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*The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa,
to the United States Minister to Canada.*

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA, March 9, 1942.

No. 21

SIR:—I have the honour to refer to your Note No. 611 dated 26th February, 1942, with regard to the further interpretation of the Rush-Bagot Agreement in the light of existing conditions and in conformity with the intent of the Agreement.

Consideration has been given to your suggestion, and I am now authorized to inform you that the Canadian Government agrees to a further interpretation of the Rush-Bagot Agreement based upon it. Accordingly, in order to permit naval vessels being constructed on the Great Lakes to combat enemy action upon their arrival in the open sea, they will be permitted to have their armament placed in complete readiness for action and all essential tests and trials of machinery and armament including the submerged operations of submarines and test firing of torpedoes and guns may be effected in Great Lakes waters.

The Canadian Government also concurs in your suggestion that this procedure should be effective only for the duration of the present hostilities.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

N. A. ROBERTSON,
*for the Secretary of State for
External Affairs*