

R.C.A.F. demobilization policy; relations
with the Army

18. The Prime Minister said that he had been concerned at recent public reports of decisions taken with regard to discharges and demobilization, without apparent reference to the government and without Ministerial sanction.

A recent newspaper report implied a direct reversal of the approved policy for the gradual liquidation of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan and for consequent release of R.C.A.F. personnel surplus to requirements.

19. The Acting Minister of National Defence for Air said that he had looked into the reports referred to by Mr. King and had found that they were without basis and had not been authorized.

There were, however, a number of difficulties with regard to Air Force demobilization and these problems were being investigated. Meantime a preliminary report had been obtained from the Air Staff, at the Prime Minister's request.

(Memorandum, Acting C.A.S. to the Acting Minister, Jan.16, 1945, Appendix "G").

20. The Minister of National Defence observed that, despite detailed arrangements agreed between the Adjutant General and the Air Member for Personnel, R.C.A.F. personnel appeared to be entirely ignorant of the arrangements made for transfer of Officers, N.C.O.'s and Women's Division to the Army upon the favourable conditions which had been devised for inter-Service transfers.

Arrangements had also been made with National Selective Service with respect to discharged R.C.A.F. personnel, but it did not appear that these were generally understood.

21. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the Acting Minister of National Defence for Air examine fully into the matter of R.C.A.F. demobilization policies, with particular reference to the question raised by General McNaughton.

R.C.A.F.; employment of operational squadrons
overseas

22. The Prime Minister pointed out that government policy as to the areas in which Canadian forces should be employed against Japan had been clearly established immediately