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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DATED 16 MAY 1947
AND ENCLOSED REPLIES TO QUESTIONS POSED BY THE COMMITTEE
OF EXPERTS (S/325).

Henry Hudson Hotel
353 West 57 Street
New York 19

19 May 1947

Sir,

With reference to His Excellency, Dr. Quo Tai-chi's letter
of 8 April and General Vasiliev's acknowledgment of 16 April
1947, I have the honour to attach herewith replies to the three
questions posed by the Committee of Experts to the Military Staff
Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) HENRY MOORE

Admiral
Chairman, Military Staff Committee

Encs.

His Excellency, Dr. Alfonso Lopez
President of the Security Council of the
United Nations

ANNEX

REPLIES FROM THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE
TO THE THREE QUESTIONS POSED BY THE COM-
MITTEE OF EXPERTS

QUESTION 1:

The Military Staff Committee is a subordinate organ of the Security Council, but this fact should not preclude the reciprocal exchange of information between the Security Council and the Military Staff Committee. It is desirable that the information should come not only from the Military Staff Committee but also from the Security Council in cases when questions at issue in the Security Council might also concern the Military Staff Committee. Such information might prove necessary and very useful in the work of the Military Staff Committee while carrying out the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council. For example, the Military Staff Committee will require the earliest possible notice of the impending need for military action to ensure that, if such action is ultimately necessary, it will be prompt and effective. "Reciprocal" exchange of information stresses this need of the Military Staff Committee to receive such a flow of information from the Security Council, in addition to the obvious flow of information in the reverse direction.

QUESTION 2:

The purpose of Section II of the draft Statute is to list in one place the functions of the Military Staff Committee as obtained from the several pertinent articles of the Charter. Article 45 of the Charter does not prescribe an additional function of the Military Staff Committee, but rather a method of carrying out, in an urgent manner, the functions listed in this Section. The general term "armed force" as used in Section II includes air forces as well as other forces. Therefore, the Military Staff Committee did not consider it appropriate to refer specifically to Article 45 of the Charter in Section II of the draft Statute.

QUARTER 3:

Article 47 of the Charter stipulates that "there shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements" for "the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal", and that "the Military Staff Committee shall consist of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives". The Military Staff Committee therefore does not believe that it can share its responsibility with representatives of other States members of the United Nations. The rights of the States invited by the Military Staff Committee for cooperation are set out in paragraph (c), Section IV of the draft Statute of the Military Staff Committee.

States invited by the Military Staff Committee for cooperation may participate in the Military Staff Committee meetings at which the proposals submitted by them will be discussed but they would not be entitled to vote. This procedure would allow to invited States the same rights as are allowed to States invited to attend meetings of the Security Council under Article 31 of the Charter. If the invited States do not agree to the recommendations or decisions of the Military Staff Committee, such States may bring up this matter in the Security Council.

If the recommendations or decisions of the Military Staff Committee to employ the armed forces are made against the wishes of the Member Nation which contributed these forces, then the question shall be referred to the Security Council for decision. The Security Council would then act in accordance with the provisions of Articles 43 and 44 of the Charter. Therefore, there is no necessity to weaken the ability of the Military Staff Committee to take prompt action by increasing the number of representatives entitled to vote.