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TWO LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO THE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE DATED 19 JUNE 1947  
AND REPLIES DATED 19 AND 20 JUNE 1947

19 June 1947

Mr. Chairman:

At the request of the delegate of Australia, the President of the Security Council begs the Chairman of the Military Staff Committee to let him know urgently, and if possible before the next meeting of the Security Council (Friday, 20 June):

- (1) The Military Staff Committee's interpretation of Articles 5 and 6 of the report of the Military Staff Committee to the Security Council on the organization of the armed forces of the United Nations;
- (2) The action at present being taken by the Military Staff Committee in connection with the estimate of the overall strength of the armed forces made available to the Security Council.

(signed) A. PARODI  
President of the Security Council

19 June 1947

Mr. Chairman:

I have the honour to communicate to you below an extract from the verbatim record of the 142nd meeting of the Security Council held at Lake Success on Wednesday, 18 June 1947 (S/P.V./142, page 92).

"The delegate of Australia: 'My question is.....: Is the Military Staff Committee giving consideration or will it give consideration to agreed articles unless there is a direction from this Council?

/"The President:

"The President: As I pointed out, the question has now been asked and a reply will be forthcoming, possibly at our next meeting."

I should be obliged if you would let me have a reply to the questions of the delegate of Australia as soon as possible, if possible by Friday, 20 June.

(signed) A. PARODI

President of the Security Council

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19 June 1947

Sir,

In reply to your letter of 19 June requesting a reply to the questions posed by the Australian Delegate at the 142nd meeting of the Security Council, 18 June 1947, as indicated in S/PV/142, page 92, I have the honor to submit the following:

First, the Military Staff Committee is not now reconsidering the wording or meaning of agreed articles of the General Principles, and second, the Military Staff Committee has no present intention of reconsidering any of the agreed articles of the General Principles without specific direction to that effect from the Security Council.

Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH T. McNARNEY,  
General, USAAF,  
Chairman,  
Military Staff Committee.

/20 June 1947

20 June 1947

Sir,

In reply to your letter of 19 June 1947, I have the honor to inform you that at the 47th meeting of the Military Staff Committee, on 20 June 1947, the Chinese, French, U.K. and U.S. Delegations agreed to the following replies to your two questions:

a. (1) Article 5 is an article pertaining to the overall strength of all the forces to be made available to the Security Council in the special agreements and not to the size of any forces that may be called upon for action in any specific operation. It must be considered in connection with the other articles in Chapter III, Overall Strength of Armed Forces. Actually, this article states but one of the factors which the Military Staff Committee believes should be taken into consideration in estimating the overall strength of the forces which should be made available to the Security Council by Member Nations in accordance with the special agreements under Article 43 of the Charter.

(2) Article 6 also states a factor which the Military Staff Committee believes should be taken into consideration in estimating the overall strength of the forces which should be made available to the Security Council by Member Nations in accordance with the special agreements under Article 43 of the Charter. It signifies that while they shall be of a strength sufficient to enable the Security Council to take prompt action in any part of the world for the maintenance or the restoration of international peace and security as envisaged in Article 42 of the Charter, they shall not be unlimited.

/b. The

b. The Military Staff Committee subcommittee on Overall Strength and Composition has been conducting informal discussions for approximately three weeks. During these discussions two methods of approaching the problem of estimating Overall Strength and Composition have been suggested. These methods are presently under consideration by the several Delegations. The Subcommittee on Overall Strength and Composition in its terms of reference from the Military Staff Committee was directed to report its progress to the Military Staff Committee by 30 June 1947.

The U.S.S.R. Delegation was not prepared to take part in the discussions at which the above answers were agreed by the other four Delegations, since the U.S.S.R. Delegation stated that it did not consider that your letter was conveying decisions of the Security Council as a whole, which they regarded as essential.

The other four Delegations accepted the ruling of the Chairman that the matter was one of procedure and not of substance and therefore that discussion should proceed. The U.S.S.R. Delegation thereupon withdrew.

Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH T. McNARNEY,  
General, USAAF,  
Chairman,  
Military Staff Committee

A. Parodi,  
President of the Security Council,  
United Nations,  
Lake Success, New York.

