

obtain if possible information concerning certain aspects of the defence of Newfoundland.

2. The conversation, which both sides understood to be wholly of an informal and exploratory nature, was held on April 12, 1938, at the Canadian Naval Service Headquarters.

3. The Canadian officers mentioned specially two aspects of the problem of Newfoundland defence as being of particular concern from their point of view in relation to the defence of Canada: (a) the danger of enemy air, surface or submarine raiders establishing bases on the Newfoundland and Labrador coasts to operate against Canadian shipping in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off the East coast; and (b) the danger of the interruption of iron ore shipments from Newfoundland to the steel works at Sydney, N.S.

4. Captain Schwerdt pointed out in reply that the problem of the defence of Newfoundland now rested entirely in the hands of the Government of the United Kingdom, so that information in that regard should properly be sought from that Government.

5. Accordingly the Canadian Government wish to inquire whether the United Kingdom Government are in a position to state, for the information of the Canadian Government, what measures, naval and air, for the defence of Newfoundland are contemplated in the event of war.

I have etc.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING

15.

NPA S-4-2-1

Mémorandum du président du comité de défense¹ à la commission pour Terre-Neuve

Memorandum from Chairman of Defence Committee¹ to Commission of Government of Newfoundland

[St. John's,] September 26, 1938

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND DEFENCE SCHEME

The following statement has been prepared for the information and approval of the Commission of Government:

3. (e) . . .

(iii) During the discussions which took place in Ottawa in April this year the Canadian authorities mentioned that it was probable that

¹ Formé en janvier 1938, le Comité de la défense succédait au comité qui avait rédigé le plan de défense de 1936. Le commissaire aux Affaires intérieures (alors responsable de la défense) en assumait la présidence. Le secrétaire était, comme auparavant, le secrétaire à la Justice. Tous deux étaient des Terre-Neuviens.

¹ The Defence Committee formed in January, 1938 to succeed the committee which drew up the 1936 Defence Scheme. Its Chairman was the Commissioner for Home Affairs (then responsible for Defence) and its Secretary, as previously, was the Secretary for Justice; both were Newfoundlanders.