

SECRET

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

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MEMORANDUM

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Re: U.S. military air transport over Canada

The Interdepartmental Committee on International Civil Aviation reports as follows:

"Normal commercial air services between Canada and the United States are governed by an exchange of notes of 1940 which it is proposed to renew for the duration of the war. In addition to these services a number of United States military transport services are operating into and across Canada. Some of these are operated by Military aircraft, others by commercial airlines under charter to the United States Armed Services.

There is no over-all agreement covering these military services and some confusion has resulted. Permission has been granted for the operation of some but not for all those which are now operating. The channel by which permission has been given has varied.

It would appear that United States military aircraft are operating transport services on at least nine routes across Canada and that formal permission was not granted in six of these cases. Likewise six commercial airlines are operating special military transport services into Canada on behalf of the United States Armed Services but have not obtained permission from Canada in every case, and in some cases where permission has been obtained the routes have been varied and expanded without permission.

Moreover in the discussions of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence the assurance was given that the military services operated by United States commercial lines would be taken over by the United States government and completely militarized as soon as possible. This understanding was set forth in a letter of March 7th, 1942 from the Honourable C.D. Howe to Brigadier General R.E. Olds of the United States War Department. This militarization has in no instance taken place and some of the airlines serving the United States Armed Forces in Canada are fostering the impression that their present war work will become a basis for postwar operations.

Recommendation

In order to avoid any misunderstanding regarding United States rights in this connection, and to clarify the existing situation, it is recommended that Canada propose to the United States an over-all agreement, which could be made public, regarding the