

(2) Canada agrees that:

(a) Gas warfare will be undertaken by both the United States and British Commonwealth Forces on the order of the Combined Chiefs of Staff after approval of the United States and United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Governments concerned, or independently in retaliation, including the fulfillment of commitments, on the decision of the Government concerned. In this latter case, the decision of the Government concerned will apply with full force to all troops operating under the commanders of that Government, which will assume full responsibility for their actions.

(b) The United States and British Commonwealth forces will provide evidence of the enemy's use of gas warfare and make prompt confirmed transmittal of the information to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. When the decision to retaliate is made independently by any such nation, it will give immediate confirmed advice to the Combined Chiefs of Staff of its intention before taking any such action.

Comments: This Policy is a re-statement of recommendations submitted by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, on Allied Chemical Warfare, to which the Cdn Cabinet War Committee recorded their approval on 31st May 1944.

The commitments referred to in para 2(a) are those stated publicly by Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt on 10th May 1942 and 6th June 1942, respectively. These statements are as follows:

(a) The Prime Minister's declaration of May 10, 1942:

"I wish now to make it plain that we shall treat the unprovoked use of poison gas against our Russian ally exactly as if it were used against ourselves, and if we are satisfied that this new outrage has been committed by Hitler we will use our great and growing air superiority in the west to carry gas warfare on the largest possible scale far and wide upon the towns and cities of Germany."

(b) The President's declaration on June 6, 1942:

"I desire to make it unmistakably clear that if Japan persists in this unhuman form of warfare against China or against any other of the United Nations, such action will be regarded by this government as though taken against the United States and retaliation in kind and in full measure will be meted out."

(3) In recognition of the favourable change in the strategic situation, in respect of the defence of the North American Area, which has taken place since 12th June 1942, it is recommended that the Cabinet War Committee reconsider and rescind their proviso of that date in order that war gases and chemical warfare weapons may be placed on the same basis as other War Supplies as regards export or transfer to other United Nations.

Comments: The proviso referred to is set forth in memorandum of Minister of National Defence to CGS under date 12th June 1942, on HQS 4554-1-8, which is to the effect that war gases and CW weapons, then authorized for production and storage in Canada, be retained for our own possible needs and not to provide reserves for export to other countries.

It is herein suggested that the rescinding of the said proviso be regarded as a recognition of the altered strategic situation.

..../3

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

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA