

Basel Pacific: C239/25/41

SECRET

BRITISH EMBASSY
NOV 10 1941
WASHINGTON

[W 12896/10815/G]

(No. 851.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office,
October 29, 1941.

THE United States Ambassador asked to see me this afternoon, when he said that he had an urgent request to make in respect of his Government's earlier proposal about the construction of air bases by the United States on British territory in the Pacific. His Excellency said that he had received a telegram from Mr. Harry Hopkins saying that the War Department were ready to sail a ship from Hawaii for Christmas Island to-morrow. The message continued: "Please ask British concurrence immediate construction."

2. I undertook to look into the matter and, if possible, give the Ambassador a reply to-morrow morning.

10916-214 22970-31

I am, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,
(For the Secretary of State)

Christopher Lee

It is interesting that they asked for "British concurrence" considering that officially the Island is claimed as American. See -/22

*Col. Under. Cheridge
10/11/41*

Also that they link Christmas Island specifically with "British territory"

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Washington.

*RC 11/11
H.F. 11/11*