

Chief of the Naval Staff (Naval Branch)
Rear-Admiral P. W. Nelles;
Senior Air Officer (Air Force Branch)
Air Vice-Marshal G. M. Croil;

The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister were also present.

1. The Prime Minister referred to the last meeting of the Defence Sub-Committee and the explanation then made of the plan which had been approved by the government for the expansion of the Defence Forces. He pointed out that at that time no Expeditionary Force was in contemplation. He said that the policy of this government was one primarily for the defence of Canada, and had so been stated in the House of Commons on many occasions.

2. The Prime Minister also stated that the government had given consideration to the Secret Memorandum of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, dated August the 29th, 1939, concerning "Canada's National Effort (Armed Forces) in the Early Stages of a Major War". The Prime Minister wished to make it quite clear to the heads of the three services that the government had in mind measures only for the defence of this country, and that before any steps could be taken with respect to an expeditionary force, Parliament would have to be consulted and decide thereon.

3. The Minister of Justice said that the Secret Memorandum of August the 29th suggested that an expeditionary force was in contemplation. In his view the defence of Canadian territory was the primary consideration, and government action and Votes in Parliament had been based upon this assumption. The memorandum inferred that the needs of local defence had receded, and action overseas was in contemplation.

4. General Anderson said the objects of the programme, set out in the memorandum, were three-fold:

- (1) to provide for the defence of Canadian coasts;
- (2) to provide for the internal security of Canada;
- (3) to provide the organization of an expeditionary force if, in the light of developments, such were deemed advisable, and such were decided upon by the government.

[5.] General Anderson said that there was no intention of providing for an immediate expeditionary force, but one primarily for Canadian defence. The equipment urgently required and asked for, such as mechanical transport and materials for hutments, were necessary to provide a mobile force, and for its proper accommodation. The forces now in process of mobilization (75,000 men, approximately), were required in Canada. If an expeditionary force were subsequently decided upon, it was intended that the presently