Mr. Butler

I take this to mean that all formal communications regarding the bases should now be addressed by us to the State Department - which is obviously the more correct procedure - but that it does not mean that technical discussions such as will be necessary to settle the final details about Bermuda, St. Lucia, etc. should not take place between Admiral Pott and the Navy Department. Perhaps, however, you could mention this to Mr. Welles and ask him if he can confirm this understanding. If he does, then presumably the letter, which is explained in my other minute of today, which we are contemplating sending to Colonel Knox should go to Mr. Welles.

It would, too, be useful to know whether the legal questions arising out of the matter of the transfer of privately owned property should be discussed with the S.D. or the Navy Department.

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November 18th, 1940.

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