

Base: Trinidad 2389/12/40

2

October 15th, 1940.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

With reference to our telephone conversation this evening, I enclose the Aide Mémoire which I promised should be on your desk at nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Yours very sincerely,

(SGD) N.M. BETLER

The Honourable

Colonel F. W. Knox,

Secretary of the Navy,

Washington, D. C.

NMB:CL

AIDE MEMOIRE

Owing to certain inconveniences that have been found in the American proposals for naval and air bases in Trinidad they are not altogether acceptable in their present form, and the Governor is anxious to be able to discuss with the American Naval Mission alternative proposals, some of which would be of temporary character intended to enable certain preliminary measures of urgency to be taken without delay. Admiral Greenslade is understood to have said that his instructions do not allow him to consider the possibility of a temporary agreement.

It seems clearly advantageous that the Mission should be empowered to discuss the Governor's alternative proposals, as this would in all probability render it unnecessary for the Mission to pay a return visit in the near future, as in the case of Bermuda, should it be found impossible to agree to the United States present proposals.

The meeting between the American Naval Mission and the Governor takes place tomorrow, and it is hoped that urgent instructions may be sent by signal to Admiral Greenslade authorizing him to discuss at the meeting the Governor's alternative suggestions.

NMB:CL

BRITISH EMBASSY,
 WASHINGTON, D. C.
 October 15th, 1940.