

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

Exchange of notes at Ottawa October 30 and November 2, 1940
Entered into force November 2, 1940

61 Stat. 4077; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1836

The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to the American Minister

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANADA

OTTAWA, *October 30, 1940*

MY DEAR MR. MOFFAT:

May I refer to your predecessor's letter of June 9, 1939, and to my letter to Mr. Roper of the 10th June of the same year¹ concerning certain questions raised by the United States Navy Department regarding the Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817.²

2. At that time it was recognized that there were certain measures which were mutually considered to be practically necessary or desirable and, at the same time, to be consistent with the underlying objective of the Rush-Bagot Agreement, though not strictly consistent with its technical scheme or definitions. In various instances of this character which had occurred in the past, the two Governments had concurred and made appropriate dispositions by means of correspondence. It was also agreed that such a procedure, which appeared to be essentially inherent in the underlying spirit and objective of the Agreement, should be pursued as regards any new practical measures, concerning naval vessels on the Great Lakes, which might be contemplated.

3. Certain special questions including "number and size of the vessels", "disposition of the vessels", "functions of the vessels", and "armaments" were discussed and dealt with in the correspondence. A further particular ques-

¹ TIAS 1836, *ante*, p. 149.

² TS 110½, *post*, UNITED KINGDOM.