

II. COMMONWEALTH CONVERSATIONS -

Prior to the International Civil Aviation Conference in Chicago, conversations at the official level were held in Montreal between representatives of Canada, the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Newfoundland and Southern Rhodesia, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. J. Symbington of Canada. A complete report of these conversations has been filed with all the interested departments.

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(A) - Committees

Five Committees were established as follows:

(1) Committee on a multi-lateral international aviation convention -

The work of this Committee had regard only to the negotiations that subsequently took place in Chicago.

(2) Committee on Routes -

This Committee prepared a map of suggested routes covering various parts of the Commonwealth.

(3) Technical Committee -

This Committee examined technical matters of air navigation as a preliminary to the Chicago Conference.

(4) Committee on Operations -

This Committee discussed the actual methods of operation of various major trunk routes connecting countries of the Commonwealth. Canada took part only in discussions dealing with services from Canada to Australia and New Zealand. The Committee also recommended the establishment of a permanent Commonwealth Air Transport Council. Discussions in regard to this Council and in regard to trans-Pacific services were not concluded at the first Montreal meetings.

(5) Committee on operation of military routes -

This Committee recommended:

(a) that in the present abnormal situation existing military services should be retained on a military basis as long as possible to meet essential demands,

(b) that any appreciable expansion of international civil air transport services which did not directly serve the war effort, would be undesirable,