

11. More important, however, is it for the Government to stay united. As indicated above, a split will cause nothing but disunity and chaos and will not produce reinforcements. If English-speaking members of the Government feel that reinforcements must be provided now and that this is a matter of conscience with them weighing more heavily than the considerations of national interest mentioned above, then unity in the Government, and relative unity in the country, can only be preserved if policies are now decided on which will guarantee the provision of the necessary minimum of 4,000 men by the 15th of December and such other men as may later prove to be necessary. It is submitted that any such policy must be subject to (a) a full trial of the voluntary system and (b) bear a strict relationship to the magnitude of the need. Everyone admits that conscription is not necessary either to win the war or to defend the country. Everyone must admit the possibility that conscription will be necessary to fill the gaps in our ranks and give our men overseas adequate support. In this sense conscription "is necessary", but only in this sense and the amount of compulsion applied should be only sufficient to meet that need.

Suggested Policy

12. Every possible alternative seems to have been explored. The only policy which seems to meet the requirements expressed above is one whereby we try to raise the men by 15th December and now provide that any deficiency will be supplied out of N.R.M.A. personnel on that date. It is also desirable that the need should be related to the different sections of the country and broken down as far as possible so as to bring home community responsibility. In this way, each community in a sense will be responsible for any compulsion that lands on itself.