

(1) It deals with matters in which the position of Canada is of special importance.

(2) There is already in existence Joint U.S.-Canadian machinery for the co-ordination of the production and use of raw materials.

(3) This Board will meet only in Washington.

Proposals received from the United Kingdom suggest that the Empire is to be considered as a whole by the British representative on this Combined Board and that, for this purpose, a "clearing house" representing all parts of the Empire will be set up in London.

Information from Washington indicated, however, that the United States hope to deal with total North American, rather than merely United States, production through Mr. Batt, their representative on the Board. If this is the case, the Canadian approach to association with the Board would be from the North American rather than Empire angle; our "clearing house" would be in Washington with the Americans, not in London with the British.

This is all the more reasonable because we have already Canadian-United States machinery for such a purpose in the Joint Raw Materials Co-ordinating Committee, of which Mr. Batt is also the United States member.

It is felt that we would have a better chance of making Canada's position felt and getting Canada's needs supplied by associating ourselves with the United States rather than the United Kingdom side of the Raw Materials Board. This would be the reverse procedure to that adopted in the case of the other Boards but that should not cause any difficulty.

In conclusion, I think it is important that the United Kingdom be informed as soon as possible of our attitude to Canadian association with the work of all these Boards, both in London and Washington. We should also make our position clear to the Americans. They are, I think, at the moment almost as ignorant of Canada's desires in this matter as we are of their plans, if any, for Canada's inclusion in the new set-up.

That set-up is now liquid to the point of confusion. If we wish to participate in it, except as merely one of 20 odd "United Nations", we should make our proposals for such inclusion known both to Washington and London at once. Otherwise the present fluid situation will harden and we will be frozen out.

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*Le ministre-conseiller, la légation aux États-Unis, au  
sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures*

*Minister-Counsellor, Legation in United States, to  
Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Washington, February 3, 1942

Dear Mike [Pearson],

I gather that there is a general feeling in the Department (and presumably elsewhere in Ottawa) that the position of Canada has not been fully recognized