

Operational areas for Canadian troops should be carefully restricted; otherwise there was danger that they might become involved in civil strife such as was now taking place in Greece and other liberated countries.

25. The War Committee, after discussion, noted the reports given and agreed that, upon receipt of further information, the Minister of National Defence would consider further the question he had raised with a view to subsequent report.

Reception of additional prisoners of war

26. The Minister of National Defence reported that a request had been received from the U.K. government that 50,000 additional prisoners of war be accommodated in Canada.

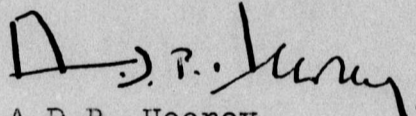
At present, there were some 35,000 enemy prisoners of war in Canada, and an additional 7,000 could be accommodated in existing camps without augmenting the number of guards or camp staffs. This accommodation was available because an equivalent number of prisoners of war were engaged in labour projects.

A further 15,000 could be accepted next March if Army camps were converted and some 3,000 additional guards were made available. Reception of more than 7,000 could not be recommended because of the additional strain on the already tight manpower situation and because of the potential risk involved.

(Letter, U.K. Deputy High Commissioner to External Affairs, Nov.17, 1944; also memorandum, Adjutant-General to the Minister, Dec.7,1944).

27. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that no additional prisoners of war could be accepted in Canada and that the U.K. government be so informed.

The meeting adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

  
A.D.P. Heeney,  
Secretary.