

Circulate with Agenda, NW 23  
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November 24th, 1943.

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**SECRET**  
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE  
Document No 659

MEMORANDUM TO THE CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Cop. N. 12

Re: Post-Hostilities Problems.

1.

1. On July 27th the Chiefs of Staff met with the Secretary of the Cabinet and the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to consider questions raised by the United Kingdom authorities concerning Canadian activities directed to the pacification of Europe at the end of the war. An informal Working Committee was established for the purpose of making further studies on which were representatives of the three Services, External Affairs and the Privy Council Office. The Working Committee has reported its view that the surrender of Italy and the possibility that the surrender of Germany might take place unexpectedly have made it urgent that the Canadian Government should consider problems which will arise during and after the conclusion of hostilities in Europe. Aside from Canada's general interest in bringing about a satisfactory European settlement, this country cannot fail to be directly involved in certain activities of the post-hostilities period in Europe.

2. In the first place Canada will be an important source of supply for relief, especially of food. The extent of the demand cannot be determined until the organization of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration has been completed, but this may prove to be the principal Canadian contribution to the tranquillisation of Europe.

3. Secondly, Canada will almost certainly be asked to contribute air, land, and naval forces for occupation duty in Germany. According to tentative plans drawn up by the Post-Hostilities Planning Subcommittee in the United Kingdom, Germany would be divided for purposes of occupation into three zones, in which predominant military control would be exercised by the forces of the Soviet Union, the United States, and the British Commonwealth respectively. It is expected that sufficient forces will be available in Europe immediately after the cessation of hostilities to handle the initial problems of occupation. For the period during which the disarmament of Germany is being carried on, (ending when Germany has been deprived of the capacity for effective military action, perhaps two years after the surrender of Germany) it is estimated that approximately twelve army divisions, twenty-eight air squadrons and a naval squadron and shore-based naval personnel will be needed in the British Commonwealth zone. During the final stage of occupation of indeterminate length the land forces might be further reduced, the naval forces withdrawn, and control exercised chiefly by air forces. If the

/recommendations

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