

In all my communications with Overseas and with my own officers it was laid down that War Committee had approved of the contribution of 32 squadrons for the purpose of planning only and that no commitment was to be made.

3. At the meeting held in Quebec City at the Citadel with Mr. Churchill, Sir Charles Portal, Air Chief Marshal of the Royal Air Force, spoke of 32 squadrons as Canada's contribution, but in a subsequent memorandum handed to Air Marshal Leckie, Chief of the Air Staff, R.C.A.F., of which I have a copy, he continued to mention 58 squadrons in addition to a contribution in manpower of 25,000 groundcrew to serve behind the lines, presumably in South East Asia.

4. The C.A.S. explained to Sir Charles Portal that no such contribution of 25,000 men would be possible, and that Canada did not propose to send air squadrons to South East Asia, but would take part in action either in the North Pacific or in an attack on Japan itself.

5. Subsequently a proposal was made by me on September 20th, 1944, to Cabinet War Committee involving a contribution to be sent somewhere else than in the South Pacific, or Australia, or South East Asia, of 32 squadrons. Of these, seven squadrons would be employed in Europe, and the remaining twenty-five in the war against Japan. The manpower requirements of this programme total 32-33,000 including provision for replacements (some 5,000) for ancillary units (some 4,000) and approximately 6,000 airfield construction personnel who might be provided by the Army.

Capital equipment required for these thirty-two squadrons would cost approximately \$160,000,000. This figure might be reduced by utilizing present equipment valued at approximately \$90,000,000. Annual maintenance would be in the neighbourhood of \$331,000,000.

I am now prepared to amend this proposal.

The contribution of 32 squadrons to be made up as originally suggested plus 5000 groundcrew reinforcements, leaving out the 6000 airfield construction unit and proposed 4000 ancillary units.

The total Canadian Air contribution therefore would be 32 squadrons divided approximately as follows - 1/3 bomber, 1/3 fighter and 1/3 transport. A complement of approximately 18,000 men plus 5000 to be used as reinforcements, 23,000 men in all, a reduction of ten thousand men from the original proposal. The financial outlay involved will be decreased.

DEMOBILIZATION

Apparently some objection has been taken to the rate of demobilization, which has been proposed. I am prepared to start demobilization of the R.C.A.F. personnel at approximately 10,000 men per month as from January 1st, 1945, instead of April 1st, 1945.

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
Volume XVI, July - December 1944, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 16)

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