

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

Re: Halifax Citadel

The Department of National Defence states that there is no doubt whatever as to the "ownership" of the Halifax Citadel. The property is, of course, vested in the Crown. It is, however, under the exclusive control and administration of the Department of National Defence. Mr. Hunter states that the Department of Public Works has no responsibility whatever in connection with the Citadel, and the Department of Mines and Resources confirm that the control of the Citadel lies with National Defence.

The Department of National Defence has requested that the Department of Mines and Resources take over the Citadel and operate it as a historic site. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board has declared on several occasions that the site is one of great national importance and has recommended that it be preserved. There would, therefore, seem to be no useful purpose which could be served by again referring the question to the Board.

The problem is whether the Government wishes to make the special expenditures necessary to put the property in good order and maintain it.

Estimates prepared by engineers in both the Departments of National Defence and of Mines and Resources indicate that it would cost in the neighbourhood of \$125,000 to recondition the walls and to make other necessary repairs, and that the annual operation costs might be as high as \$12,000, including caretakers.

Mr. Jackson states that Mr. Crerar has been reluctant to take over the property as a historic site until he is assured that the necessary funds will be provided to put it in a proper state of repair and to cover annual maintenance costs in the future. This could be done by increasing the amount of the Parks vote; a special appropriation would not be necessary.

E. A. P.

September 18, 1937

(E. A. PICKERING)

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, 4, volume 171, pages C121363-C121949)

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