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BORDER REGULATIONS

Mr.Christie telephoned this morning to say that Mr.Sumner Welles said he had been discussing this question with the Attorney General,Mr.Jackson. There seemed some possibility of relaxing or simplifying the regulations. Mr.Welles enquired whether we would be prepared to have our Immigration authorities meet with their Immigration authorities to consider passport regulations and movements across the boundary, border identification cards,etc. Mr.Welles was going away this afternoon and asked if he could be told before then whether in principle we would be agreeable.

I told Mr.Christie that the suggestion was rather vague. I was by no means sure it was a matter with which representatives of our Immigration Department alone could deal. There had been a very useful discussion here between a delegation from Washington and representatives of a number of Departments at Ottawa. Mr. Christie said he gathered from Mr.Welles that neither a representative of the State Department or any representative of the Police Section of the Department of Justice would be included in the preliminary discussion. He had no information as to when or where it was proposed the discussion should take place. I told Mr.Christie that if the general objective was to ease the border situation,we certainly were all for that, and would be glad to co-operate.