

J.A GIBSON

PMC 46

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British Commonwealth Relations ✓
" " " - Defence ✓ (JAG / 30:v:46)

The following points are from a REPORT by the Chiefs of Staff (dated 20th April, 1946) on the STRATEGIC POSITION OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH (see PMM(46) 1, attached)

- (a) The security of the Commonwealth main support areas the United Kingdom, the American Continent, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand is essential. It is of the utmost importance to retain India as a main ~~strategic~~ support area.
- (b) Sea and air communications in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans (linking the main support areas) are of vital importance.
- Mediterranean communications, though not vital, are of very great importance.
- (c) "In view of the present Russian policy we should take the necessary political, economic and military measures to maintain our position and influence in Western Europe, the Middle East, and South East Asia. Thus we shall secure the essential depth in front of our main support areas, gain the necessary time to mobilize the forces of the Commonwealth and for the resources of the United States to be brought into play; and retain the air bases necessary to our strategy.

(The Chiefs of Staff consider that the basic principles of the strategy set out above will not be radically altered by new developments in methods or weapons of warfare).