

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*L'état-major du Canada au États-Unis
à l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis*

*Canadian Joint Staff in United States
to Ambassador in United States*

TOP SECRET

Washington, March 15, 1956

Dear Mr. Heeneey:

On 10 January 1956, Colonel D.L. Crowson, Military Assistant to the Honourable Herbert Loper, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) informed me that the U.S. Department of Defense was seeking the President's authority to open negotiations with us for the use of atomic weapons over Canada in an air defence role. He said at that time that we might expect the first approach in six to eight weeks.

Colonel Crowson explained that U.S. law requires that the custody of nuclear weapons be retained by U.S. personnel. They would propose to train our personnel in the use of nuclear weapons, provide us with information necessary to design our equipment for their use and would provide certain sighting and other ancillary equipment. He said that they are asking for authority to make similar proposals to other nations in due course but the approach to Canada will come first. Crowson asked that this information should not be circulated, so only General Sparling and General Foulkes were informed.

In another conversation on 12 March, Crowson told me that the initial approach by the United States could be expected before the end of March from the State Department to you. He said that the United States would probably propose that the detailed discussion should take place in the PJBD.

Referring again to the restrictions imposed by the U.S. Atomic Energy Act, Crowson said that the initial request by the United States would likely be simply for the stationing of American units, armed with nuclear weapons in Canada. He said that they anticipate that this will be unacceptable to Canada and that we may insist upon having full knowledge of the details of the weapons which they propose to use in our country and upon Canadian units having equivalent armament. He said that in anticipation of this, the Joint Chiefs of Staff are examining the requirements for amendments to present U.S. legislation. If the initial U.S. request to have American units stationed in Canada is refused, they may offer a compromise providing for the stationing of U.S. units in Canada for a fixed period which would allow them time to amend their laws. These units would train Canadian personnel in the use of nuclear weapons.

In the absence of General Sparling I reported this second conversation to General Foulkes and he asked me to brief you, saying that he would inform Mr. Léger and Mr. Bryce. He asked me also to ask Crowson in what part of Canada the Americans would ask to have units stationed. If Labrador and Newfoundland are the only locations, there might not be much difficulty in getting government approval. I have arranged to see Crowson tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely,

E.J. WILLIAMS
Major