

of the country in order to permit the release of Canadian forces for service in other areas?

Mr. Biggar's memorandum had been circulated to members of the War Committee.

(See Mr. Biggar's memorandum of October 18th, 1941<sup>1</sup>, re Newfoundland.)

21. THE PRIME MINISTER said that, in recent conversations with him, the Governor of Newfoundland had expressed the view that Canada should assert her interests in Newfoundland *vis-à-vis* the United States.

Canada should recognize her continuing intimate interest and concern in Newfoundland which constituted a vital link with Britain. The Canadian members of the Board should be instructed that Canadian responsibility in regard to the Island is accepted by the government.

22. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE referred to the financial implications of Canadian policy in Newfoundland. Before further commitments were made, a statement of existing U.S. and Canadian commitments should be prepared and examined.

23. THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR NAVAL SERVICES pointed out that U.S. expenditures in the Island were on a very large scale.

Canada should be able to retain her own position and, at the same time, to co-operate fully with the United States. It should be possible, for example in respect of the Torbay aerodrome, to get over the legal difficulty which was held to prevent U.S. government expenditures where the United States had no title.

24. THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS pointed out that, while the vital nature of the Canadian interest in Newfoundland was clearly understood by the Canadian government, it was probably not sufficiently appreciated by the other parties concerned, namely, the United Kingdom, the United States and Newfoundland itself. Newfoundlanders were apprehensive, both as regards Canada and the United States.

25. MR. KING suggested that the possibility of extending U.S. assistance under the lease-lend law might be explored.

26. After further discussion, the War Committee agreed:

- (a) That the defence of Newfoundland was an integral part of the defence of Canada, and that, in agreeing to dispositions for the defence of the Island, it should be assumed that, after the war, Newfoundland would continue to be a primary Canadian interest;
- (b) That the possibilities of having the U.S. government undertake expenditures in connection with Newfoundland defence, without taking title to the property involved, and by the extension of the provisions of the lease-lend law, should be explored.

The Secretary was directed to advise the Chairman of the Canadian Section of the Board of these decisions.

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<sup>1</sup> Voir la pièce jointe au document 104.

<sup>1</sup> See Enclosure to Document 104.