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(c) The Combined Raw Materials Board.

Canadian interest in the work of this Board is obvious, in view of the great importance of Canadian production, especially of metals and minerals. We have not, however, requested full participation in the Board. When the Board was established the Joint Materials Co-ordinating Committee had already been at work for over six months on the task of arranging for the development and supply of raw materials between Canada and the United States. The Department of Munitions and Supply has felt that Canadian contact with the Combined Board should be through the Joint Committee. Mr. Batt is both Chairman of the Board and a member of the Committee, and this circumstance has undoubtedly served our interests. For a time Canadian representatives sat with the various committees of the Board but these were later withdrawn on the ground that this type of representation tended to interfere with direct negotiations at the top level. The Metals Controller, however, maintains a representative in Washington, who keeps intimate contact with the work of the Board and its Committees.

It seems desirable to keep the way open for a later request for a more direct association on the Board. If the Board develops its authority into control of the flow of raw materials to the United Nations, the present informal link through the Joint Committee may not be adequate.