

1 November 1945

Secretary Patterson sent a letter to Secretary Byrnes strongly urging that the State Department undertake a thorough examination of the international phases of atomic energy in preparation for the Attlee conference. He mentioned particularly the problem of the war-time Quebec Agreement and its relation to the post-war situation. While stating that this was a State Department matter, he offered the assistance of the War Department in pulling the facts together.

Following up this letter, Secretary Patterson had an hour's conference with Secretary Byrnes this afternoon, during which he reiterated his view that there should be prompt and thorough preparation for Attlee's visit. Secretary Byrnes was non-committal.

2 November 1945

Late this afternoon when he was discussing with Dr. Bush the forthcoming conference with the British and the Canadians, Secretary Patterson called in Lt. Arneson and asked him to prepare a study of the current situation under the Quebec and Combined Development Trust Agreements and a tentative set of U. S. proposals for discussion. It was agreed that the proposals should follow the lines of Secretary Stimson's memorandum of September 11, and Secretary Patterson's of September 26 and should outline the

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several stages of negotiations, viz.: revision of agreements with the British and the Canadians, approach to Russia, and finally an approach to the UNO. It was agreed further that Dr. Bush's memorandum to the President of September 25, which went into some detail, should be used as a guide in the preparation of the study. Secretary Patterson remarked that while the study might never see the light of day, it should be ready in the event it was called for. Even though it might not be wanted by ^{Secretary} Byrnes it would, in any event, serve to jell Secretary Patterson's thinking on the subject.

7 November 1945

Lt. Arneson's study was given to Secretary Patterson this morning. It consisted of two volumes: Volume I, Part A, analysed the current situation vis-a-vis the British and Canadians and action taken under the Quebec and GDT agreements; Volume I, Part B, outlined the U. S. position that might be taken as a basis for discussion in carrying through the negotiations in several stages; and Volume II was a compilation of the basic documents supporting the recital of Volume I, Part A. The U. S. proposals were admittedly tentative and were put forward merely as a point of departure for further consideration by the Secretary and his advisers.

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