

7. The Minister of Munitions and Supply said that this possibility was already under investigation.

8. The Chief of the Air Staff felt that, at the end of European hostilities, it might be possible to accelerate demobilization beyond the estimated maximum of 10,000 per month.

At the present time, only those who requested their discharge were being demobilized.

9. The Chief of the Naval Staff said that the rate of demobilization of Naval personnel had been tentatively fixed at 3,500 a month. This might be increased, perhaps to 5,000 a month.

10. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of scrutinizing most carefully, and in relation to one another, the proposed programmes of the Armed Forces for the period after the end of European hostilities. It was essential, both from the point of view of finance and manpower, to make sure that commitments were not undertaken which would put undue strain upon the nation's resources.

11. The War Committee, after further discussion, noted the report of the Minister of Finance, and agreed that the Services should proceed on the basis of demobilization of personnel at the maximum rate possible, having regard to operational requirements.

Army; participation in European occupation

12. The Minister of National Defence recommended that approval be now given to the Army proposal.

The Canadian occupation group would comprise approximately 25,000 all ranks, organized as an infantry formation and made up of units drawn from various parts of Canada. Personnel would be selected from volunteers and, where necessary, by detailing others with low priority for demobilization. The force would be allocated to the British zone of occupation and the commitment would be specifically for Stage II, that is the period of adjustment and disarmament immediately following the operational occupation of Germany. Thereafter, personnel would be returned to Canada with all possible speed.

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