

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

January 31st, 1949.

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note No. 35 of January 24th, 1949, referring to the discussions that have taken place in the Permanent Joint Board on Defense with regard to the necessity of ensuring adequate cooperation between our two Governments in air search and rescue operations along our common boundary, and to this end proposing:

"2. As a result of the conclusions reached in the course of these discussions, my Government wishes to propose:

- (1) That, in future, public aircraft of Canada or the United States which are engaged in emergency Air Search and Rescue operations, be permitted to enter or leave either country without being subject to the Immigration or Customs formalities normally required by the Government of either country, provided that the Rescue Coordination Centre involved in the search or rescue, either directly or through some person delegated by it, assumes the responsibility of informing by telephone or telegraph:
 - (a) The immigration office at the port of entry nearest to the territory over which any search or rescue is to be instituted, of the intended operation, furnishing it with details concerning the purpose of the flight; the identification markings of each aircraft; and the number of persons comprising the crew of each aircraft.
 - (b) The customs office nearest to the territory over which any search or rescue is to be instituted, of the intended operation, giving details concerning the territory to be searched; the possible duration of the stay of the aircraft; the identification markings of each aircraft; and the number of persons comprising the crew of each aircraft.
- (2) That, should a landing be made by public aircraft of one country in the territory of the other in the course of such emergency search or rescue, an oral or telephonic report shall be made to the nearest Collector of Customs so that he may assist, in any way possible, in connection with any special importation required in the search or rescue operations. This report may be made by the Rescue Coordination Centre organizing the operation, or by the pilots concerned, whichever would best serve the interests of the rescue operations involved.

/...That