

ble. however, that if the Government should decide against sending ground troops some sporadic public interest in the idea may develop, and I thought you might wish to have this preliminary note in case the subject should be raised in Cabinet tomorrow.

A.D.P. H[EENEY]

[PIÈCE JOINTE I/ENCLOSURE 1]

*Extrait du rapport de M. Riddell sur sa conversation
avec M. Cordier du Secrétariat des Nations Unies*

*Extract from Mr. Riddell's Record of Conversation
with Mr. Cordier of the United Nations Secretariat*

[New York, July 12, 1950]

POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS FORCE

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A great many offers of voluntary service were being received by the United Nations, according to Cordier. There was, for example, a group of fifty United Kingdom airmen which wished to volunteer for service immediately, and there were similar groups and individuals from other countries. These people did not wish simply to join the United States forces, and there would be obvious disadvantage in having them do so. Some thought will have to be given about ways of using them, and the Secretary-General was turning over in his mind the possibility of establishing a United Nations force, consisting of volunteers. He said there were a good many countries which did not themselves wish to make contributions from their regular forces, but which would not object to their nationals enlisting in a United Nations force. If the U.N. went ahead with this scheme, however, they would wish to be sure that they did not merely recruit the adventurers and soldiers of fortune from the democratic world. They were thinking, therefore, of the possibility of asking Member States to subject volunteers to the regular tests which would be normally applied in their own armed services. Cordier said that they had just begun to think about this problem, and that it had not yet been mentioned to any other delegation. There were many complications, but it seemed to him that the idea might appeal to states which would be troubled about a formal contribution of regular forces.

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