

and later to bring them back into operation would involve considerable additional expense. The Board stressed the importance of the maintenance of bases required for the completion of the programme of photography for air charting and mapping. The Board agreed upon the following conclusions and requested the Secretary of the Canadian Section to bring them to the attention of the appropriate authorities:

- (a) The Northwest Staging Route, including the airways system, airfields, highway and landline communication system, is vital to the defence of Canada and the United States. The operation of this Route should not be reduced below a level which will provide at all times for the safe transit of large numbers of military aircraft of all types. These facilities will be of little value if not immediately available for use on a large scale as no warning can be expected of any future attack.
- (b) The facilities of the Mackenzie River Air Route should be retained pending assessment of the defence value of all parts of the system by the United States-Canada combined planning group. These facilities should be maintained in an operating condition insofar as they are required for the program of trimetrogon photography and air charting.
- (c) The aerodromes of the Crimson Route, including The Pas, Churchill, Coral Harbour (Southampton Island), Frobisher Bay and Fort Chimo, are considered to possess great strategic importance, the exact assessment of which, however, must await the findings of the United States-Canada joint planning group. Meanwhile, these facilities should be retained and