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Document No. 414
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MEMORANDUM

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

C158764

Re: Pan American Airways - application to
operate to Whitehorse

The Interdepartmental Committee on International Civil Aviation reports as follows:

"Pan American Airways has, for some time, operated a service from Seattle to Fairbanks, Alaska by way of Juneau and Whitehorse in the Yukon. The service from Seattle to Juneau passed over international waters and therefore did not require Canadian permission. The service from Juneau to Whitehorse and to Fairbanks was carried out under formal permission given by the Department of Transport.

In 1940, Pan American Airways requested permission to establish an emergency over-land route from Seattle to Juneau, crossing British Columbia via Prince George without stopping. In view of the fact that this was a temporary request and involved merely an alteration of what had previously been a coastal route, this permission was granted but expired on May 31st, 1942. Thus, at the present time, Pan American Airways has no right to fly over Canadian territory from Seattle to Juneau, but has permission to operate from Juneau to Whitehorse and Fairbanks.

The United States has now requested, on behalf of Pan American Airways, permission to operate a "so-called commercial service", directly from Seattle to Whitehorse without going to Juneau. A shuttle service would be operated from Whitehorse to Juneau. The request points out that the aircraft would be owned by the U.S. Navy and under its direct control and primarily concerned with meeting military requirements, although urgent civilian requirements would also be met if possible. Since, however, it is still to include some commercial services, it would be in direct competition with the service to Whitehorse now operated by Canadian Pacific Air Lines.

It is recommended that if an over-all agreement regarding U.S. military air transport over Canada is concluded, it should apply to this proposed service by Pan American Airways. In the meantime, however, it is recommended that temporary permission be granted to Pan American Airways to operate the service requested for a period of six months, on the understanding that it be limited entirely to military service and that no commercial traffic be carried."

Privy Council Office,
February 16, 1943.

A.D.P. Heeney,
Secretary.