

The rates of remuneration provided in the Department of Veterans Affairs were by no means inadequate, though less than those paid by the Services. It was for this reason that Service personnel were anxious not to be demobilized, preferring to be seconded to civilian duties and remain on Service pay and allowances.

The policy should be to discharge as soon as possible all personnel not required for Service duty.

16. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed that Service medical personnel should not be seconded to civilian departments except in special circumstances and for temporary duty, and that the problem of providing the required personnel for the Department of Veterans Affairs be examined by the Defence Ministers with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, in an effort to find an acceptable solution.

Canada-U.S. defence projects; disposition
of Northeast Staging Route

17. The Secretary, referring to the discussion at the meeting of September 27th, submitted a memorandum setting out the advice of the departments concerned as to the disposition of certain airfields on the Northeast Staging Route, to be abandoned by the United States, namely, The Pas, Churchill and Southampton Island.

The Chiefs of Staff had reported that, while from the defence aspect the fields in question were of no importance, it was possible that the route might be required, after the defeat of Germany, for ferrying heavy aircraft from Europe. They recommended, therefore, that these facilities be kept on a care and maintenance basis until such time as the situation became more clearly defined.

It was therefore recommended, with the concurrence of the Departments of External Affairs, National Defence for Air and Reconstruction, that the airfields in question be put on a care and maintenance basis, and that responsibility for control, maintenance and defence be accepted and assigned provisionally to the R.C.A.F. It was also recommended that the question be re-examined at a later date by the Departments of National Defence for Air and Reconstruction, with a view to the transfer of these facilities to the civil authorities.

An explanatory memorandum had been circulated.

(Secretary's memorandum, Dec.7, 1944 - C.W.C. document 904).

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