

and by call-up. The Army was fully aware of the importance of providing for the essential needs of the civilian economy.

In this connection, a message had recently been despatched to Canadian Military Headquarters, London, asking for revised forecasts of anticipated activity, and emphasizing that it was essential that Army needs impinge to the minimum extent necessary upon the essential requirements of the civilian economy.

(Army message C.G.S. 165, Chief of the General Staff to Chief of Staff, C.M.H.Q. London, April 7, 1945).

13. The War Committee, after further discussion,

(a) agreed that, in the light of the discussion, the Minister of National Defence review the entire manpower requirements of the Army with a view to reducing to the essential minimum the Army's demands upon the civilian economy; and,

(b) approved Parts III to IX, inclusive, of the report submitted on re-allocation, repatriation, demobilization (release), and re-establishment, with the exception of paragraphs 14 and 15 thereof, which were to be revised in the light of the discussion.

Navy; aircraft carriers; Pacific service

14. The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services referred to discussions proceeding with the Admiralty with respect to the two aircraft carriers which U.K. authorities hoped to be able to make available to the Canadian Navy.

It now appeared that the transfer of these vessels could be made in due course. The question arose, therefore, whether Canadian personnel now serving should be posted to these ships to "infiltrate" British crews, or whether, in view of government policy regarding service against Japan, it would be necessary to have them re-volunteer for the Pacific.

15. The Prime Minister said that government policy in this respect was now settled and no commitments in respect of manning Canadian vessels should be undertaken beyond the number that could be provided for thereunder, that is by volunteers.

16. The War Committee noted, with approval, the Prime Minister's observations, it being understood that acceptance of the carriers in question would be determined by the numbers of Navy personnel who would be available for service in the Pacific under the voluntary system and that the position would be examined from this viewpoint.

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