

October 17th, 1951, reported that, since the meeting, the U.S. government had sent notes to the United Kingdom and Egyptian governments strongly supporting the British position. The French government had also given a public indication of support. In accordance with the decision of the Cabinet, a message as to the views of the Canadian government had been sent to the U.S. Secretary of State in advance of his statement. It might now be desirable to make the government's position public. A draft statement was read.

18. The Cabinet, after discussion, agreed that the Secretary of State for External Affairs be authorized to make a statement on the position of the government in relation to the Egyptian crisis in accordance with the draft submitted, but subject to the deletion of the final paragraph; the explanation to be given in the course of the general statement of policy on October 22nd, unless a specific question made an earlier announcement desirable.

Ontario provincial election; Service voting

19. The Minister of National Defence recalled the discussion at the previous meeting of arrangements for servicemen to vote during the forthcoming Ontario provincial election. For the information of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, he reviewed the possibilities of irregularities in Service voting under the procedure contemplated by Ontario and felt that, in the circumstances, it would be desirable for the Cabinet to confirm the tentative decision that, while offering all necessary facilities and co-operation, his department should not undertake to conduct Service voting. It was now estimated that there were some 29,300 Ontario voters in the forces, about 8,600 being at establishments in Ontario.

20. The Minister of National Revenue suggested that, if this position were taken, and if, as seemed probable, Ontario proved unable to arrange to staff the large number of polling booths required at service establishments in Canada and abroad, the federal government might be accused of disfranchising servicemen.

21. The Cabinet, after further discussion, noted the report of the Minister of National Defence on proposals for Service voting in the forthcoming

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