

with Bases (U.S. on Bt Islands) 20/4/84/40

Copy on 23/9/30/40 (Newfoundland)

See with minute  
n pp -/29

on the other bases.

for them

Further ref. to London.

preliminary letters

on Oct. 14

It was certainly so  
as regards St. Lucia,  
Jamaica & Barbados;

Please minute  
all further refs.  
to this subject  
to C.C. as it is a  
Ad. of Trade & D.O.T.  
matter brought here  
by Mr. Stirling

NMB:DH HBC

6/11

I saw Colonel Knox this afternoon at his request. He asked me how the position stood as regards Newfoundland and the draft letter. I told him that London and the Governor had both approved it subject to small textual alterations and I gave him a copy of our draft showing the amendments. He read it and said that it looked to him all right. I suggested that Mr. Foster should fix it up with his legal adviser and he concurred.

I mentioned that His Majesty's Government took the view that this letter could not be taken as a precedent on which work could be started, i.e. we could not use a letter couched in the same terms to inaugurate work at the other bases; without I had no reason to think that the Foreign Office were at all opposed to similar ~~brief~~ letters as regards the other bases, and it was merely the fact that conditions varied locally that prevented this letter being standardised. Colonel Knox took the point.

I referred too to the Ambassador having thrown out the personal suggestion as regards an umpire in the case of disputes arising locally. I said that London wished to withdraw this suggestion; His Majesty's Government's view was that most things could and should be settled by the good sense of the men on the spot; if any dispute got beyond this, it would probably be sufficiently serious to require referring to Washington and London. Colonel Knox concurred.

I told the Colonel that <sup>all</sup> the Colonial Governments had now agreed to work being begun by the American authorities once agreement had been reached regarding the location of the bases; I was not quite certain as to Bermuda, but Colonel Knox assured me that Admiral Greenslade had told him that agreement had been reached there. As regards Bermuda I reminded the Secretary that His Majesty's Government meant to issue some statement and that we had asked the Navy Department not to forestall this.

I reminded him also that we had asked that the American authorities should employ local labour, and give British and Dominion firms of contractors opportunity to tender in connexion with the construction of the bases. Colonel Knox said that this was agreeable to the United States Government: American

contractors/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.



contractors had their hands full with work at home.

I did not put to Colonel Knox the point in sub-paragraph (e) of Mr. Hoyer Millar's minute. Perhaps Mr. Foster would take this up when he sees the Navy Department legal adviser about the draft letter. Colonel Knox had no complaints and seemed well satisfied, after seeing Admiral Greenleaf.

We might report briefly to London, including any comments from Admiral Felt.

MB.

Mr. H. Millar Jr.

October 30th, 1940

N. A. -

→ That the Foster should summarize

how the Navy Dept. campaign

about the Newfoundland article.

② the form of ultimate agreement' etc.

in

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.