

C O P Y

111/PJ BW

TOP SECRET

Ottawa, September 8th, 1946.

C219625

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

Re: Standardization of military equipment  
between the United Kingdom, the United  
States and Canada

1. The Chief of the General Staff understands that, when Field Marshal Montgomery sees you in Ottawa on Monday, he will raise the question of standizing equipment and weapons as between British, Canadian and United States forces.

2. This morning, the Chiefs of Staff Committee, with Robertson, Pearson, Wrong and myself, considered a paper on this question approved by the U.K. Cabinet Defence Committee and forwarded to External Affairs through Earncliffe. The paper, which is in the form of a report by the U.K. Chiefs of Staff, recognizes the desirability of standardizing equipment between the Armed Forces of the three countries, outlines the difficulties which the implementing of such a policy involves and concludes by recommending the joint approach to the U. S. Government on the part of the United Kingdom and Canada. The object would be to persuade U.S. authorities to adopt a policy of immediate cooperation with a view to eventual adoption of weapons and equipment of common types.

3. Canadian military authorities have, for some time, recognized that the adoption of standard equipment as between the United Kingdom and the United States would be directly in the interest of Canada. Our industrial standards are for the most part North American; on the other hand, traditionally, our Navy, Army and Air Force have been equipped on the British model, though the recent war modified this to a considerable degree. As in so many other fields, our objective, it is felt, should be to bring the British and Americans together.