

[PIÈCE JOINTE 1/ENCLOSURE 1]

*Annexe au rapport d'une réunion tenue à Washington pour
discuter de la défense de la côte atlantique*

*Appendix to Report of a Meeting at Washington to Discuss
the Defence of the Atlantic Coast*

[Ottawa,] July 14, 1940

SECRET

[APPENDIX] B

[NAVAL OUTLOOK APPENDIX]

General

On Friday morning, 12th, Air Commodore CUFFE and myself visited an office in the Navy Department where we met Captain HILL, U.S.N., Director of Plans, and Captain SHERMAN, Chief Aviation Officer in the Bureau of Naval Operations. The discussions of naval interest with Captain Hill are given below, those of Air Commodore Cuffe with Captain Sherman will be found in the Air Appendix.

Bases.

I again explained to Captain Hill that the Canadian Navy was not at present and could not be built up to such an extent that it could meet the possible scale of attack in either—

- (a) British Navy being forced to leave its bases in the United Kingdom by enemy air power, or
- (b) British Navy being destroyed by combination of German and Italian air and naval power.

Our object at the moment, therefore, was to provide ourselves with suitable operational bases in order to enable us to play host to either the British Navy or the United States Navy.

...
*Situation which would arise if United States
Fleet wished to be based in Canadian and
Newfoundland waters.*

In this case they consider their Fleet is sufficiently mobile and supplied with repair ships, seaplane tenders and fleet oilers to be able to operate from an isolated anchorage such as Gaspé. As no fuel will be supplied at Gaspé they may find it necessary to requisition a certain number of oil tankers from the Merchant Service.

It is probable if the United States Fleet should come to Canada and Newfoundland that they would prefer more than one base in Newfoundland. No decision was reached as to exact positions but discussion covered the possibility of one at Pistolet Bay, one somewhere in the vicinity of Botwood, perhaps Lewisporte, and probably St. John's. They were also interested in the possibility of a seaplane base somewhere on the south coast of Newfoundland, probably between St. Pierre and Cape Race.

Their opinion regarding Hudson Bay was similar to ours, that is, it is a possibility which must be considered but most improbable. They would pro-