

15. Mr. Pearson read a draft statement.

16. The Cabinet, after considerable discussion, agreed that:

(a) the Secretary of State for External Affairs inform the United States government that the Canadian government considered that support ought to be given to the U.K. government in the difficulties that had arisen in Egypt; and,

(b) the draft public statement be revised in accordance with the discussion and submitted for further consideration at the next meeting.

Ontario provincial election; Service voting

17. The Minister of National Defence, referring to the discussion at the meeting of October 15th, 1951, said that further study indicated that while, under Ontario legislation, the Chief Elections Officer had wide discretion to make regulations for the obtaining of votes of Canadian servicemen, these votes must be taken before the equivalent of a deputy returning officer, with the voting papers being dropped into a ballot box in the presence of such an officer and of the voters. This meant that there were only two means of handling service voting: either Ontario could send out civilian officials, including deputy returning officers, to set up and staff service voting places, or commanding officers could designate servicemen to undertake these tasks. Ontario wanted the government to agree to the second alternative.

Under either alternative, it was contemplated that four Service voting territories would be established, embracing (1) the western provinces and the northern territories; (2) Ontario and Quebec; (3) the eastern provinces and (4) the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Japan and Korea; that a civilian special returning officer would be appointed for each of these four territories; and that service liaison officers would be attached to the special civilian returning officers to ascertain from commanding officers where polling booths should be established and the approximate number of voters involved.

Under the Service voting procedure contemplated by Ontario, however, there were possibilities of

000035

RG 2, A5a,
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