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Memorandum for Cabinet Defence Committee

Draft 34th Recommendation of the
Permanent Joint Board on Defence.

--- Discussions in the Permanent Joint Board on Defence have resulted in a draft 34th Recommendation, a copy of which is attached. The Canadian and United States Sections of the Board undertook to ascertain whether a Recommendation along these lines would be acceptable to both Governments. The United States Section is anxious to hold an early meeting of the Board at which the Recommendation would be formally adopted. They are strongly of the opinion that useful and intelligent defence cooperation between the two countries would be assisted, at their end, if a clear statement of principles had been adopted as United States Government policy.

The Chiefs of Staff Committee have approved the draft 34th Recommendation in principle and there are political considerations in its favour which are regarded as important by the Department of External Affairs. Both the Canadian and United States Governments have assumed an obligation under the Charter of the United Nations to register all agreements with the Secretariat. It is true that it would not be desirable to make public a detailed defence or security plan, but this is not called for. What is proposed is the registration and publication of a number of very general measures of cooperation. If this were done, both Governments would be justified in taking the line that any detailed security or defence plan which might later emerge was simply a practical implementation of the agreement already registered and would not itself require registration.

Because of the desirability of avoiding anything in the nature of a treaty or convention, the Board agreed that the best method of procedure would be to make a Recommendation which would be approved by both Governments. It could then be announced simultaneously by both Governments at an appropriate