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C 278710

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES

Ottawa,  
17th January 1941.

TO THE WAR COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET:

Attached herewith is copy of telegram dated January 2nd, addressed by the High Commissioner for Canada to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

It will be remembered that while in Great Britain members of my staff discussed with the Home Office the question of Fire Fighting personnel to be recruited in Canada and to be sent to Great Britain to aid Great Britain.

At that time it was intimated to us that such assistance was not needed. It would appear from the attached telegram that the situation is changed and that the British Government will be shortly asking for this type of assistance.

I would recommend that in principle we agree to render this assistance to the extent of, say, one thousand men.

The question to be decided is whether or not this Force should be recruited as part of the military forces of this country.

I presume that the recruiting could be more easily done through existing recruiting machinery in Canada.