

5. With regard to air attack, the threat of attack by German land based aircraft is virtually non-existent as no German aircraft is capable of making Atlantic flight from existing air bases with any appreciable bomb load.

6. It is in this light that we have considered request in final paragraph of your telegram. We feel in view of situation shown in paragraph 2 of above, our present combined naval dispositions not only are best in common interest in existing circumstances, but are adequate to deal with scale of attack which we think probable in western Atlantic. Nevertheless, you may rest assured that redistribution will be made if situation there changes.

7. We agree that four reconnaissance squadrons, covering Canada's Atlantic approaches, are hardly adequate for area in question. In view, however, of urgent and pressing need for this type of aircraft elsewhere, it is difficult, at present, to provide aircraft for formation of additional squadrons. We are giving full consideration to your views on expansion of Royal Canadian Air Forces in preparation of revised air training programme. Ends.

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Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au secrétaire aux Dominions
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary

Ottawa, April 10, 1941

TELEGRAM 57

SECRET. Your telegrams Nos. 47 and 48 of March the 24th. Following for your Prime Minister, Begins.

1. I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your personal telegram to him of March the 24th.

2. The views of your military advisers, as set out in your telegram No. 48, of March the 24th, have been considered carefully by the Cabinet War Committee, and referred to our Chiefs of Staff for their examination.

3. The Canadian Chiefs of Staff have now expressed their agreement in the views of the U.K. government's military advisers, as described in your telegram No. 48, but desire to point out, with regard to Paragraph 4 of that telegram, that the statement therein, that, Quote, the Canadian Chiefs of Staff make no specific reference to strengthening anti-submarine protection of shipping near Canadian Coast, Unquote, does not appear to take into account paragraphs 6 and 8 of the Canadian Chiefs of Staff Appreciation.

4. The Canadian Chiefs of Staff observe that all forms of attack were included in their Appreciation, although no specific reference was made to detailed defensive measures of any particular type. They desire to make it clear that Canada has spared no effort to build up and strengthen anti-submarine measures for the protection of shipping near the Canadian coasts. They draw attention, in this connection, to the fact that already large sums have been spent on this score and that every effort is being made to provide