

*Circular with agenda*

C-10-3-D

**SECRET**  
**MEMORANDUM**

*July 11<sup>th</sup>*  
*D-17-2*  
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**CABINET WAR COMMITTEE**

**SECRET**  
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE  
Document No *P21*

**MACKENZIE RIVER AIR ROUTE**  
**UNITED STATES ABANDONMENT OF AIRFIELDS**

*67M.13*

The United States, in March of this year, gave notice of their intention to abandon airfields on the Mackenzie River route at Mallurray, Embarras, Fort Smith, Resolution, Bay River, Providence, and Mills Lake, abandonment to be completed by October 1st; and the War Committee, acting on the recommendation of the Department of Mines and Resources, the Post Office Department, and the Air Transport Policy Committee, agreed that these airfields be maintained as essential to northern development. Responsibility for maintenance was assigned to the Department of Transport.

The Special Commissioner for Defence Projects in Northwest Canada has now been advised by the Commanding Officer, Northwest Service Command (U.S.A.) that the United States propose to abandon as of November 1st the remaining airfields on the Mackenzie River route, viz. Fort Simpson, Fort Wrigley, Norman Wells, and Canol. In this regard the Commanding Officer, Northwest Service Command, states that the proposed schedule of operations indicates that by November 1st the requirements for air transportation for the Canol project will have been reduced to the extent that such requirements can be readily handled by the commercial facilities now available.

The departments concerned have been consulted in regard to the abandonment of the airfields mentioned in the second paragraph hereof and, in accordance with the views of these departments and the policy previously established by War Committee, the following recommendations are submitted:

- (a) that the Department of Transport be authorized to assume control of and maintain the airfields at Fort Simpson, Fort Wrigley, Norman Wells, and Canol;
- (b) that the Department of Transport be authorized to acquire maintenance equipment required at these airfields;
- (c) that funds required by the Department of Transport for this purpose be supplied from War Appropriations;
- (d) that the Department of National Defence for Air co-operate with the Department of Transport by the provision of air transport as required particularly during the taking over period.

*Encryption Extraordinary*  
A.D.P. Heeney

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee,  
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