

and (for items recorded in paragraphs 23 to 44):

The Associate Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs (Mr. Wrong).

Operational reports

1. Major Geymonat, with the aid of intelligence maps, reported on the progress of the war in Western Europe, in Italy, on the Russian front, and in South-East Asia.

2. The War Committee noted the reports made by Major Geymonat.

Anti-submarine measures in Lower St. Lawrence

3. The Secretary, referring to the decision taken at the meeting of March 7th regarding increased use of St. Lawrence ports in the 1945 season, submitted a report of the Chiefs of Staff who had been directed, in the light of this decision, to review and report on the anti-submarine measures to be taken in the Lower St. Lawrence area.

The report, copies of which had been circulated, recommended, in brief, that the measures for defence be similar to those in effect in 1944, with certain minor changes resulting from reductions in army forces and civil defence disbandments.

The current plan provided for some sixty-four R.C.N. ships to be engaged in the protection of Gulf shipping at the opening of navigation and these might be increased to seventy two in July. Dimout regulations would be re-imposed and a publicity campaign would be undertaken to assist in their enforcement. Army participation would be provided by local units of the Reserve Army and the Air Force would operate six anti-submarine and general reconnaissance squadrons to be allocated in accordance with operational requirements.

Copies of the detailed plan, upon which the Chiefs of Staff's recommendations were based, had been submitted to the Ministers of National Defence and the Secretary.

(Memorandum, Chiefs of Staff to War Committee, March 19, 1945 - C.W.C. document 959).

4. The War Committee, after discussion, approved the recommendations submitted by the Chiefs of Staff.

Repatriation of overseas forces; shipping

5. The Minister of National Defence, referring to the discussion at the meeting of March 14th,

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