

TOP SECRET

CABINET CONCLUSIONS

A meeting of the Cabinet was held on Wednesday, July 5th, 1950, in the Privy Council Chamber at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

The Prime Minister (Mr. St-Laurent),  
in the Chair,  
The Minister of National Defence  
(Mr. Claxton),  
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott),  
The Minister of National Revenue and Minister  
of Mines and Technical Surveys (Dr. McCann),  
The Leader of the Government in the Senate  
(Senator Robertson),  
The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Gregg),  
The Secretary of State for External Affairs  
(Mr. Pearson),  
The Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson),  
The Secretary of State (Mr. Bradley),  
The Solicitor General (Mr. Lapointe),  
The Postmaster General (Mr. Rinfret),  
The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration  
(Mr. Harris),

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The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Robertson),  
Mr. R.G. Robertson, Privy Council Office,  
Mr. W.R. Wright, Privy Council Office.

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External Affairs; Korean situation

1. The Secretary of State for External Affairs reported that the forces of North Korea had proved considerably stronger than was originally anticipated. Their troops had had some battle experience and were well supplied with Russian equipment. As a result, the South Koreans had suffered grave reverses. Apparently one American division had already been landed to assist the latter.

2. The Minister of National Defence said that the Korean terrain was exceptionally difficult for military operations. Most of the area was mountainous with rugged and narrow valleys. There were virtually no roads and few open fields. In addition, the rainy season would begin early next week. The chances of an early and decisive military success for the U.N. forces seemed doubtful.

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