

all proportion to the number of Canadians involved. This request for additional Canadian assistance undoubtedly is a reflection of the high regard in which the work of General Burns and the other Canadians who have served or are serving with UNTSO is held.

7. I suggest, therefore, that you recommend to the Cabinet that the Canadian Government should accede to this request. I should perhaps add that both the initial request in November, 1953, for Canadian Military Observers to serve with UNTSO and the proposal, in June, 1954, that a Canadian should become the Chief of Staff of the Organization, were approved by Mr. Pearson and the Minister of National Defence but, as far as our records show, neither proposal was formally considered by the Cabinet.

R.M. M[ACDONNELL]

P.S.: Since this memorandum was prepared, we have been informed by our Permanent Mission that the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden have all officially accepted the request that they provide Military Observers for UNTSO, and that the Norwegian Observers will be leaving for the Middle East to-morrow.

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

Note

Memorandum

[Ottawa], May 2, 1956

THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION IN PALESTINE

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine functions in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Security Council August 11, 1949, following the conclusion of Armistice Agreements between Israel and her four neighbours (Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon). The Organization is responsible for "observing and maintaining the cease-fire" ordered by the Security Council on July 15, 1948 and for "assisting the parties to the Armistice Agreements in the supervision of the application and observance of the terms of those Agreements". Officers of the Truce Supervision Organization watch conditions in demilitarized zones and along the armistice lines, investigate incidents and serve as chairmen of the four Mixed Armistice Commissions on each of which the parties concerned have two representatives apiece so that the chairman's vote is usually a decisive factor in determining the action taken by each of the four separate Commissions.

2. The Chief of Staff of the Organization, who since August 1954 has been Major General E.L.M. Burns of Canada, reports to the Security Council on the observance of the Armistice Agreements. He is assisted by about twenty military observers recruited by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the cooperation of the Governments of Belgium, France, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Sweden. Canada currently is supplying five military observers, two Lieutenant-Colonels, two Majors and one Captain.

3. The military observers — most of whom are majors, captains and lieutenant-colonels — are appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for one-year terms on the recommendations of their respective governments. Appointments are renewable. The observers are paid a *per diem* salary by the United Nations, based on the cost of living in