

to examine Canadian capacity for such assistance, especially ground forces. This communication had been received twenty-four hours after Mr. Lie had announced its contents at a press conference. Strong representations had been made to the U.N. Secretariat that the Canadian Government were concerned that a press conference should have been held prematurely and that any action that implied criticism of a member of the United Nations should have been effected through the Security Council, rather than by the Secretary-General. Hope had been expressed that there would be no repetition of procedure of this nature.

Apparently the Secretary-General's action had been the result of political pressure from the U.S. State Department rather than military pressure from the Chiefs of Staff. It was suggested that a reply should be made in very general terms, leaving any details of further aid that Canada might make to be worked out between the appropriate authorities.

(Communication, Secretary-General of the United Nations to Acting Canadian Permanent Delegate, July 14, 1950)

In relation to the general question of Canadian participation, the recent goodwill visit of a U.S. aircraft carrier and seven destroyers to Quebec had probably led some Canadians to question the necessity of Canada drawing on her small naval resources to assist in Korea. Conversely, similar feeling might exist with respect to the projected cruise of the Magnificent and three destroyers in European waters this fall. It would be desirable if it could be brought home to the public that these cruises were for training and that the primary and most important role of these units was the defence of the North Atlantic area.

The Canadian Chiefs of Staff had not received, up to the present, any suggestion from military authorities in Washington that Canada should make a contribution of land forces.

2. Mr. St-Laurent said that the Cabinet Defence Committee had just heard the Chiefs of Staff and their advisers in connection with the international situation and the Korean war in particular. The possibility of further Canadian assistance and of acceleration of the defence programme had been discussed.

991759

RG 2, A5a,
Vol. 2645

Privy Council Office
Bureau du Conseil privé

National Archives of Canada
Archives nationales du Canada