

New York Times June 18th 1940

Washington Lets Planes for the Allies Be Flown Over Border, Speeding Delivery

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, June 17 — The United States acted today to facilitate the delivery of war planes to the Allies by authorizing the ships to be flown across American borders.

Formerly planes bought in this country by the Allies had to land at the Canadian border and be towed across.

A new interpretation of the Neutrality Act, drafted by the Treasury and endorsed by the State Department, said that the border stops were no longer necessary.

The ruling means that after the Allies pay for a plane at an American factory, they can have it flown across the Canadian border, and legal title to the plane will automatically be transferred as the ship soars over the boundary.

Theoretically, the ruling made it possible for Allied planes to take off from the United States directly for Europe, although this flight would be too long for most of the ships purchased.

The Treasury opinion was drafted by its general counsel, Edward F. Foley Jr.

I do not know. I spoke to Mr. Welles about it the night we met at Morgenthau's house & took over the Navy's 50 Scout Bombers, because this was one of our difficulties (vs. transfer 'by pushing' at Buffalo) He then said "I think we could now arrange to hand over title in the air. I will see about this" But I imagine Christie must have done his bit, & so did the bunch of the Curtiss & Douglas companies.
E.F. 1941

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