

The provision of meat for the liberated areas is linked with the question of military requirements. Until a review of military requirements has been carried out, it is impossible to say what quantities will be available for liberated areas.

OTHER FOODS

The other main foodstuffs in critically short supply are rice, and dairy products.

As regards *rice*, the present position is that, without any large demand from liberated areas in the Far East, there is already a severe shortage in Ceylon for example. Unless additional supplies can be secured in the very near future, the rice ration will have to be halved, with a consequent risk that the production of rubber, tea and vegetable oils will decline. Similarly, in the sugar producing countries of the Caribbean, which are traditionally rice eating, the difficulties of assuring adequate supplies are very great.

Consideration is being given to the complete elimination of the consumption of rice in the U.K. and in Canada. Australia has already removed rice from normal civilian consumption. Every further economy that can be made in the consumption of rice by countries which are not dependent upon rice as a major standard article of diet, is urgently needed in order to maintain the position of those countries to which rice is essential.

As regards the possible future Far Eastern demand, there appears to be no possibility of meeting this until the pre-war rice export areas, i.e., Burma, Siam, Indo-China and Formosa, have been liberated and their rice industries rehabilitated.

As regards *dairy products*, the main shortage is in evaporated and condensed milk and in cheese. Here again, every possible contribution that can be made in the direction of decreasing consumption or increasing production will be of the greatest assistance to the normal importing countries and particularly to the liberated areas.

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*La mission canadienne conjointe des états-majors, Washington,
au secrétaire, le Comité des chefs d'états-majors*

*Canadian Joint Staff Mission, Washington, to Secretary,
Chiefs of Staff Committee*

TELEGRAM JS.28

Washington, June 4, 1945

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. 1. The Combined Chiefs of Staff have requested that the following be communicated to the Cdn. Dept. of External Affairs.

2. The Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force SCAEF has reported that the non-availability of certain foodstuffs, other than wheat and flour, for the population of liberated countries of Northwest Europe and for displaced Allied nationals in Germany is causing grave concern. He estimated that there would be a deficit of those foodstuffs amounting [to] 126,000 tons in respect of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force minimum needs