CONDUCT OF THE WAR

addition to his own office in the Canadian Legation Annex he should be provided with a desk in the building housing the Army Branch of the British Joint Staff; that he should be kept fully informed as to all that was going on and that not only should he alone represent the Army side when questions of direct Canadian concern were under discussion with the United States Chiefs of Staff but that it seemed to him but natural that on other occasions when questions farther afield were being considered, the Canadian representative might well represent the Senior British Army Member, should the latter for any reason be unable to attend.

- 9. As regards the Joint Planners, Sir John remarked that the Army section consisted of a Grade one staff officer and two second grade. He reminded me that some ten or twelve years ago I had served in the War Office as a second grade staff officer in the Directorate of Staff Duties and he suggested that the present situation might be looked upon as being somewhat parallel, namely, that one of the grade two Joint Planners might well be a Canadian officer. Otherwise, Sir John went on, if a Canadian officer were appointed to Washington solely to work on matters connected with the defence of the Western Hemisphere, he might be idle for an appreciable part of his time. It therefore would seem preferable all round that he should take his share of the work of the Section irrespective of the theatre of operations. Such an arrangement, he thought, would actually work out to the advantage of everyone concerned. A similar arrangement he felt might also apply to Canadian representation in the Joint Intelligence Section should it be considered desirable to appoint a Canadian officer to that body.
- 10. So far as the Allocations Committee was concerned, the position was clear. He was aware that Colonel Mavor had already come to Washington. In view of the importance of Canada's war production, he saw the Canadian member of the Allocations Committee filling a distinct role as Canada's representative in this particular field. Indeed, as with the Senior Canadian Army representative, he would be entirely free to report to Ottawa whatever he might wish.
- 11. Sir John told me that he had drafted, but had not yet dispatched, a telegram to the Chiefs of Staff in London in this connection. In answer to my question, he said he did not think its form was such as to bring about a British reference to Canada.
- 12. With regard to the measure of participation which the other Dominions might desire, he was without information. Australia and New Zealand would in all probability wish to be represented, South Africa possibly not at all. It would be for them to say. Sir John made no mention of the suggestion reported by Mr. Wrong to the Department of External Affairs that Australia might be represented chiefly in London rather than in Washington.
- 13. I feel I should not conclude this report without referring to some points which will require clarification should the plan sketched out commend itself to the Canadian Government and perhaps I might add to that of the United Kingdom. The first has to do with nomenclature. The British organization in Washington is now known as the British Joint Staff. Should Canada and possibly one or more of the other Dominions associate themselves in the work being