

TOP SECRET

Ottawa, March 29th, 1945.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Thursday, March 29th, 1945, at 11.30 a.m.

Present:

The Prime Minister (Mr. King), in the Chair,
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley),
The Minister of Transport (Mr. Michaud),
The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe),
The Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Gibson),
The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald),
The Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent),
The Minister of National Defence (General McNaughton).

The Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Abbott).

The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Robertson),
The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Heeney),
The Military Secretary (Major General Pope),
The Assistant Secretary (Mr. Baldwin).

Also present (for consideration of item recorded in paragraphs 5 to 7):

Major P. Geymonat, Directorate of Military Intelligence (Army).

Army; agricultural leave policy; call-ups under N.R.M. Act

1. The Minister of National Defence reported upon measures instituted to assist the labour supply for agricultural production during the coming season.

The Army had adopted the policy of not opposing deferment on call-up of men who were employed in the production of hogs, dairy products or beef; in addition, leave would be granted to personnel ineligible for reinforcements, including men returned from overseas on rotation, who would be able to assist in these pursuits.

These new arrangements went beyond compassionate farm leave, were not confined to work on the farm of the applicant or a close relative, and were not limited to two months.

Explanatory papers had been circulated.

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
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