

May 31, 1944.

Memorandum of Principles to be proposed jointly and forthwith by U.S. Government and United Kingdom Government to the Governments of the Maritime Nations having reference to the continuance of co-ordinated control of Merchant Shipping.

1. The Governments shall declare that they accept as a common responsibility the provision of shipping for all the military and other tasks necessary for, and arising out of, the completion of the war in Europe and the Far East and for the supplying of all the liberated areas as well as of the United Nations generally and territories under their authority.
2. The Governments shall undertake to continue to maintain such powers of control over all ships registered in their territory or otherwise under their authority as will enable them effectively to direct each ship's employment in accordance with the foregoing declaration. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 9, this control shall continue to be exercised by each Government through the mechanism of requisitioning for use or title.
3. The Governments shall agree not to release from control any ships under their authority or permit them to be employed in any non-essential services or for any non-essential cargo unless the total overall tonnage is in excess of the total overall requirements, and then only in accordance with a mutually acceptable formula which shall not discriminate against the commercial shipping interests of any nation and shall extend to all of the maritime nations of the United Nations an equitable opportunity for their respective tonnages to engage in commercial trades.
4. Neutral Governments having ships under their control in excess of the tonnage required to carry on their essential imports requirements shall be invited to subscribe to obligations in respect of all their ships which shall ensure that their employment is in conformity with the general purposes of the United Nations.
5. All the Governments of the United Nations and the Government subscribing hereto under paragraph #4 shall be invited to undertake to exercise control over the facilities for shipping available in their territories, under measures on the lines of the U.S. and British Ship Warrant Schemes, and to take such other measures as may be necessary to secure that ships under all flags are used in conformity with the purpose of the United Nations.
6. Without prejudice to questions of disposition or title, the employment of such ships as may at any time be permitted to operate under enemy flag or authority shall be determined to serve the requirements of the United Nations.
7. The Governments shall consult together for the purpose of agreeing on measures to give effect to the foregoing principles accepted by them. In preparing such measures they shall be guided by the following considerations:
 - (a) In order that the allocation of all ships under United Nations control may continue to be effectively determined to meet the requirements of the United Nations, a central authority will be needed, to come into operation upon the expiry of existing time chartering arrangements made by the U.S. Government and/or the U.K. Government with other United Nations Governments concerned. The central authority shall be organized on a basis satisfactory to the signatories to the agreement.

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
Volume XVI, July - December 1944, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 16)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA