

The United States Army representatives indicated their willingness to declare certain supplies not "necessary" for American defence, which could then be released if the United States Government so directed. These include Lee Enfield rifles, Springfield rifles with ammunition, Thompson sub-machine guns, anti-aircraft batteries, field artillery, 75 m.m.guns, howitzers, 8" railway mounting guns for coast defence; 500 two-men light tanks (\$264 each), together with some heavy obsolete tanks usable for training purposes. Full details were furnished in appendices to the Report, which were given to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Munitions and Supply.

The procedure to be followed in transmitting the requests for such articles as might be required was not definitely determined.

A full appreciation of the strategic situation was presented by the Canadian Staff in the form of answers to a questionnaire.

The Minister of National Defence further reported that the Canadian Staff have recommended and the Minister of National Defence approved, certain consequent steps, as follows:

1. The Army Staff wished orders placed for gun emplacements in anticipation of obtaining 6" guns from the United States, and were making a reconnaissance of the Maritimes for the purpose of ascertaining what provision could be made for utilizing outside forces if the occasion arose.
2. The Navy were planning the organization of defended harbours in Gaspé and Shelburne, mounting guns and stretching nets. (It was indicated that the anti-submarine patrols and mine sweepers used by the Royal Canadian Navy were a revelation to their United States colleagues). They desired authorization to discuss with Newfoundland the possibility of preparing a harbour which might be used later, possibly Louisport. The Navy were also endeavouring to find a suitable floating dock.
3. The Air Force were proposing to establish an additional number of operational bases in the Maritime Provinces, perhaps six new aerodromes.

The Committee approved the above projects.

The Prime Minister said it was important to remember that it was the President who had taken the initiative in proposing consideration of joint defence arrangements. At the time of the last Reciprocity Treaty, the President had enquired as to the position of our ports, and the possibility of providing docks for United States ships and naval stores. They had suggested a discussion regarding defence of the Pacific, particularly in San Juan Strait. This had been held, with General Ashton participating.