

MINUTE SHEET.

Reference 2074/95/40

Mr. Butler:

You may like to inform Mr. Welles tomorrow as regards bases that

2391/-/40

(1) The discussions between ourselves and the Navy Department on the one hand and London and Newfoundland on the other regarding the letter to be exchanged between you and Colonel Knox so as to enable work to be begun in Newfoundland forthwith are going along quite satisfactorily and subject to the settlement of a few minor details it ought to be possible to send in the letter quite soon.

(2) All the other Colonial Governments have now indicated that they agree to work being begun on the bases as soon as agreement is reached regarding the actual sites. Once therefore these sites have been agreed upon it should not be long before work can be begun - except perhaps in the case of Antigua where owing to the labour situation, we are anxious that if possible work should not start till next June.

(3) Bermuda. The difference of opinion over the site in Bermuda now seems to have been largely settled.

(4) Perhaps too you might ask Mr. Welles what form he thinks the final agreement should take - i.e. a treaty which would have to be submitted to the Senate, or some other document which would not require such submission. I asked Mr. Foster to put this point to the legal advisers at the Navy Department but from his minute it is not clear whether he did so. In any case it is really more a matter for the State Department than the Navy Department and Mr. Welles' views on the subject would be useful.

J

November 1st, 1940

FRHM:DH

See Mr Butler's
minute
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