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4. VICTORY CELEBRATIONS - MILITARY PARADES

LORD ALANBROOKE said that the Adjutant General had raised certain points which affected the other Services regarding the organisation of the Victory Parades on June 8th. He suggested that the Chiefs of Staff should discuss these problems with the Adjutant General at their meeting the following Wednesday, 13th March, and that Lord Portal of Hungerford, who was being invited to take part in the Parades, should be asked to come to the meeting.

THE COMMITTEE:

Instructed the Secretary to invite Lord Portal of Hungerford and the Adjutant General to their meeting the following Wednesday, as proposed by the C.I.G.S.

5. B.C.O.F. - DIRECTIVE TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(46) 34th Mtg. Min. 6)

THE COMMITTEE considered the following telegrams -

- (i) Nos. 105 - 107 from the Government of Australia, giving the text of a draft directive to the Commander-in-Chief, B.C.O.F., which was being considered by the Commonwealth Government, and on which the latter had requested the comments of the other Governments concerned.
- (ii) JCOSA 43 & 44 giving the observations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia on certain paragraphs in the directive.
- (iii) PACCOS 6 from the British/Indian element of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia, reporting, with reference to the draft directive, that the Australians intended to appoint General Northcott to act as the Senior Commander of the Australian Contingent of B.C.O.F. in addition to his duties as Commander-in-Chief, B.C.O.F.

With regard to the draft directive, the Chiefs of Staff expressed the view that in its present form, it was too long and contained too much detail. The instructions regarding financial, disciplinary, etc., responsibilities would have been better included in Appendices.

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11. FORTIFICATIONS IN SICILY AND SARDINIAC.O.S.(46) 64

THE COMMITTEE had before them a letter from the Foreign Office enquiring whether the Chiefs of Staff were still of the same opinion with regard to the prohibition of naval, military and air force installations in Sicily and Sardinia, as expressed in their "brief" prepared in September of last year for the guidance of the Foreign Secretary in discussions on the Peace Treaty with Italy. The Foreign Office suggested that in view of the information now available with regard to the installations on these islands, the Chiefs of Staff might agree that their requirements would be met by the prohibition of construction of new installations, together with such reduction of the present defences as the other delegations could be persuaded to accept.

There was general agreement that the views of the Foreign Office should be accepted.

LORD CUNNINGHAM circulated the text of the draft Article 31 of the Italian Peace Treaty, which he suggested conformed more exactly with the views of the Chiefs of Staff.

There was general agreement with the text of the draft Article 31 of the Italian Peace Treaty as circulated by the First Sea Lord.

THE COMMITTEE:-

- (a) Agreed with the views expressed by the Foreign Office.
- (b) Instructed the Secretary to inform the Foreign Office of their agreement, and to state at the same time that the text of the draft Article 31 of the Italian Peace Treaty was acceptable from the military point of view.

✓ COS(45) 198, Annex I
 ✓ Annex I

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12. UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

THE COMMITTEE considered a letter from C.-in-C. India enquiring whether any proposals had yet been formulated for the representation of India on the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council, having regard to the fact that India was represented by its own separate delegation at the United Nations Conference in San Francisco and occupied a dominant position in the Indian Ocean area.

LORD ALANBROOKE said that the suggestion put forward by C.-in-C. India for Indian representation on the Military Staff Committee was not possible as, even if India was granted Dominion status, the United Nations Charter laid down that the Military Staff Committee would be composed - for the present anyway - of representatives of the "Big Five".

LORD CUNNINGHAM agreed with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and pointed out that India could, however, be represented on the Security Council. He suggested that it might be valuable if the Dominions, including India, were invited to send staff officers to work with the British representatives on the Military Staff Committee in an advisory capacity. He recalled that the Australians had already raised on a governmental level, during the recent conference, the question of being consulted by the Military Staff Committee on Far Eastern problems, and he suggested that if the Indian Government held the same view, they also should raise it on a governmental level.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Instructed the Secretary to reply* to the letter from C.-in-C. India on the lines expressed by them in discussion.

* Annex II (To follow)

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13. TRIESTE: USE AS A MILITARY SUPPLY BASEC.O.S.(46) 65 (0)

THE COMMITTEE had before them a letter from the Foreign Office commenting on a telegram* from General Morgan and recommending that the Chiefs of Staff represent strongly to the Combined Chiefs of Staff the importance of finding a solution to General Morgan's difficulties, which would not in any way entail the abandonment of our position in Trieste.

LORD ALANBROOKE said that the Foreign Office did not represent the situation fully as they gave the impression that General Morgan was abandoning the use of Trieste, which was not the case. Because of the recent manpower cuts in service strength, General Morgan found it impossible to retain duplicate port organisations at Trieste and Venice for the handling of military stores. There was no question of ceasing to use Trieste, which would continue to be utilised for the import of coal and P.O.L. partly because of its suitability for these commodities, but chiefly because the Supreme Commander realised the need to retain military control of the port. Trieste would, therefore, continue to be used at full capacity in any case for the next few months. Meanwhile, expansion at Venice would be little, but it would certainly be necessary to maintain a shadow port handling organisation at Venice in case trouble occurred at Trieste involving the closure of that port. Any commitment involved in retaining an organisation at Venice would be more than off-set by the large reductions made over Italy as a whole. It was his opinion, therefore, that as the manpower reductions were inevitable, General Morgan must be given a free hand to achieve them and to run his administration in the most economical way.

