

London and that it was contemplated that participation of the countries of the British Commonwealth and of the European Allies in the planning of the general war effort would be effected through their membership of the London Committee rather than the Washington committees. I suspect that Churchill himself would welcome the coordination of Commonwealth representation in London and, from a talk that Casey, the Australian Minister, had with President Roosevelt, it is clear that the latter is of much the same mind. He gave Casey to understand pretty clearly that Australian requirements and views about war strategy should be cleared through the proposed London Committees rather than be taken up directly by the Australian representative in Washington.

Wrong pointed out to Dill that the Canadian position was quite different in a number of respects from that of any other country of the British Commonwealth. We had, for example, a primary interest in plans for North American defence which could hardly be cleared through a London committee, but would have to be taken up directly between Canada and the United States. At the same time, the Government was bound to be interested in the work of the London Committees as well because it would be interested in the planning of operations in any theatre of war where any Canadian troops were engaged, and the bulk of Canadian forces were now in the European theatre, for which the Joint Staff Committees established in London would be responsible. Dill appeared to recognize the reasonableness of these considerations, and threw out the suggestion that, while contacts between the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, etc., might reasonably be centralized in London, which was responsible for the strategic direction of the war in Europe and the Middle East, there might be room, not for a Joint Commonwealth Mission in Washington, but for a Joint United Kingdom-Canadian Mission, which could maintain closer contacts with the United States Service authorities than a comprehensive and therefore cumbersome mission could do.

In connection with the rest of our military representation in Washington, I learned from the Chief of the General Staff today that it is planned to bring Brigadier Letson, who has done extremely well as Military Attaché in Washington, to Ottawa to be Adjutant General and to replace him in Washington by Major-General Pope, who is also a very good man. Pope will not be designated as Military Attaché, but would be the obvious representative of the Chief of Staff in any top level military discussions in Washington.

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*Mémoire du sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures  
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

[Ottawa], January 19, 1942

Mr. Keenleyside and I, along with Mr. Heeney, attended a meeting this morning with the Chiefs of Staff and Field Marshal Sir John Dill.