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Rejmal on 2391/47/40:

Dominions Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

SECRET

20th November 1940.

My dear Philip,

You will remember that when you were in London we had some talk about the question of the jurisdiction to be granted to the United States in connection with the lease to them of bases in Newfoundland, and that I promised to forward a note to you when you had got back to Washington.

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You will now have received the message from Lloyd in Foreign Office telegram No. 3073 as regards the similar question in the case of the Colonies. I agree with the views expressed in this message, but I am enclosing a note amplifying the position slightly so far as Newfoundland is concerned. The chief point in the case of Newfoundland is that referred to in the last paragraph of the note, i.e. that, in view of the present constitutional position, the Newfoundland Government are most anxious that in this matter they should appear as far as possible as principals and not agents and that nothing should be settled as regards the bases in Newfoundland over their heads. For this reason, I think it most important that Foster,

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The Most Honourable,
The Marquess of Lothian, K.T., C.H.

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when he talks to the Americans, should not give the impression that he is negotiating on behalf of Newfoundland and that the Newfoundlanders should have the opportunity of stating their own case when the London discussions, at which they will be represented, take place. I should not expect that Newfoundland would wish to stand out for more than is proposed in Lloyd's message to you, but what is really important is that Newfoundland should have the opportunity of arguing their own case and that we should not appear to be doing it for them.

Yours ever,

(Signed) ? B.