

SUBDIVISION XIV/SUBSECTION XIV
 COMITÉ DE L'ÉTAT-MAJOR MILITAIRE
 MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

216.

DEA/226(s)

*Note de la direction des Nations Unies
 pour le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from United Nations Division
 to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], April 11, 1949

Item No. 6 on CSC Agenda for April 12, 1949

ADVISABILITY OF RAISING IN SECURITY COUNCIL
 THE QUESTION OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE
 UNDER ARTICLE 43 OF UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

General McNaughton has requested instructions as to what attitude the Canadian Delegation should adopt on this question. The United Kingdom Delegation has also asked for Canada's views.

2. This question has not been discussed in the Security Council since July 1947. At that time the five Permanent Members failed to agree on the initial contributions which they should make to the Armed Forces to be made available to the Security Council under the terms of Article 43 of the United Nations Charter. Subsequently, therefore, the Security Council referred back to the Military Staff Committee the question of what over-all strength and composition would be required for the Armed Forces of the United Nations. In July 1948, the Military Staff Committee reported that it would be unable to make any further progress until the Security Council had overcome the disagreements which existed among its Permanent Members on some of the principles governing the establishment of United Nations Armed Forces. This report was followed in August 1948 by another in the same vein and it seems apparent that the Military Staff Committee will be unable to do anything constructive unless the Security Council itself reaches agreement on the disputed general principles.

3. Since the beginning of this year, there have been informal discussions among the United Kingdom, United States, French, Chinese and Canadian Delegations in New York as to the advisability of raising this question in the Security Council at the present time. The attached United Kingdom Working Paper† outlines the pros and cons of bringing this subject once again before the Council. It shows that while the United Kingdom Government are reluctant to maintain a group of highly qualified representatives in New York with nothing to show for their work on the Military Staff Committee, they admit that this may not be an appropriate time to risk a propaganda debate in the Security Council.4. The Joint Planning Committee of the Chiefs of Staff has considered this matter and has concluded that it would not be appropriate at this time to draw attention to the disagreements which exist in the