

Military Staff Committee but quickly rejected this idea because of the position of the Russians if not as participators at least as receivers of documents. They then considered a Security Council sub-committee to coordinate military activities, but realized that effective coordination could not be achieved in this way. Some members of the Security Council, they thought, would prefer not to be involved in questions of strategy. Furthermore a United Nations subcommittee is hardly a body to make tactical decisions and work in fields involving a high degree of security. Both the British and American view tends towards the conclusion, however, that there must be some United Nations cover for the operation and that pledges of support should be made to the United Nations and certainly not to the United States, although coordination of forces involved will inevitably be on an ad hoc basis and will in fact mean primarily tactical coordination with the United States forces. The United States delegation view as to how countries might in the present stage determine the nature of their contributions is that they should make private enquiries of the United States military, who are the only ones in a position to know what is needed, and then make a public announcement that forces along this line are being offered in support of the United Nations.

24.

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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*

TELEGRAM WA-1444

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SECRET. IMMEDIATE.

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KOREA

1. With reference to Heeney's telephone conversation with me, I spoke from Hickerson's office where I had gone to leave the text of the Prime Minister's statement this morning and to discuss the question of bringing the command of the operations under the aegis of the United Nations in some manner.

2. Hickerson assured me that this had been under very active consideration since the decision was taken to employ American forces. The administration could not easily accept the direct designation of MacArthur by the Security Council as Commander because of the serious risk that this would involve interference in the conduct of operations by the Security Council or Secretary-General. They had given thought to a number of alternatives because they are themselves anxious that the whole affair should be conducted throughout as an operation in support of the United Nations.

3. They have rejected for the present the idea that the Security Council might ask the Republic of Korea to designate the Commander, as this would imply that he