

5. To refrain from pressing for representation on any of the combined bodies and to seek to exert our influence through separate channels in both London and Washington. This seems to me to be quite impossible, for both political and military reasons which are sufficiently obvious. We might be able to handle questions concerning the defence of North America in this manner, but we would be in constant danger of being faced with decisions already taken by the United States and United Kingdom after consideration at top Staff levels. These decisions would doubtless involve from time to time the employment of Canadian forces.

I appreciate that there are other possible alternative courses, and it is probable that whatever is agreed upon will not correspond to any of the alternatives which I have mentioned. I have also not discussed in this letter the possibility of the evolution of some sort of Supreme War Council on the political level. There is, of course, no such thing as a *Supreme* Council, since its supremacy would involve the surrender of sovereignty by the participating States. I think that there is no intention to constitute a consultative inter-Allied body here on the political level. There may be fresh suggestions from London on the advisability of setting up a British Commonwealth War Council there to play a part in the machinery of inter-Allied co-operation.

I conclude by saying that I think that this letter is not particularly helpful. These matters are much in my mind. I hope you will be able to keep us fully informed on what goes on in Ottawa in this connection.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. WRONG

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DEA/3265-B-40

Mémoire du sous-chef de l'état-major au chef de l'état-major
Memorandum from Vice-Chief of the General Staff
to Chief of the General Staff

SECRET

Washington, January 24, 1942

CANADIAN ARMY REPRESENTATION WASHINGTON

1. As previously arranged, I duly paid a three-day visit to Washington in order informally to explore the situation with regard to the nature and scope of our proposed Army representation vis-à-vis the British Joint Staff and the United States Chiefs of Staff.

2. I arrived in Washington on 22nd January and proceeded to the Canadian Legation Annex where I met the Canadian Military Attaché. I informed Brigadier Letson that my visit was purely of an exploratory nature and I gave him a brief resumé of the position as we saw it in Ottawa, that is to say, as outlined in your draft memorandum of 12th January[†]. Brigadier Letson at once gave me to understand that he fully agreed with your plan of achieving an appropriate measure of Canadian representation in Washington and that I would probably find that very similar views were held not only at the Canadian Legation but also by General Wemyss of the British Joint Staff.