

17.

DEA/50210-F-40

*Le président du Comité des chefs d'état-major
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
et au secrétaire du Cabinet*

*Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee,
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
and to Secretary to Cabinet*

TOP SECRET. NO CIRCULATION.

Ottawa, March 14, 1956

USE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS IN CANADA

1. With reference to my letter of 11 January, I have now received further information from the Canadian Joint Staff in Washington, as follows:

"Colonel Crowson, Military Assistant to Assistant to Secretary of Defence (Atomic Energy) informed me that first approach by United States on proposals for use of atomic weapons over Canada may be expected before the end of March on channel State Department-Canadian Ambassador Washington. U.S. would probably propose that discussions take place in PJBD.

"Crowson said that present U.S. law requires custody of nuclear weapons to be retained by U.S. nationals, thus U.S. will probably ask to have American units stationed in Canada. He said that they anticipate that this will be unacceptable to Canada and that we may insist on Canadian personnel having custody of weapons and using them in Canadian units. He said that in anticipation of this the Joint Chiefs of Staff are examining the requirements for amendments to present U.S. legislation. If the initial U.S. request to have American units stationed in Canada is refused, they may offer a compromise providing for the stationing of U.S. units in Canada for a fixed period which would allow them time to amend their laws. These units would train Canadian personnel in the use of nuclear weapons."

I am requesting the Chairman of the Joint Staff Washington to brief Mr. Heeney on these matters so that he will be fully informed before he is approached by the State Department.

2. It would appear that it would be useful to give some consideration to the best approach to be made by Canada on this problem before the exchange of notes actually takes place. I would therefore suggest that it might be useful if a preliminary discussion on this matter could be held by the same group as considered this question previously. I would be grateful for your views.

CHARLES FOULKES

18.

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*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

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

PERSONAL AND TOP SECRET

Washington, March 19, 1956