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Almost a year ago, responsible officers of the three services warned me of the danger of just such outbreaks as occurred at Halifax on V-E Day. This was based on their knowledge of the troops and their reasonable anticipation of what could be expected if certain courses of action were not taken.

But the fact that the trouble first occurred in the navy must not be given too great weight. Similar trouble will occur in other branches of the armed forces and in other places in varying degrees and at different times unless we discharge our responsibility by taking the initiative and laying down positive policies of the most definite character, and attaching to them the full weight of cabinet authority.

Quite apart from the possibility, probability or, as I think, certainty of rioting of major dimensions, there is the effect on the morale of the forces, and more particularly on those to whom we must look to meet our Pacific commitments.

As matters stand today, the successful recruitment of even the relatively small forces required by all three armed services for the Pacific war cannot be guaranteed with any degree of certainty unless either heavy pressure is applied, with consequent repercussions, or the position is very much more clearly explained to the personnel of the armed forces, and in fact to the people of Canada.