PRELUDE TO WAR 1275

60,000 men) in accordance with the Militia Service plan, and its despatch abroad as soon as arrangements can be made, in co-operation with the British Government, to transport it and to make good such deficiencies in its war equipment as cannot be supplied from Canadian sources.

T. V. Anderson, Major-General Percy W. Nelles, Rear-Admiral G. M. Croil, Air Vice-Marshal

1024.

Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au consul général de Pologne Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to Polish Consul General

Ottawa, August 30, 1939

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of August 29th, communicating, on behalf of your Government, a protest against statements in the German press regarding mistreatment of the German minority in Poland. I note that the Polish Government has emphatically denied certain of these accusations as being purely inventions.

I have brought your letter to the attention of the Prime Minister.

I have etc.

O. D. SKELTON

1025.

Le secrétaire aux Dominions au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures Dominions Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs

CIRCULAR TELEGRAM C. 22

London, August 30, 1939

Most Secret. The following telegram, which has been sent by service departments to all Commanders-in-Chief abroad for their guidance should it be decided to introduce precautionary stage, is repeated for information, Begins:

If it becomes necessary to despatch the warning telegram to you it seems likely that Italy, as well as Germany, may be specified as a potential enemy. In view of alliance between Germany and Italy the possibility of Italian hostilities cannot be excluded though it is expected Italy will do her utmost to avoid becoming involved.

2. His Majesty's Government regard Italian neutrality if it can by any means be assured, as decidedly preferrable to her active hostility. The French Government agreed with this policy. Consequently your action should be governed by general principles that follow.