

- 7 -

of the allies, and to combined strategy in the Far East. It is not possible therefore, at the present time, to do more than refer in general terms to what is contemplated. The determining factor, I need scarcely say, will be based on the needs of the situation as from time to time they may manifest themselves.

Prior to the Quebec Conference of September, 1944, it was decided that, on the conclusion of the war in Europe, Canada's participation should be effected in the operational theatres of more direct interest to Canada, namely, the North or Central Pacific.

The matter was discussed in principle at Quebec. It was agreed at that time that the actual form and extent of the Canadian forces to be engaged could not be finally settled until the strategic situation which will exist after European hostilities have terminated could be assessed with greater accuracy, and that when that time came the appropriate Canadian contribution to the defeat of Japan would be determined with United Kingdom and United States authorities in the light of the situation then existing. All, therefore, that is possible at the moment is to describe the broad lines upon which it is intended that Canadian forces will participate in the Pacific.