

3. Dulles said that he hoped and expected we would proceed. He felt that the results could only be profitable for us both. He wished he had been able to persuade the British to do likewise, as our ultimate objectives in the area were the same.<sup>11</sup>

[A.D.P.] HEENEY

2<sup>e</sup> PARTIE/PART 2

QUESTIONS DE DÉFENSE ET SÉCURITÉ  
DEFENCE AND SECURITY ISSUES

SECTION A

DÉFENSE AÉRIENNE CONTINENTALE  
CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENCE

13.

DEA/50210-F-40

*Le président du Comité des chefs d'état-major  
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
et au secrétaire du Cabinet*

*Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee,  
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
and to Secretary to Cabinet*

TOP SECRET. NO CIRCULATION.

Ottawa, January 11, 1956

USE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS IN CANADA

We have received information from the United States Defence Department that they are seeking the President's authority to open negotiations with Canada for the use of atomic weapons over Canada. They further inform us that we may expect the first approach in about six or eight weeks. They point out that the U.S. law requires the custody of nuclear weapons to be retained by U.S. personnel. They would however train our personnel in their use, provide information necessary to design equipment such as aircraft to carry the weapons, and provide siting equipment and other ancillaries. The United States inform us that they intend to make similar proposals to other nations but will approach Canada first. They further request that we give this matter the closest possible security coverage.

As the U.S. approach is not expected for six or eight weeks, there does not appear to be any immediate action which should be taken, except to ensure that there is no leak of information from Canadian sources. You may recall that questions were asked in Parliament last year regarding the possession and storage of atomic bombs in Canada and at that

<sup>11</sup> Pour en savoir plus sur les origines du « China exercise », voir volume 21, documents 752 à 756. Le durcissement de l'attitude des États-Unis à l'égard de la Chine communiste au cours de 1956 a mené le ministère des Affaires extérieures à conclure que l'échange proposé ne pourrait porter fruit. On peut trouver le document sur cette question dans le dossier MAE 50055-B-40. Voir également le volume 22, document 307.

On the origins of the "China exercise", see Volume 21, Documents 752-756. A hardening of the American attitude toward Communist China during 1956 apparently led the Department of External Affairs to conclude that the proposed exchange was unlikely to be fruitful. Material on this subject is located on DEA 50055-B-40. Also see Volume 22, Document 307.