

Circulated by Agenda, Nov 2
H-5

C-10-3-D

SECRET
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE
Document No. 648

SECRET

Copy No. 12

MEMORANDUM:

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Re: Honours and awards; Foreign awards and awards to foreigners.

The Chairman of the Awards Coordination Committee reports as follows:

"The practice which has hitherto prevailed has been that in relation to non-operational awards the personal assent of His Majesty has had to be obtained in cases when foreign governments intimate their desire to present a decoration to a Canadian. It was the feeling of the Committee that it would facilitate dealing with this question if His Majesty would be pleased to delegate authority to give this assent to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada.

This would involve a Minister of the Canadian government advising His Excellency as to the propriety or otherwise of the consent being given. Since the suggestions from foreign governments of their desire to present the decorations are, in the ordinary course, first made to the Department of External Affairs, the appropriate Minister to advise His Excellency, it seems to me, is the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as the Department of External Affairs will have communicated with the department of government which might be directly concerned with the work of the individual in question which it is desired to recognize. I would judge that when a suggestion is made of the conferring of a foreign decoration on an officer of the Canadian Army, the Department of External Affairs would in the first instance obtain the views of the Department of National Defence (Army). The Secretary of State for External Affairs would also no doubt take into account the expediency, from the point of view of Canada's relations with the foreign government involved, of recommending that the consent should be given or withheld.

It was never expected or intended that individuals who might be offered one of these decorations would make any personal application to His Excellency the Governor General since obviously the responsibility of advising whether the consent should be given or withheld is a responsibility of the Canadian government."

Privy Council Office,
November 2nd, 1943.

A.D.P. Heeney,
Secretary.

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
Volume XIV, September - December 1943,
(R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 14)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA