

# NAVAL FORCES ON GREAT LAKES: INTERPRETATION OF RUSH-BAGOT AGREEMENT

*Exchange of notes at Washington November 18 and December 6, 1946  
Entered into force December 6, 1946*

61 Stat. 4082; Treaties and Other  
International Acts Series 1836

*The Canadian Ambassador to the Acting Secretary of State*

CANADIAN EMBASSY  
AMBASSADE DU CANADA

No. 421

NOVEMBER 18, 1946

SIR,

You will recall that the Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817<sup>1</sup> has been the subject of discussion between our Governments on several occasions in recent years and that notes were exchanged in 1939,<sup>2</sup> 1940<sup>3</sup> and 1942<sup>4</sup> relating to the application and interpretation of this Agreement. It has been recognized by both our Governments that the detailed provisions of the Rush-Bagot Agreement are not applicable to present-day conditions, but that as a symbol of friendly relations extending over a period of nearly one hundred and thirty years the Agreement possesses great historic importance. It is thus the spirit of the Agreement rather than its detailed provisions which serves to guide our Governments in matters relating to naval forces on the Great Lakes.

Discussions have taken place in the Permanent Joint Board on Defence with regard to the stationing on the Great Lakes of naval vessels for the purpose of training naval reserve personnel. The naval authorities of both our Governments regard such a course as valuable from the point of view of naval training and the Board has recorded its opinion that such action would be consistent with the spirit of existing agreements. The Canadian Government concurs in this opinion.

In order that the views of our two Governments may be placed on record, I have the honour to propose that the stationing of naval vessels on the Great

<sup>1</sup> TS 110½, *post*, UNITED KINGDOM.

<sup>2</sup> TIAS 1836, *ante*, p. 149.

<sup>3</sup> TIAS 1836, *ante*, p. 196.

<sup>4</sup> TIAS 1836, *ante*, p. 255.