

At the same time I want to point out that any place, town, village or house defended by armed resistance is, in conformity with the laws of war, subject to all legal means of warfare destined to break such resistance.

I have etc.

E. WINDELS

1088.

*Le ministre de la Défense nationale au sous-secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires extérieures*

*Minister of National Defence to Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

[Ottawa] September 10, 1939

SECRET

Dear Dr. Skelton,

With reference to the despatch of the 6th September from the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, and particularly to that part of the memorandum, attached thereto, dealing with the Air Force, it is suggested that a communication in the sense of the following should be despatched to the United Kingdom authorities indicating in broad outline the plan which it is thought could be put into effect if acceptable.

The rapid expansion of Royal Canadian Air Force training facilities for officers and airmen is being put in hand immediately with the object of providing the maximum possible numbers of trained pilots, observers, air gunners, W/T operators and tradesmen.

A number of Canadian Officer pilots with considerable flying experience on civil types but untrained in service duties, plus a number of newly enlisted airmen of various trades, can be made available for despatch to the United Kingdom within six weeks. These Canadian personnel, if desired, can be made available on loan for supplementing Royal Air Force Establishments. Indications of the numbers of personnel available for early despatch will follow.

It is the desire of this Government that Canadian Air Force units be formed as soon as sufficient trained personnel are available overseas for this purpose, such squadrons to be manned and maintained with Canadian personnel at the expense of the Canadian Government. Owing to the shortage of service equipment in Canada, Canadian squadrons overseas would require to be completely equipped by the United Kingdom authorities, at Canada's expense.

The reaction of the United Kingdom authorities to these proposals would be welcomed. Should they prove acceptable, it is recommended Air Ministry officials be authorized to get into direct touch with the Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Canadian Air Force.

Yours very truly,

IAN A. MACKENZIE