

22. The Minister of Mines and Resources, referring to the decision taken at the meeting of August 10th, 1944, pointed out that the administrative difficulties involved in this proposal would be great. Dependents arriving in Canada in large numbers before their husbands would undoubtedly experience difficulty in locating themselves suitably, and would create a serious problem.

23. The Minister of Finance said that the proposed movement of large numbers of women and children would aggravate the already serious housing problem in Canada.

24. The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out that, unless these persons were moved during the next two or three months, when shipping space would be available, there might be delays of up to two years before they could be brought to Canada.

Through marriage, wives had acquired Canadian citizenship and would enter Canada by right, not as immigrants. In these circumstances, it was suggested that too much emphasis should not be placed upon the administrative inconveniences involved.

25. The Minister of National Defence submitted a report from the Adjutant-General on action taken to speed up and facilitate the movement of dependents to Canada.

It was recommended that home settlement arrangements be broadened to include friends of dependents, where such arrangements met the requirements of the Immigration authorities.

(Memorandum, Adjutant-General to Minister, April 11, 1945).

26. General McNaughton felt that the movements of dependents should be assimilated to that of returning Service personnel, so that they might continue throughout the period of repatriation, without the long delays mentioned by Mr. Robertson. This view should be given emphasis in reply to the message from the United Kingdom and it was proposed to take it up with the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

27. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed that the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs prepare a draft reply for consideration and approval by the Ministers of Mines and Resources, Munitions and Supply, Finance and National Defence.