

HHW/ET
31 August, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

W.W. Combined Production Resources Board C243625 ✓

Mr. Heeney and I had a short talk this morning with Sir Robert Sinclair, who, as you know, represents Mr. Oliver Lyttleton on the Combined Production and Resources Board. We discussed with him the relationship of Canada to this Board. He had heard in Washington of the proposal made by Mr. Nelson that the United Kingdom - United States Board should be matched by a two-man United States - Canadian Board. He felt very strongly that this would not meet the case. It is necessary, in his view, to have as great a concentration of responsibility as possible, and a separate top level Board would be a delaying factor in reaching decisions.

He said that he was ready to propose to Mr. Lyttleton that a Canadian member (who would be Mr. Howe) should be added to the U.K. - U.S. Board. He remarked that this might be done if we thought it important for political reasons. Canadians were already working at the planning level with the U.S. and U.K. representatives, and it would be in fact comparatively easy to integrate with the machinery of the Combined Board the technical subcommittees of the Joint War Production Committee. He asked that we should make no move concerning Canadian membership on the Board itself until he had had an opportunity to make his recommendations to Mr. Lyttleton, which he proposed to do on his return to Washington.

I mentioned to him that I had been rather surprised to note from Dominions Office Circular telegram D.384 of August 29th how large was the territory which was being taken in by the Production and Resources Board, inasmuch as their functions were now envisaged as embracing the requirements in production of non-munition supplies both civilian and military. He answered that the situation had been reached in the producing countries in which the distinction between civilian and military supplies had largely broken down, and it was necessary for the Board to look at the whole production picture.

He was familiar with the position respecting the Munitions Assignments Board, and expressed the hope that we