

PART II

3. The Canadian Government have reviewed the whole matter, having regard to the needs here arising from the rapid changes in the situation but with a view to doing everything to despatch as many trained troops as possible. After careful weighing of the possibilities the Canadian Government have planned adjustments and dispositions so as to release an additional 3 battalions of the 2nd Division which with the Canadian troops now in Iceland and the troops to be despatched on July 18th as set out in Part II of our telegram 834 would make 2 Brigades of the 2nd Division and one additional battalion for duty on this special mission. This adjustment includes the releasing of the Black Watch Battalion now in Newfoundland which is a 2nd Division battalion, to allow it to proceed as one of the three additional battalions and replacing it with another Canadian battalion which is unattached. As will be recognized, to send these additional 3 battalions to Iceland would completely thwart the completion of training and disrupt the organization of the 2nd Division. It would mean that 2 Brigades would be in Iceland, 1 Brigade and Divisional units would be in Canada and advance parties and instructional and Headquarters personnel would be in England. To permit the early utilization of the 2nd Division as a fighting formation the Canadian Government would very much desire that the Division (less one Brigade which is required in Canada until 3rd and 4th Division troops training is further advanced) should go to England, where training as a Division can be completed promptly and where in the meantime the two Brigades and Divisional troops would be available for defense in the United Kingdom. The Canadian Government therefore suggests the following as an alternative to sending the three additional Battalions to Iceland and completely breaking up the 2nd Division for the time being.