

the Commonwealth Plan could not possibly have been evolved in peace time. It could not have been developed sooner. No earlier discussion or decision could have affected our military and financial position under the agreement as it was finally signed.

As I mentioned in a previous broadcast, the Commonwealth Plan was not projected until about a month after the outbreak of war. It was put forward by the British War Cabinet after the swift domination of Poland by Germany had demonstrated the decisive importance of superior air power. The fact, however, is that Canada's action in 1938 and 1939, the surveys which were then made, and the questions of jurisdiction which were then determined, settled the principle upon which any plan of joint training would be organized and controlled.

By our action at that time, the development of the present Plan was materially assisted and accelerated. The evidence of our sincerity and competence was so complete that, when the Plan was proposed by the British War Cabinet, the governments of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand had no hesitation in selecting Canada as the site and centre, for the whole Commonwealth, of this great joint training enterprise. As I said at the beginning of my remarks, it has made Canada, in the present war, a pivotal centre for the purpose of final victory.

**A fair and impartial judgment.**

On December 17th, in a public interview given on the eve of his departure from Canada, Lord Riverdale, the head of the British Air Mission, said: "We have had wonderful co-operation from your government and from your Air Force

officers. This agreement is a wonderful achievement, and all the parties are completely satisfied with it." Speaking in his native city of Sheffield, upon his return to the United Kingdom, Lord Riverdale again referred to what had been accomplished at Ottawa. He described the work of the several Missions "as the biggest thing ever done in the Empire". At this moment of political controversy, Lord Riverdale's appreciation may not be without its value in assisting you to form a fair and impartial judgment.