

20. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed:

- (a) that acceptance of the U.K. proposals be approved in principle, on condition that their implementation, together with the proposals regarding aircraft carriers, would involve no drain on Canadian manpower additional to that involved in the present Naval programme; and
- (b) that the proposals regarding aircraft carriers be referred to the Ministers of National Defence for Naval Services and for Air for examination and joint report to the War Committee."

3. Excerpt from Minutes Cabinet War Committee, Ottawa, November 3, 1943:

"1. The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services referred to the discussion of this subject at the meeting of September 8th when U.K. proposals for the manning of two cruisers and certain other naval units, by the Canadian Navy, had been approved in principle.

It was now recommended that approval be given for the transfer of ownership of two cruisers, one training cruiser and two fleet destroyers from the Royal Navy to the Royal Canadian Navy, at no cost, and that provision be made in the Naval estimates for 1944-45 for their operation and maintenance. An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Memorandum, Minister of National Defence for Naval Services to War Committee, undated - C.W.C. document 645).

2. The Prime Minister agreed that, in view of the large financial contributions already made by Canada to the United Kingdom, it was desirable that the ships in question should be acquired without cost to the Canadian government.

3. The Minister of Finance stated that, while payment for the vessels would have the advantage of reducing the sums necessary for Mutual Aid, the Department of Finance would raise no objection to the Minister's