

Original on 2074/113/40

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22nd November, 1940

Dear Mr. Acting Secretary,

As you will be aware the question of the areas to be leased to the United States authorities in connexion with the proposed establishment of United States bases in Newfoundland was dealt with in a letter which I addressed to the Secretary of the Navy on November 11th.

I have now been instructed to inform you that as regards the proposed bases in Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia and British Guiana, all the British authorities concerned have now been able to consider the proposals put forward by Rear Admiral Greenslade during his recent visits to these colonies and have now reached agreement as to the areas which should be leased and the facilities which should be accorded to the United States authorities in the different colonies. It is understood that these areas and facilities, a description of which is contained in the schedule annexed to this letter, are in accordance with the requirements of the United States authorities. You will moreover note from this schedule that the question of the grant of certain further facilities at Bermuda and St. Lucia is still under consideration. The whole question of the area to be leased and facilities to be granted in Trinidad is also still under examination by the British authorities.

In the majority of cases the exact boundaries of the areas to be leased have yet to be defined and it will of course eventually be necessary for formal leases to be concluded in terms still to be agreed on, leasing the areas in question to the United States authorities for the period of 99 years. Before however such leases can be concluded it will be necessary for

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The Honourable
Sumner Welles,
Acting Secretary of State of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

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various questions concerning inter alia matters of administration and jurisdiction to be discussed between our two governments. As the Ambassador has already explained in his letter of October 14th to Colonel Knox and on other occasions, the British Government feel that the discussions on these points could most appropriately take place in London, and I have been instructed to express the hope that the United States Government will also share this view.

His Majesty's Government have however no desire to suggest that work on the various bases should be postponed pending the completion of the formal leases and I am authorised to inform you that as far as they are concerned the British authorities are entirely agreeable that work should be begun by the American authorities without further delay on all the sites their locations of which have already been agreed upon and which are set out in the attached schedule. In the case of the proposed base in Antigua, however, His Majesty's Government are anxious for the reasons set out in my letter of November 4th to the Secretary of the Navy, and in order to avoid disturbing the local labour position, that if possible any major constructional work in that island should be postponed until June, 1941. I am to express the hope that the United States authorities may find it possible to meet the views of the British authorities in this respect.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Acting Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) N. Butler