

Nations for service in Korea; a formation could be recruited especially for this purpose; or a special service force organized which would not be specifically tied down to Korea but designed to serve the purposes of the North Atlantic Treaty or of the United Nations.

There would appear to be more likelihood of obtaining 4,000 or 5,000 men for either of the latter two alternatives if it was indicated that recruiting was definitely for service in Korea or elsewhere. It would take about six months to raise and train forces of this nature and the cost of maintenance in Canada for this period and for a further six months overseas would be approximately \$25 million. A separate supply line would be impractical and undesirable and the forces could be tied in with either the U.S. or Commonwealth units, preferably the latter. The other types of United Nations forces suggested presented serious military difficulties.

If it were decided to raise a brigade group this could be done without calling Parliament as long as the unit remained in Canada. Money now allotted for pay and food could be diverted to cover the costs provided that Supplementary Estimates were voted when Parliament re-convened. If any action was to be taken it was of the greatest importance that this be done with the minimum of delay as it would be necessary, for instance, to put a number of buildings in habitable condition before the onset of winter.

4. The Prime Minister said that it should be made clear that any force to be raised in Canada would be used for any action Canada might be required to take under its obligations to the United Nations or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In accordance with the commitments made at the end of the last Session, it would, of course, be necessary to summon Parliament at a later date. It should be noted, however, that Parliamentary approval was not required to place Canadian forces on active service. The Defence Act (Section 33), merely provided that whenever Canadian forces were placed on active service Parliament should be called within ten days in order that it could be informed of the step taken.

5. Mr. St-Laurent submitted for approval a draft statement that he proposed to make over the National Network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with respect to Korean developments and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this connection. The statement would review international developments during the past few weeks and would state, amongst other things:

(a) that no part of the Canadian Airborne Brigade group could be despatched immediately to Korea without dangerously weakening the defences of this country;

(b) that Canada was and, since the inception

000007

RG 2, A5a,
Vol. 2646

Privy Council Office
Bureau du Conseil privé

National Archives of Canada
Archives nationales du Canada