

MINUTE SHEET.

Reference 2400 / 11 / 40 ²⁰ END

The definition of the agreed sites in British Guiana suggested by London ran as follows:-

- (a) Patrol plane squadron base on the bank 25 miles up the Demerara River with aerodrome.
- (b) Sea plane base near Suddie on the west bank of the Essequibo river mouth.

There was no difficulty about (b) but as regards (a) the Navy Department wished this reworded to run - "an aerodrome on the bank of the River Demerara 25 miles up, with emergency patrol plane ~~in vicinity~~ ^{facilities}". I took this Navy Department suggestion merely to be a verbal one and as implying that the emergency patrol plane facilities would be provided at the aerodrome on the River Demerara. ~~But~~ The F.O. however consider it raises a new point which requires further consideration. They presumably think therefore that the Navy Department are asking in addition to the aerodrome on the River Demerara for emergency facilities elsewhere.

There is no suggestion in the papers that any such request for emergency facilities had been made at any earlier stage by the Americans and there may be some misunderstanding. Perhaps, therefore, the N.A. when talking to the Navy Department about Bermuda and St. Lucia could also find out rather more exactly just what the Navy Department mean.

FRHM:NB

Jm November 18th, 1940.

N.A.

I have talked with Captain Schminnow who tells me the wording was altered to convey that U.S. place was importance on the aerodrome than on patrol plane squadron base or as they put it "emergency patrol plane facilities" - I cannot see why London has gone off the deep end!

Jm
20/11