

Jan. 9/41

~~WC~~ 278712NOTE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.

— A copy of Canada House telegram #3, dated
— January 2, 1941, together with our telegram #1653 of
October 22, 1940, are enclosed for information.

2. These are concerned with the establishment of a volunteer Canadian fire-fighting contingent for service in United Kingdom towns.

3. The proposals came originally to the Canadian Government from different sources. Premier Braken transmitted an offer from the Firemen's Association of Winnipeg. Firemarshal Scott of Ontario transmitted another proposal, and Attorney-General Conant sent a proposal, originating from a Vancouver official.

4. The Department was informed, in October, that the matter was now being handled by the Department of National War Services. This telegram has, however, been brought to the attention of the Department of National Defence and Finance, as they may have an interest. It may be observed that the proposal that will now be made is to organize a contingent on the same basis as the Canadian Forestry Unit, the Canadian Government to be responsible for pay, allowance and pensions, and the British Government to cover board and lodging and equipment, while the contingent is in the United Kingdom. Transportation to the United Kingdom is to be borne by the Canadian Government, and travel within the United Kingdom by the British Government.

5. The proposal will ask for 1,000 trained men.