

Council, on its call and in accordance with special agreements, armed forces "necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security." As you are aware, Article 47 of the Charter calls for the establishment of a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on this matter. The Military Staff Committee, under the terms of Article 47 (2) consists of the Chiefs of Staff of the five permanent members of the Security Council or of their representatives.

The Military Staff Committee has been meeting now for some three years but as yet it has not been able to formulate general agreements for the implementation of Article 43 of the Charter. The position of my Government on this failure of the Military Staff Committee to make progress was stated by the then Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. St. Laurent, in his opening speech in the General Assembly on October 29, 1946, in the following words:

"We are particularly concerned that the Security Council and the Military Staff Committee have so far failed to make substantial progress towards a conclusion of the special agreements with individual members required to implement Article 43 and those following of the Charter, and thus make armed forces and other facilities available to the Security Council.... Canada therefore urges that the Security Council and the Military Staff Committee go ahead with all possible steps in the constructive work of negotiating the special agreements and of organizing the military and economic measures of enforcement."

This statement was made almost three years ago and the position has largely remained unchanged. Canada is not represented on the Military Staff Committee (as the latter consists only of the five permanent members of the Security Council) and so we do not have first hand information of the disagreements which have led to the present deadlock. However, it is generally known that these disagreements are mainly concerned with three important points. These are: the size and composition of the forces proposed to be made available by the five permanent members of the Security Council; the location of the United Nations forces, and their right of access to the military bases of member nations. It should be noted that all members of the Military Staff Committee except the Soviet Union have agreed that the initial overall contributions should be comparable but that in view of "the difference in size and composition of national forces of each Permanent member and in order to further the ability of the Security Council to constitute balanced and effective combat forces for operations, these contributions may differ widely as to the strength of the separate component, land, sea and air." X

The position of the U.S.S.R. on this point is that these forces shall be made available "on the Principle of Equality regarding the overall strength and the composition of these forces." XX

The fallacy of the Soviet position on this question seems evident. The obvious result would be that a naval power, such as the United Kingdom, would contribute the same number of ships as, let us say, the Soviet Union; the Chinese would contribute aircraft on a parity with the United States, and so forth, or rather that the contributions in any service of any great power would be that of the weakest in that service.

X Report of the Military Staff Committee, Document S/336, 30 April 1947, Chapter IV, Article 11, p.p. 9-10.

XX Chapter IV, Article 11, page 9.