

Commonwealth Conference: The Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Louis S. St. Laurent, today issued the following statement:

The Canadian Government, together with other Commonwealth Governments, has received an invitation from the Government of the United Kingdom to send a representative to a meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers in London to discuss the dollar situation. The meeting is to take place towards the middle of July and the Honourable Douglas Abbott, Minister of Finance, will attend to represent the Government of Canada. Mr. Abbott will go to London by air next week. Appropriate Canadian officials will act as advisers to the Minister. Dr. W.C. Clark, Deputy Minister of Finance, and Mr. Norman Robertson, Secretary to the Cabinet, have already left for the United Kingdom and Mr. L.D. Wilgress, the Canadian High Commissioner will also participate.

In view of the fact that Canada is not part of the Sterling Area, and has specially close economic and financial relations with the United States, preliminary informal talks will be held with United Kingdom and United States authorities prior to the Commonwealth meeting.

It is understood that Mr. John W. Snyder, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, is leaving shortly for Europe and Mr. Abbott looks forward to discussing with him problems of mutual concern.

Magnificent's Damage \$275,000: Survey to the hull of H.M.C.S. "Magnificent" has been completed at Saint John, N.B. drydock and cost of repair is expected to be somewhat less than \$275,000, it was announced at Naval Headquarters on June 30.

Navigation Officer Reprimanded: A five-man Navy court martial on June 29 sentenced Lt. Cmdr. W.D.F. Johnston, 31-year-old English-born navigation officer of the aircraft carrier "Magnificent", to be reprimanded, the Canadian Press reported from Halifax.

The court martial, presided over by Capt. E.P. Tisdall of Ottawa, Director-General of Naval Ordnance, convicted Lt. Cmdr. Johnston of hazarding the 18,000-ton flat-top through negligence or default when she ran aground off Nova Scotia's south shore June 4.

Across Canada: Newfoundland's first provincial Legislature will open July 11, Premier Smallwood announced last night, according to the Canadian Press. The Premier also announced minor shifts in his Cabinet....Lt.-Gen. Maurice Pope, head of the Canadian Military Mission in Berlin, arrived back in Ottawa yesterday.