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British Commonwealth Relations - Defence
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ORGANIZATION FOR COMMONWEALTH DEFENCE *ministers' Conference 1946*

- 1) The Chiefs of Staff (United Kingdom) have reported that there appears to be a general measure of agreement
 - (a) that a centralized system of commonwealth defence is unlikely to be generally acceptable
 - might restrict freedom of action of individual members in making bilateral arrangements for co-operation with allies
 - (b) some looser system required (to be based on the national defence organizations to be maintained
 - in the United Kingdom, and
 - in each Dominion.
 - (c) The essence of this system is that the United Kingdom should maintain a mission in each Dominion, while the Dominions should maintain similar missions in London and in other Dominions as required.
- 2) The duties of these missions would be a matter for decision by their respective governments in each case.

The United Kingdom Chiefs of Staff have stated that so far as the United Kingdom Service Missions were concerned, their duties would be

- i) to act as Service members of a Joint Staff Mission responsible to the United Kingdom Chiefs of Staff whose views they would represent;
- ii) to maintain touch with the appropriate Defence Departments of the Dominions as practicable;
- iii) to act as Service advisers to the United Kingdom High Commissioners on defence matters.

(Note: There are at present three service advisers, so described, attached to the Office of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom at Ottawa).