

ADVANTAGES OF AIR PLAN OPEN TO ALL

Power Tells Offer by Canada on Eve of Big Conference

By E. G. SMITH

Staff Writer, The Globe and Mail

Ottawa, May 18. — Canada's approach to the fourteen United Nations delegates who will sit down at tomorrow's air training conference is that her vast, newly built facilities are "available to any one who wants them," Air Minister C. G. Power said on the eve of the conference opening.

"There is a limit, of course," the Air Minister said, in indicating the spirit with which the Dominion's representatives enter deliberations, "but we have the plant now and it is built for the common good and to help the common effort. Canada will not be at all reluctant about helping that effort."

There is no conference "snag" in sight—at least none of which Air Minister Power knew this evening—and the various nations are going into the conference room all imbued with the spirit of co-operation, with the sky the limit in the extent to which they will go to attain results.

Although the technical officers of the different services have been meeting today and previously, and British and Canadian delegation leaders have been in discussion on at least one occasion, the official opening, with ceremonies, is not to take place until tomorrow morning.

At 9:40 a.m. the Prime Minister and his party will arrive at the Peace Tower, where there will be a general salute by a guard of honor. The Prime Minister will then invite the heads of the United States and United Kingdom delegations to accompany him on an inspection of the guard of honor. Finally, the guard will be marched past the Peace Tower with the Prime Minister taking the salute.

Special Problems Groups.

Air Minister Power today met Chinese, Norwegian and Nether-

lands representatives in one group. These nations having special problems of their own have formed a separate committee to discuss them, and the results of their separate deliberations will be placed before the main conference later.

Another separate group with which Major Power conferred today was composed of Poles, Czechs, Belgians and Greeks, whose immediate concerns lie outside this hemisphere; they, too, will hold separate discussions and bring their problems in cohesive form to the main conference later.

In emphasizing the importance of the immediate objective, "standardization," Major Power said there must be very intensive air training of air personnel for ultimate victory. He added: "There has not been a battle won or lost that air did not have something to do with it. We must have supremacy in the air and to do that we must train."

Canada's training scheme, he said,

was running pretty much to capacity at the present time but was capable of very great expansion. Just how much of the present overseas training the Dominion could take care of if the Britishers followed out the principle expounded by Captain Harold Balfour, of pushing training "more and more" out of England and into Canada, Major Power could not say, but the inference was left that practically all of it could be accommodated with expansion.

Committees Outlined.

The Air Minister, although he intimated that the day to day business agenda would not necessarily be made known, indicated that many committees already have been outlined. For instance, he said, committees of the joint air training plan will sit in with American officials on possibly three or four different committees.

"Potential manpower for air crews will be discussed," the Minister said. "Composition of air crews will be another item."

Asked if there was any likelihood of a close linking of Canadian and American air training efforts with the United States possibly lending an economic aid to expanded facilities, Major Power said he had heard of no such definite proposal—but again he indicated that the possibilities of this conference were wide open.

"Don't forget," he said, "American and Canadian fliers are working together in Newfoundland, and I haven't heard of any trouble yet."

The United States delegation was brought to a total of eighteen this afternoon when Robert A. Lovett, United States Assistant Secretary of War for Air, accompanied by Artemus L. Gates, United States Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air, landed from a United States Navy Lockheed plane at Uplands Airport.

"We are extremely hopeful of big results from this conference," said Mr. Lovett, "and we are going to do our utmost to get dividends in every possible way."

The Americans were greeted by Jay Pierrepont Moffat, United States Minister to Canada; Colonel John S. Gullet, Military Attache at the United States Legation here; Major-General B. Yount, commanding general of the United States Flying Training Command, and Air Vice-Marshal G. O. Johnson, Deputy Chief

of the General Air Staff of Canada. They left at once for a reception at Government House and were entertained tonight by the United States Minister at his Rockcliffe residence.

China Stays in Fight.

Major-General T. H. Shen, director of the training of the Chinese fliers, "Thunderbirds," in the United States, in a morning conference declared China's intention to "keep on fighting no matter what happens." Conducting conversations partly through an interpreter, the Chinese general cut in with belligerent English, "Sure, why not?" when asked if the Chinese would continue fighting Japan even with the cutting off of the Burma Road.

Major-General Shen admitted China's great difficulty to be in getting its semi-trained fliers out to the United States for completion of their training and getting back to the firing line. Heavy bomber planes were scarce, but the Chinese were making planes. Although the Chinese had very few planes with which to combat the Japanese at the outbreak of the war, the general recalled an occasion when a few Chinese planes accounted for fifteen Jap planes with the loss of a single machine.

Carefully Guarded.

Today's meetings, like all the business sessions of the conference, took place behind the carefully guarded walls of one of the Canadian Government's temporary war buildings.

The conference building was specially prepared, furnished and staffed for the meeting and extensive precautions have been taken to guard the secrecy of the discussions and the documents brought to it by the delegations. Royal Canadian Mounted Police manned the doors.

Blue-uniformed members of the Women's Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force, sworn to secrecy and under military discipline, provide a stenographic staff, available to all delegations.

The Prime Minister and Major Power will sit at the head of the table in front of Mr. Speaker's chair in the Senate Chamber when the plenary session opens tomorrow.

Captain Balfour for the United Kingdom and Robert Lovett for the United States will sit opposite one another nearest the head of the table. The heads of the other delegations will be seated according to the League of Nations custom. This is in alphabetical order of the countries represented as spelled in the French language.

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WAR

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WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
BRITISH
EMPIRE
AIR
FORCE
TRAINING