

Circular No 8, with Agenda.

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V.S.

CONFIDENTIAL
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE
Document No. 894

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~~MEMORANDUM~~

COPY NO. 13

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

RE: Canada United States Joint Defence
Projects; Disposition of United
States Properties.

Bechtel-Price Callahan Building.

The Special Commissioner for Defence Projects in Northwest Canada has advised that the Bechtel-Price-Callahan Building, Edmonton, with approximately 30,000 square feet of usable space, will be surplus to United States requirements on January 31st, 1945, and at that time must be dealt with under the procedure for appraisal set out in the 53rd Recommendation of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence recently approved by the Canadian Government and presently before the United States Government. The move from the building will actually commence December 1st, and will be progressive to the end of January.

The Bechtel-Price-Callahan Building is one of a number of United States defence projects in the Northwest. The land on which the building stands is already on lease from the City of Edmonton with an option to purchase; this lease is one of those assigned by the government of the United States to Canada.

Two proposals are before the Government in regard to the use of this building:

- (a) it has been suggested as a central Dominion Public Building, to house the various departments presently located in Edmonton; a tentative survey indicates that this would result in financial economies; there is some local opposition to such a proposal in that it is feared it would obstruct plans for a new Government building as part of the reconstruction programme,
- (b) the Minister of Veterans' Affairs has requested Cabinet War Committee approval for its use as administrative premises, in Edmonton, for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Department estimate that for the next five years a minimum of 25,000 square feet would be required; thereafter the Department's requirements would be reduced by approximately 10,000 square feet.

The building is reported to be exceedingly well constructed and suitable for either purpose.

The Joint Defence Construction Projects Panel have considered the foregoing and recommend that this building be acquired and handed over to the Department of Public Works, designated specifically for use by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and that funds for the purpose be made available from the war appropriations.

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,
Volume XVI, July - December 1944, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 16)

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