

area and on the North American Continent. These are grave decisions but it is deeply sustaining to know that the well-nigh unanimous weight of Canadian public opinion is behind the Government in its firm intention to fulfil our obligations in these testing times.

46. DEA/50069-A-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

SECRET

Ottawa, July 18, 1950

KOREA: POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS
VOLUNTEER FORCE

Although it has not yet reached the stage where it can be regarded as a firm proposal, the idea of a United Nations Volunteer Force has recently been receiving the cautious attention of the Secretariat and of the New York press. It was already being worked on by Cordier on July 12, and it has been given some impetus by the Secretary-General's appeal for additional combat forces to assist in the defence of South Korea. In this connection I attach copies of the following papers:

(a) The relevant paragraph of Mr. Riddell's account of his conversation with Cordier on July 12;

(b) An excerpt from paragraph 3 of teletype No. 470 of July 14 from Mr. Holmes;

(c) A copy of an article by A.M. Rosenthal in the *New York Times* of July 15, which balances the pros and cons of a "Volunteer Legion";†

(Mr. Holmes has subsequently informed us that in his view these accounts, taken together, give a reliable picture of the thinking in the Secretariat on this subject.)

(d) A copy of an article which appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* last night, and which refers somewhat superficially to a United Nations International Force to fight in South Korea.†

2. There are obvious political and administrative drawbacks to the organization and employment of an international force for the purposes of the Korean war. Perhaps the outstanding objection is that it could not possibly be trained, equipped and sent to Korea in time to be effective unless, of course, the war drags on for a considerable period. On the other hand, the idea of an international force under United Nations auspices is of a sort to arouse some public interest, and the attached article in the *Ottawa Journal* may possibly be a forerunner to somewhat wider support for it in Canada.

3. It seems quite clear that, in view of the caution with which the idea is being handled at Lake Success and of the obvious difficulties of implementing any such plan, the Government is unlikely to be faced in the near future with a firm proposal along these lines. Moreover, there has so far been no indication that groups or individuals in Canada are anxious to join a United Nations force. I suppose it is possi-