

convened by the Under-Secretary of State to consider plans for the celebration of the termination of active hostilities in Germany. An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Letter, Under-Secretary of State to Secretary, Oct. 26, and attached report, Oct. 18, 1944; also Secretary's memorandum, Mar. 28, 1945 - C.W.C. document 967).

20. The Prime Minister observed that arrangements were being made in the United Kingdom to celebrate victory over Germany on the day following the official announcement of the conclusion of hostilities. It might be desirable to observe a similar procedure in Canada.

Inevitably most of the news would emanate from Europe and, in the circumstances, localities should be free to celebrate the occasion as they saw fit without direction from Ottawa. There would not appear to be any good reason for radio special statements by the Governor General on the day of victory.

21. The War Committee, after discussion, approved the suggestions of the Prime Minister, and agreed as follows:

A. (a) that a recommendation to Council and a Proclamation be prepared declaring a public holiday;

(b) that a request to the Churches be prepared to set apart a day of public prayer and thanksgiving;

(c) that authority be given to the Departments of External Affairs and National Defence to arrange for such advance notice as might be possible, along the lines followed in relation to "D-Day";

(d) that, if possible, a public statement be issued, a few days before the event, warning the public against premature reports and rumours;

(e) that there be no formal Dominion-wide ceremony on Parliament Hill, other than a Carillon programme;

(f) that the Provinces be notified of these proposals;

(g) that to whatever extent might be necessary, Service departments and the R.C.M. Police be authorized to co-operate with local authorities, it being understood that there would be no direction of local celebrations from Ottawa and no extraordinary expenditures (parade pay) be incurred in this connection; and,

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