET
CYPHER

LONDON, October 7, 1939.

No. 87. No. 87.Secret. We are most grateful for your telegrams No. 84 and No. 86 of September 30th regarding proposals for despatch of technical units from Canada. These proposals are receiving urgent consideration, ^{and} as requested, the Army Council hope to be able to communicate their views very shortly.

In the meantime suggestion has been made that His Majesty's Government in Canada might be prepared to provide

- (1) Forestry companies and
- (2) Certain special transportation units.

Any assistance which the Canadian Government may be in a position to afford in these respects would be of the greatest value.

As regards (1) it has been suggested that, as in the last war, Canada would be the best source for provision of such companies. Forestry companies will shortly be required for work in France in forests taken over by British Expeditionary Force, and, if the Canadian Government should be prepared to fall in with this suggestion, we should be glad to supply detailed information as to the number of companies required and approximate dates at which they would be needed. It is hoped Canadian Government would be able to arrange for such companies to be completely fitted out with modern equipment in Canada.

As regards (2) we should be grateful for assistance in numbering of following units:-

- W.E.4/1931/15/1-A Headquarters Railway Construction and Maintenance group, Royal Engineers.
- W.E.4/1931/13/2-A Railway Survey Company, Royal Engineers.
- W.E.4/1931/16/1-A Railway Construction Company, Royal Engineers.