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TELEGRAM

FROM: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA.

LONDON, September 26th, 1939.

Following for Prime Minister from my Prime Minister.
Begins:

I am sure that you will agree that the scheme outlined in the following message is of first importance. For this reason, and because it invites cooperation with Canada to a very special degree, I want to make a special personal appeal to you about it. I feel that so far reaching a project will strike your imagination particularly as it concerns an all important field of war activity in which Canada has already made so striking and gallant an individual contribution. May I therefore ask that the matter should receive very urgent attention?

1. During the last few days the War Cabinet have been considering the whole problem of future requirements in air strength and the nature of the effort likely to be required. The conclusion reached is that the problem is one of vital importance especially in the light of the success obtained by the German air force in helping to achieve the rapid subjugation of Poland. It is now abundantly clear that an overwhelming air force will be needed in order to counter German air strength and, in combination with other military measures and economic pressure, to bring ultimate victory.

2. With this in view the War Cabinet have sanctioned immediate measures here directed to further expansion of aircraft production and training. Objective is to build up gradually and maintain in continuous operation a greatly enlarged air force. In view of the unfortunate fact that wastage rate of air force when engaged in continuous heavy operations is exceedingly high it is expected that there would be required not less than 20,000 pilots and 30,000 personnel of air crews annually for maintenance of this enlarged force. To provide for these it is estimated that about 90 elementary and advanced flying training schools with some subsidiary air crew and ground schools would be necessary.

3. In this respect we find ourselves under a grave disability in that the training organization now required is more than twice the entire training capacity available in the United Kingdom, having regard to limited space, operational restrictions and vulnerability to air attack.

4. It seems to us that this is a problem in the solution of which the overseas parts of the Empire may well be able to play a decisive part. If about one half of this vast training organization, say fifty flying training schools (of which twenty-five would be for advanced training) with some subsidiary schools could be built up elsewhere than the United Kingdom, it would be, in our judgment, of inestimable value to the common cause. We have therefore been thinking over lines on which such an effort might be realized and venture to put forward for the consideration of your government a scheme of which the following is an outline.

5. Schools for elementary training would be established in each Dominion according to its capacity. Whilst all Dominions enjoy equal immunity from the risk of enemy interference, Canada has special advantages of nearness to the United Kingdom, greater potentialities