

HAMILTON REPORT

Text of King Speech Concerning Training Of Airmen in Canada

Ottawa, Oct. 10. — (CP) — The following is the text of an announcement concerning training Empire airmen made here to-day by Prime Minister Mackenzie King:

The governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada have recently reached agreement upon a development of great importance, which they believe is destined to make a most effective contribution to the successful prosecution of the war.

His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom put forward in September for the consideration of His Majesty's governments in Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand an outline of arrangements for rapid expansion of air training on a co-operative basis. The arrangements provide a training organization for pilots, observers and air gunners, required first for the enlargement and then for the maintainance on an enlarged basis of the air forces of the respective countries, this to be combined with an expanded production of aircraft.

Utilize Advantages

The governments of Canada, Australia and New Zealand signified their agreement in principle to these arrangements. It has thus been ensured that the many facilities and the great natural advantages for the training of the pilots and the other personnel and the production of aircraft which these countries offer in areas comparatively free from any risk of enemy interference will be utilized to the fullest extent and to the best advantage.

Training schools will be established and maintained in each of these countries. The more comprehensive and technical facilities required for the advanced training apart from those available, and to be made available, in the United Kingdom will in the main be concentrated in Canada.

Personnel from elementary training schools in Australia and New Zealand as well as a substantial

proportion of young men passing out of similar establishments in the United Kingdom will proceed to Canada to receive with similar personnel from schools here the advanced training which will fit them all for service in the line.

The young men so trained will join either the air force squadrons maintained by their respective governments in the theatre of operations or the United Kingdom Royal Air Force units; while those from the United Kingdom who get their final training in Canada will go back to join the Royal Air Force squadrons in the field.

Great Magnitude

The undertaking is one of great magnitude. Its development would result in a great and rapid increase in the number of training schools, already large, and achieve an increased output of first-line pilots, observers and air gunners, which, combined with the output in the United Kingdom, would ensure the greatly increased requirements in trained personnel being fully met. The aim in short is to achieve by co-operative effort air forces of overwhelming strength.

A mission from the United Kingdom headed by Lord Riverdale, who will be aided by a specially selected technical staff—is already on its way to Canada to meet here corresponding missions from Australia and New Zealand. These missions will discuss with the Canadian authorities all further steps that are to be taken for the rapid execution of the plan, including provision of the necessary aircraft instructors, ground personnel and aerodromes.

It will be seen that the scheme involves a concentration of air training largely in Canada. The government of the United Kingdom has indicated its opinion that with the facilities which Canada possesses this co-operative effort may prove to be of the most essential and decisive character. The Canadian government concurs in this view, and has accordingly decided to participate in the plan.

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