

NOTE OF NOVEMBER 2, 1940

*From the United States Minister to Canada,  
To the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.*

OTTAWA, November 2, 1940.

MY DEAR DR. SKELTON:

I have received your letter of October 30, 1940, in which, after referring to Mr. Roper's letter to you of June 9, 1939, and to your reply to him of June 10, 1939, concerning certain questions regarding the interpretation of the Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817, you comment on the previous practice in this regard, in the light of modern conditions of naval construction, and make the suggestion that a further interpretation of the Rush-Bagot Agreement might be made in conformity with the intent of the Agreement that important naval vessels should not be built for service on the Great Lakes. This would involve recognition that armament might be installed on naval vessels constructed on the Great Lakes provided that:—

- (a) The vessels are not intended for service on the Great Lakes;
- (b) Prior to commencement of construction, each Government furnish the other with full information concerning any vessel to be constructed at Great Lakes ports;
- (c) The armaments of the vessels are placed in such condition as to be incapable of immediate use while the vessels remain in the Great Lakes; and
- (d) The vessels are promptly removed from the Great Lakes upon completion.

In reply, I am authorized to inform you that the United States Government agrees to this further interpretation of the Rush-Bagot Agreement.

Sincerely yours,

PIERREPONT MOFFAT.

Dr. O. D. SKELTON,  
Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
Ottawa, Canada.

