

5. Action Proposed

(A) That the Chiefs of Staff be asked to review the situation and advise as to:

- (1) The risk of attack.
- (2) The possible scale of attack.
- (3) The areas which could, with aircraft now available, be reached and effectively attacked.

In making such assessment it is suggested that it would be helpful if the following points could be considered:

(1) The degree of vulnerability of the areas designated as liable to attack.

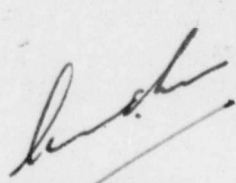
(2) While it will probably be necessary to define such areas in general terms or by arbitrary lines, yet it may be that in areas of lesser vulnerability there are targets of such military importance as to justify extreme risks being taken to attack them and, therefore, in such cases the degree of vulnerability of such areas might be increased as compared with other areas in the same zone.

(3) Stress might be laid upon the increased hazard in Canada if enemy aircraft should break through by reason of the fact that, having regard to the immense areas to be protected, it is impossible that any sufficient force could be made available to give adequate active defence everywhere, and, consequently, bombs could be more accurately aimed at effective ranges than in areas where the aircraft would be exposed to effective interception and to concentrated anti-aircraft gun fire.

(4) In as much as Civil Defence involves defence against all war emergencies, the danger of damage by sabotage, explosion, etc. might be referred to.

(5) In addition to the foregoing it might be pointed out that the recent announcement of the disbandment of operational divisions earmarked for active defence of Canada also tends to effect Civil Defence adversely because the situation is not clearly understood. If a statement could be made setting out that these divisions were disbanded because risk of invasion is now so slight as to be negligible and that, therefore, their maintenance is no longer necessary but that insofar as civil defence is concerned the risk of air attack, sabotage, etc. still remains (if it is found that there is a reasonable risk) and, therefore, the organization could not be safely disbanded, it would be helpful.

(B) That the War Cabinet should then be requested to consider the advisability of issuing a statement as to the necessity or otherwise of the maintaining of civil defence, the areas to be defended and the scale of defence to be maintained.


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Director.