

Results of Great Meeting May Not Be Visible For Some Time

BUSINESS STARTED

Ottawa, May 19.—(CP)—A small building in the centre of the Canadian capital to-day became the general air training headquarters for 14 nations engaged in the war against the axis powers, as the Ottawa air training conference proceeded to settle some of the problems associated with standardization and co-ordination of air training.

On Working Basis

With some of the initial spade-work of the conference cleared away yesterday and a formal, public opening ceremony taking place to-day the conference now is down to a working basis.

Officers wearing the uniforms of the different fighting nations occupied offices adjoining one another in the conference building, met in committee meetings and took turns dictating to pretty stenographers wearing the uniforms of the women's division of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

At a press conference last night Air Minister Power was asked to estimate how much of the world's air power was represented at the conference. He said he could not do that but went on:

"We have all the fighting air power of the united nations except Russia here. Russia is a big factor in world air power but, so far as I know, no one outside of Russia knows just how big it is."

Behind Closed Doors

Following the opening session to-day all general conference and committee discussions will be behind closed and guarded doors. The only information emerging from them will be such as Air Minister Power, the conference chairman, gives out at daily press conferences. He will

give out only such information as will not be useful to the enemy. The important information exchanged, the important decisions reached, if any, will remain military secrets.

Air Marshal G. O. Johnson, deputy chief of the air staff, in a broadcast speech last night warned the public not to look for immediate results from the conference.

"The nature of the conference will be such that the conclusions reached will be implemented long before the enemy may be aware of their nature," he said.

No Early Results

"Similarly in such a wide exchange of ideas it would be folly to expect that substantial benefits will be visible immediately. The fruits of this conference may only become apparent to the world after many weeks or months have elapsed.

"This conference cannot be judged by ordinary standards. After it has concluded there can be no

question of its being a success or a failure in the ordinary meaning of the words.

"It cannot be otherwise than successful since the very exchange of ideas, the pooling of experience which all of the united nations have gained in aerial warfare and training for that warfare will be of mutual advantage to all of the countries participating."

Secret Agenda

Even the agenda is to be secret, Air Minister Power said last night. He said potential man power for air crews and composition of air crews will be subjects considered. The primary objective is standardization of air training technique.

The conference chairman said the nations will work in three main groups: the British Commonwealth air training plan quartet of Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, with the United States; other countries carrying on air training in North America such as Norway, the Netherlands and China; countries not training airmen in North America, but chiefly in Africa and England such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Belgium, South Africa and Free France.

The U.S.-air training plan group will probably have three or four committees working on different subjects. On completing their work the committees will make representations to the general conference.

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