

TOP SECRET

Ottawa, November 3rd, 1948.

CABINET CONCLUSIONS

A meeting of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Wednesday, November 3rd, 1948, at 11 o'clock.

Present:

The Minister of Justice and Acting Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), in the Chair,
The Minister of Reconstruction and Supply and Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe),
The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner),
The Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. MacKinnon),
The Secretary of State (Mr. Gibson),
The Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell),
The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier),
The Postmaster General (Mr. Bertrand),
The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton),
The Solicitor General (Mr. Jean),
The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin),
The Minister of National Revenue (Dr. McCann),
The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Gregg),
The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Mayhew).

The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Heeney),
The Assistant Secretary (Mr. Baldwin).

Legislation; National Defence Act

1. The Minister of National Defence reported that a bill entitled the National Defence Act had been under preparation for some considerable time and would be ready for introduction at the next session of Parliament.

This bill, which was not a consolidation or revision of existing legislation but a new integrated statute, included provision for the Department of National Defence, the organization and discipline of the Armed Forces, the organization and functions of the Defence Research Board, and all other matters directly concerning defence. Archaic and impracticable provisions of existing

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