

15. The Minister of National Defence said that the question of equipment for the Special Force raised the question of integration with either U.K. or U.S. forces in Korea. There would be obvious operational advantages in having the Force associated with other forces using British type equipment. An enquiry on this subject had been made by the Acting High Commissioner for the United Kingdom.

16. The Prime Minister said that it seemed clearly desirable to have troops using the same type of equipment associated with one another in the interest of efficiency. At the same time, the formal establishment of any Commonwealth division might suggest that it was the Commonwealth which had obligations to the United Nations and to which the United Nations looked at a time such as the present rather than to the individual country members. It was undesirable that any such precedent be established, and it should be made clear that the association of Commonwealth forces using British type equipment would be for reasons of operational efficiency only.

17. The Chief of the Air Staff described plans for acceleration of the R.C.A.F. programme. These provided for an increase from 2 to 9 squadrons by April, 1953 and additions to the radar system. Approximately 27,000 service personnel would be required to carry out the programme.

It seemed probable that a request would be forthcoming shortly for the provision of facilities for training R.A.F. air crews and a request had been received from the United States for permission to move a group of medium bombers and 2 squadrons of tankers to Goose Bay. It was not clear exactly what purpose the units were to serve.

18. Mr. Claxton believed that it might be desirable, in reply to any request from the United Kingdom for training facilities, to say that Canada would be able to provide facilities for 150 air crew per year after January 1st, 1951, on the understanding that arrangements in subsequent years would be subject to N.A.T.O. overall plans. The grant of training facilities should be a part of mutual aid. In connection with the U.S. request, it might be desirable to get further information, although there should be no hesitation about granting any reasonable request.

Explanatory memoranda were circulated.

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