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PRESS RELEASE

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The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Brooke Claxton, today made the following statement:

A paragraph in the column "On and off the record" in the MONTREAL GAZETTE of Saturday, June 11, contains the suggestion that in connection with the recent Civil Aviation Agreement between Canada and the United States, the United States government secured from the Canadian government a supplementary secret agreement to the effect that the United States would "take over the Canadian aviation picture in its entirety" in the event of war.

This is completely false. No such agreement has been made between Canada and the United States and the full details of all agreements reached in connection with the recent civil aviation discussions have been made public in the text of the Bilateral Agreement and the accompanying Exchange of Notes regarding civil use of U.S. Military bases in Newfoundland.