

GWH/IMB/1908.

Airway Terminus,  
Victoria Station,  
London, S.W.1.

1st December, 1936.

My dear Shelmerdine,

I think you will be interested to see a cutting from the New York Times, which our man in New York has just sent us.

The point which seems to me to be important is that Christmas Island has been included in a list of islands over which the United States has obtained sovereignty.

I hope that the recent visit of H.M.S. Achilles to Christmas Island has effectively established British sovereignty there, particularly as that island was reported by her to be suitable for use as a base for long range flying boats.

I cannot help feeling anxious, however, when I read that the United States does not recognize anything but continuous occupation as establishing sovereignty.

The fact that Christmas Island is included in a list of islands to be visited by American naval flying boats seems to me to be ominous.

May I have the cutting back at your convenience?

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) G.E. Woods Humphery.

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Air Ministry,  
Gwydyr House,  
Whitehall,  
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Sir George  
Forest

cut in island in Paid