

The U.K. Chiefs of Staff had directed their Joint Planners to re-examine the position with a view to fixing a revised date for military planning purposes.

A recent message from the Canadian Embassy, Washington, indicated that there was no general time limitation of current war production programmes, though, for certain purposes, the calendar year 1945 was being employed.

It was evident that there was, as yet at least, no agreed basis upon which U.K. and U.S. authorities were operating.

(Teletypes WA-251 and WA-294, Canadian Embassy, Washington, to External Affairs, Jan.13 and Jan.16, 1945).

11. The Minister of Finance observed that some decision was required on this point for the purposes of departmental estimates, particularly in relation to the War Appropriation and the appropriation for Mutual Aid.

If it were to be assumed that the war in Europe would continue throughout the whole of the next fiscal year, the amount to be allotted to Mutual Aid would be less and the War Appropriation correspondingly larger than if a shorter period were taken as a basis for financial and production planning. Consideration was being given in the Department of Finance to the possibility of combining the two votes, though this would raise certain difficulties.

12. The Minister of National Defence referred to the effect of the recent German successes in Western Europe. Though the situation had now been stabilized, there was no doubt that the effect had been to delay the execution of Allied plans. In the circumstances, it would be well to assume, for the purposes of estimates, that the European war would continue throughout the whole of 1945-46, on the understanding that the situation would be reviewed periodically and estimates reduced, if justified by subsequent circumstances.

13. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed that, for purposes of planning and for preparation of estimates, it would be assumed that the war in Europe would continue to the end of the fiscal year 1945-46, the matter of budgetary procedure in respect of War and Mutual Aid Appropriations, to be the subject of further consideration and report by the Minister of Finance.

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