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4. Field Marshal Montgomery intends to discuss this subject informally not only with General Eisenhower, but apparently with the President. If you agree, we thought that there would be no harm in your saying to the Field Marshal that he might intimate in Washington that he had approached the Canadian authorities informally and had learned that they were in general agreement with the U.K.'s views.

5. On the other hand, we did not think that the objective could best be achieved by a formal approach by the U.K. government on the political level; nor did we feel that the Canadian government should be a party to a joint approach as is suggested in the U.K. paper. It was our view that a less formal initiative by the U.K. staff to their opposite numbers in the United States would not be so likely to encounter political difficulty. So far as Canada is concerned, the joint planning now being carried on under the auspices of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence has already given an opportunity to our officers to express a view favourable to standardization. Any further initiative which might be taken on our part might, we felt, remain on the Service level.

6. It was thought that you might wish to have our views on this subject before you see Field Marshal Montgomery and I have, therefore, prepared this note rather hurriedly in order that you may have it in good time. It has been seen by Robertson and Foulkes, both of whom concur.

7. General Foulkes tells me that he is to have a word with you privately before you see Field Marshal Montgomery.

A.D.P.H.

P.S. I have just been informed that the U.K. government now feel that any "joint approach" be left in abeyance until the results of Montgomery's informal discussions are known.

N.B. See also Cabinet Conclusions, September 26, 1946.
Para 21(3)