LORD LLEDDER agreed with these views and said that the Chiefs of Staff should not, therefore, make representations to the Combined Chiefs of Staff to alter the recommendations made by General Morgan in his telegram.

THE COMMITTEE:-

- (a) Agreed with the views expressed by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff above;
- (b) Instructed the Secretary to inform* the Foreign Office accordingly.

+ NIF 1115
* Annex III

14. BURMA - CHINESE INCURSIONSC.O.S.(46) 66(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(46) 34th Mtg., Item 12)

THE COMMITTEE had before them a letter from the Foreign Office asking if the Chiefs of Staff would issue instructions to General Carton de Wiart to raise the matter of Chinese incursions in the Myitkyina area orally with Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-Shek on the lines suggested by the Foreign Office.

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LORD CUNNINGHAM agreed with the views expressed by the Foreign Office and circulated a draft telegram to General Carton de Wiart asking him to seek an interview with the Generalissimo on this subject, and to press that orders should be issued for the withdrawal of Chinese troops from this area as soon as possible.

LORD ALANBROOKE suggested that it would also be expedient to ask Admiral Mountbatten for his appreciation on the situation in North East Burma, and informing him that representations were being made to the Chinese Authorities. Meanwhile he should take no action against the Chinese until the results of diplomatic action in Chung King were known. A draft telegram was circulated to this effect.

THE COMMITTEE:-

- (a) Approved the draft telegram to General Carton de Wiart circulated by the First Sea Lord, and instructed the Secretary to arrange for its despatch;+
- (b) Approved the draft telegram circulated by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff to Admiral Mountbatten, and instructed the Secretary to arrange for its despatch#;
- (c) Instructed the Secretary to notify the Foreign Office of the action taken above.
 - + Sent as OZ.1015
 - # Sent as COSSM. 483

15. B.C.O.F. - CONNECTING AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES

In anticipation of instructions, the Air Ministry have been requested to examine, in consultation with the departments concerned, a telegram from BIEJCOSA on the air lift requirements for B.C.O.F., and to prepare a draft reply on the receipt of a full report to be forwarded by JCOSA when completed.

✓ BRINDEL 721 (IZ.1312)

Offices of the Cabinet and
Minister of Defence, S.W.1.

6TH MARCH, 1946.

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ANNEX I

Copy of a letter (Reference C. O. S. 261/6)
dated 6th March, 1946, from the Secretary,
Chiefs of Staff Committee, to the Foreign Office

* * *

In reply to your letter dated 2nd March, 1946, with regard to the fortifications in Sicily and Sardinia, the Chiefs of Staff at their meeting this morning agreed with the suggestion which you made in paragraph 5 of your letter, and instructed me to inform you accordingly.

In addition, the Chiefs of Staff had before them the text of Article 31 of the Italian Peace Treaty as at present drafted, and they instructed me to inform you that they were in full agreement with this draft and that it correctly expressed their views.

I attach a copy of the text which the Chiefs of Staff had before them.

* * *

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ANNEX II

COPY OF LETTER (REF. COS.266/6) DATED 7TH
MARCH, 1946, TO GENERAL AUCHINLECK

In reply to your letter (C-in-C. Sectt/274) dated 20th February 1946 to the Chiefs of Staff, on the representation of India on the Military Staff Committee, the Chiefs of Staff have instructed me to express their views as follows.

2. The Chiefs of Staff have already given instructions to their representatives on the Military Staff Committee on the question of Dominion co-ordination. They consider that, since the Dominions and India are regarded by U.N.O. as separate sovereign states, the British representatives should seek guidance, on all matters relating to Dominion military interests, from the British Chiefs of Staff; and that London should be regarded as the co-ordinating centre for Dominion interests as a whole. Furthermore, as the United Nations Charter lays down that the Military Staff Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Big Five, it is not possible for India, even when granted Dominion status, to have a seat on the Committee.

3. The Chiefs of Staff are aware that occasions will probably arise when India and the Dominions will have to be formally represented at meetings of the Military Staff Committee. The Security Council have at present under consideration a draft Statute which, if approved, makes it clear that states other than the Big Five who attend meetings of the Military Staff Committee shall not be considered as members of the Committee, and shall only participate in those parts of the meeting to which they are specifically invited by the Military Staff Committee.

4. On the other hand, India may later be required to take a predominant part in the provision of forces in the Far East to be placed at the disposal of the Security Council; but the Chiefs of Staff consider that some months will elapse before sufficient progress has been made to warrant India maintaining a permanent military delegation at the United Nations Organisation. It would seem, therefore, more suitable for India to send officers to the headquarters of the United Nations Organisation when their attendance is specifically required. More permanent arrangements could be settled when a clear picture has been obtained of the sort of work which the Military Staff Committee are likely to undertake in the future.

5. During the recent meetings in London, the Australians raised on a Governmental level the question of the Military Staff Committee consulting Australian Military experts when Far Eastern questions were being considered. If, therefore, India feels strongly on the same point, the Chiefs of Staff suggest that it should be raised on a Government level rather than through military channels.

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