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CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

OVERSEAS AIR MAIL - NEWSPAPERS

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CABINET WAR COMMITTEE  
Document No. *825*

The following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Deputy Ministers of the three service departments, and representatives of the Department of Transport and the Post Office Department has been received:

"1. Defense Council on June 9th agreed that space should be allotted for transportation overseas by air of specified numbers of copies of special editions of the Montreal Standard, Montreal Free Press and Montreal Express, subject to consultation with other weekly newspapers and clearance with them. Subsequent to this decision the National Home Monthly was added to the list of publications.

2. Cabinet War Committee on July 13th requested the Deputy Ministers of the three Armed Services, the Department of Transport and the Post Office Department to consider the proposal of transporting this material by air, and if this was considered desirable by the aforementioned departments to advise as to the priority to be given.

3. Presenting the views of the Department of Transport, Mr. Main stated that the number of urgent demands for high priority movement of materials overseas by air on behalf of Canadian and British Government Departments made it impossible at this time to handle any portion of the 7200 lbs per month unless a higher priority was given to the movement of these newspapers and magazines. This Department may have an aircraft available on or about August 15th to allot to the carrying of these newspapers and magazines. At present it is necessary, therefore, to make temporary arrangements to take care of transportation over the next six weeks.

4. It being understood that first class mail to overseas troops is to continue to receive highest priority in air transportation, consideration was given to establishing the following additional priorities:

- (I) Essential medical supplies (blood plasma, penicillin, etc.,)
- (II) Newspapers and magazines
- (III) Essential war materials

5. The meeting was of the unanimous opinion that it is desirable to deliver these newspapers and magazines, particularly to the Mediterranean area, by air, if possible, or by any other method that will assure delivery within a week to ten days of publication. In this connection, it is recommended that the R.C.A.F. explore the possibility of their supplying (especially to the Mediterranean area) a portion of the necessary space and that the remainder be carried by fastest ships.

6. With respect to the priority to be attached to air transport for these newspapers and magazines it was agreed that first priority be given to essential and urgently required medical supplies and second priority to these publications. This latter priority subject to representation from Departments requiring movement of other war materials, such cases to be decided on its own merits by the priorities officer."

A. D. P. HENRY

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