

HW/AH

C219651

May 2nd, 1946.
TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.

In its meeting on April 29th, the Permanent Joint Board on Defence made two Recommendations which are attached. These follow closely the drafts considered earlier by Cabinet Defence Committee and by yourself. The Recommendations have been sent to Cabinet Defence Committee.

As regards the 34th Recommendation dealing with the exchange of military information, neither country desires that it be made public. When it has been approved by both Governments it will simply be put into effect and no question of publicity will arise. This Recommendation is of considerable value to the Canadian armed services since, until it is approved, they are refused access to a wide range of United States military information, particularly on research and development, which they are anxious to obtain.

It is proposed that the 35th Recommendation should be made public on an agreed date in Ottawa and Washington. I think that publication should take place under cover of a joint statement by the President and yourself, which could give a fuller and less formal explanation of the purposes than can be incorporated in the Recommendation itself. There will also be certain points not suitable for incorporation in the joint statement which ought to be made here, especially with respect to the bearing of the agreement on our own cooperation with members of the British Commonwealth.

The joint statement might play up the relationship of the Recommendation to the United Nations Charter and particularly to the first paragraph of Article 52 on regional arrangements. We must face the prospect that in some quarters both at home and abroad there will be a tendency to interpret this Recommendation as equivalent to the conclusion of a defensive alliance between the United States and Canada directed against the possibility of attack by Russia. Such an interpretation may well be placed upon it in the U.S.S.R., while