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CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

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Memorandum

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Re: Munitions Assignments Board

Following the recent visit to Ottawa of Sir Robert Sinclair and Mr. Brand, when the subject of the methods of Canada's participation in the work of the Combined Boards was reviewed, it was decided by the War Committee, inter alia, on September the 16th, that the so-called Burns proposal, in respect of the Munitions Assignments Board, should not be accepted, one of the reasons for this decision was that the informal arrangements in Ottawa for the allocating of Canadian production were working reasonably well.

The effect of this decision was to drop the formal Canadian request for membership, and the Chiefs of Staff were informed with a view to having General Pope instructed to reply accordingly to General Burns.

The Chief of the Air Staff has now pointed out that the informal Ottawa arrangements, regarded by the Army as satisfactory, do not meet the case of the Air Force. The allocation of Canadian production of aircraft is not dealt with by the Ottawa committee. Furthermore, no satisfactory solution of the problem of presenting, in Washington, Canadian needs for operational aircraft from U.S. sources has been devised. The Air Staff feel that the Burns proposal offered a reasonable prospect of solution of this difficulty from their point of view.

In view of the above, instructions to General Pope for reply to the Burns proposal have been withheld until the problem can be further considered by the government.

A.D.P. Heeney,
Secretary.

Privy Council Office,
October 6th, 1942.

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
Volume XI, October - December 1942, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 11)

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