

gave you a summary account in my previous letter. He told me that General Marshall had recently emphasized again to him the need for reducing to a minimum the number of persons present at the meetings here of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. These are now attended on the British side by Sir John Dill, Admiral Little, General Wemyss, and Air Marshal Harris, and on the U.S. side by Admirals Stark and King and Generals Marshall and Arnold. There are also present members of a joint secretariat. Sir John considers that it would not be wise to increase the number of persons present at these meetings, but he expressed himself as perfectly ready to have a Canadian officer present in place of one of the British representatives whenever matters of special concern to Canada were under discussion. Similar considerations affect the composition of the other Staff bodies at lower levels.

Starting from the assumption that the most effective means of protecting Canadian interests is through co-operation with the British Joint Staff Mission, Sir John left me with the impression that he would support a change in its title to "British Commonwealth Joint Staff Mission". He is puzzled, however, over the status and responsibilities of the Canadian representatives. He seemed at one time to have in mind that the senior Canadian representatives would be at the level next below the representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff. I told him that I felt that this was inadmissible from our point of view, and he seemed to be impressed by the case as I put it to him.

He also suggested that as a possible idea he himself might be charged with a sort of superior authority over all representatives of Commonwealth Chiefs of Staff in Washington. I said that this also seemed to be difficult, since he was not responsible to the Canadian Government and our military representatives could not avoid by any mechanism the fact of their responsibility to Ottawa.

He then mentioned the position of Canadian Staff officers other than the representatives of the Canadian Chiefs of Staff who might be put to work in the various committees. He wondered, for instance, what the position would be of a Canadian Staff officer working on the Joint Intelligence Committee. Whose orders would we take, and to whom would he be responsible? I answered that in my civilian ignorance I thought it ought to be possible for such an officer to work as a full member of the Joint Intelligence Committee, not concerning himself solely with matters of interest to Canada but accepting the direction of British officers if this were necessary, while at the same time not defining his status as one of subordination or independence. I added that I felt that any Canadian officers serving here might technically be a Canadian section of a Joint Mission, while in fact they were working as full partners in a joint enterprise.

He then raised the question of the position of other members of the Commonwealth, pointing out that a tentative decision had been reached (apparently between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt) that the war effort of the Commonwealth should be co-ordinated in London. He was very receptive to my arguments that this did not meet the Canadian case, and he seemed to feel that equally it did not meet the Australian case in view of the latest development in the war. The conclusion from this would seem to be that it would have to be left