

this solution would be that we could match the Combined Boards with our own joint arrangements with the United States, but this would be more a talking point than a reality.

Both in their terms of reference and in the proposals since advanced in Washington and London there are frequent expressions of a desire to ensure that the other United Nations are appropriately associated with the work of the Boards. This in practice seems to mean that there is some readiness to invite participation by representatives of other countries when the direct interests of these countries are involved in the particular matter under discussion. The intention seems to go no further than this. If we are satisfied with some machinery for bringing our direct interests to the notice of the Boards, this might be developed through arrangements for all the Boards similar in general to those which have been worked out for the Combined Chiefs of Staff. This method, however, inevitably reduces the role of the other United Nations to that of auxiliaries. It excludes them from participating in major decisions of policy and it would also leave it to the Boards themselves to decide when the direct interests of another country were at issue. In our contact with the organs for the direction of the war, should we be content merely with protecting our interests?

It seems desirable and important that the question should always be approached from the point