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SECRETC.P. 358(25).Copy No. 30C A B I N E TIMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.ENDOWMENT FUND.Memorandum by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

1. The principle of accumulating a capital sum sufficient to provide the annual income necessary to defray in perpetuity the cost of maintenance of war graves has already been approved by the Cabinet. The questions of the rate and method of accumulation of the Endowment Fund were left for later consideration after examination by me. (Cab. 15 (25) Conclusion 7 and Cab. 19(25) Conclusion 5).
2. As regards the rate of accumulation I have had discussion with the Secretary of State for War as Chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission and have reached agreement with him on the following basis.

In addition to such provision as may be agreed to be necessary in each year in respect of maintenance and construction charges, the Imperial Parliament shall be asked to vote the following sums which shall be vested in Trustees (hereafter to be appointed) of an Endowment Fund for the permanent maintenance of War Graves viz:

1925	£50,000
1926	£50,000
1927	£50,000
1928	£125,000
1929	£125,000
1930 and each subse- quent year	£300,000 until the capital sum reaches the British share (81.52 per cent) of the total figure of £5,000,000.

The Dominion and other Governments concerned will contribute, either proportionately with the above or in such instalments as may be more convenient to them, their respective proportions of the total.

3. I have considered the suggestions made at the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, April 1st, that the Endowment Fund should be constituted by statute. I am advised, however, that legislation other than the Appropriation Act will not be necessary and that the requisite provision can be made annually by Vote of Parliament. On the other hand it is clearly necessary that the attention of Parliament should be drawn to the Government's intentions and the authority of Parliament obtained for the course proposed, if only to safeguard the future position; and this can be done by discussion on the Supplementary Estimate for the £50,000 which it is proposed to set aside this year and pay over to the Trustees of the Endowment Fund.

4. I invite my colleagues to concur in the above proposals.

W.S.C.

Treasury Chambers, S.W.1,
20th July, 1925.