

Security Council of the 25th and 27th of June, to assist, so far as we are able, in the defence of Korea. We have no (repeat no) such responsibility to assist in the defence of Formosa. In order to prevent this distinction from becoming obscured we should like the phrase "in the area of Korea" struck out; and we should be grateful if you would let Cordier know of our views on this point at once. Ends.

37.

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
à l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Ambassador in United States*

TELEGRAM EX-1081

Ottawa, July 6, 1950

SECRET. MOST IMMEDIATE.

Repeat Permdel No. 330.

Following for Wrong from Heeney. Begins: We have been disturbed here by the possibility that it may be very difficult to maintain the distinction between the action which the United States is taking on its own authority for the defence of Formosa and the action which it is taking under the auspices of the United Nations for the defence of Korea. Although we are willing to do our share towards the defence of Korea, as soon as the Security Council has given a clear mandate to a United States officer for operations there, we do not wish to become involved in the defence of Formosa. We also feel that there will be more chance of maintaining the high degree of unanimity which has already been attained in the United Nations over the defence of Korea, if the extent of the United Nations responsibility is clearly defined.

2. The possibility of confusion between the defence of Korea and the defence of Formosa is heightened, in our view, by the fact that General MacArthur, if we understand the situation correctly, has command over the Seventh Fleet for operational purposes, although administratively it comes under Admiral Radford's headquarters in Hawaii. An example or two might illustrate the possible situations which we have in mind. It is conceivable that MacArthur, with responsibility for the defence of both Korea and Formosa, might be tempted to use naval vessels, entrusted by other countries to his command, for purposes which were more closely related to the operations around Formosa than to the defence of Korea and might, in this way, involve those countries, without their consent, (and indeed, even the United Nations as a whole) in United States initiatives in other areas. Or such involvement might occur as the result of another set of circumstances. A ship of the United States Navy, flying the flag of the United Nations as well as of the United States, might be fired on by Chinese Communists when it was far distant from Korea. If this were to happen, it would almost certainly be alleged that the United Nations had been attacked and that all members of the United Nations were involved in the incident.