

MINUTE SHEET.

Reference.....

Mr. Dunn spoke to me this afternoon about procedure for further discussions on the leased bases. An Inter-departmental Committee had been set up over which he was to preside: from the State Department there would also be Hackworth and Hickerson, from the Navy Department probably Captain Sherman, and the War Department would have a representative. The Committee were examining the position and would shortly have their comprehensive views as to matters outstanding. Mr. Dunn had hoped that the Embassy would be able to arrange a similar committee, and that there would be a lawyer on it.

let us have

I told Mr. Dunn that this did not sound too good: In a letter to Colonel Knox I had told him that the British Government regarded it as a condition to work being begun on the bases that the U.S.G. should accept their view that the ~~further~~ discussions on matters ~~suggesting~~ including jurisdiction and compensation should be carried on in London where alone the relevant documents were collected: I did not see how H. M. Embassy could bring this to anything like a final stage but that we would be glad to clear up with his Committee all the points that we could, subject always to the condition laid down by London. Mr. Dunn said that it was simply not a practical proposition that State Department should send over to London officials having the necessary authority. I repeated that all the documents were in London and that this was Colonial Office work, and after all it was we who were being asked to give certain things away.

final

As I left I found the Committee collected outside before holding a meeting, and I told Mr. Hackworth that London had made it a condition that the final discussions should be conducted in London.

We shall get in due course the comprehensive picture promised by Mr. Dunn as a result of the labours of his Committee. Meanwhile we should perhaps warn London of ~~that~~ the State Department ~~may be wishing to get settled here matters which H.M.G. have decided should be settled in London and which the Embassy may not be equipped to deal with.~~ If we have to embark on serious discussions on these bases it is for consideration whether we should ask the Colonial Office to send us out an official.

these ideas of and tick

NMB:NB

December 3rd, 1940.

Mr H. Miller

NB.

Mr. A. H.

H.E.

M. J. P.

I think to S.D. are

hardly playing fair - over this. Mr.

think told Knox were told by S.D.

several times during his visit

paper Sept 2 that laws covered

[OVER.]

counted on the final
discussions taking place in London.

They had some opportunities
to advise Ken before his
departure. — I don't know how this worked

Mr.

3.12.

We obviously have no authority to
take any matter affecting the bank or
jurisdiction over here. But I think it
would be a good thing ^{under working} to find out what
S.D. proposes & see whether we cannot
clear a good many matters out of the way
leaving as little to be settled at
a joint conference in London, under the
difficult conditions of the war, as
possible.

L J/12