

81.

NPA GN1/3 320/35

Le secrétaire aux Dominions au gouverneur de Terre-Neuve
Dominions Secretary to Governor of Newfoundland

TELEGRAM 374

[London,] June 5, 1940

IMPORTANT. SECRET. Addressed to Governor of Newfoundland No. 374, repeated to High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, Ottawa No. 1143, secret. Your telegram No. 298 of May 26th. We agree that from point of view of defence of Newfoundland it would be desirable that Canadian Air Units should be able to operate from bases in Newfoundland. If this would be facilitated by handing to Canada for period of the war the responsibility for control and maintenance of the Newfoundland Air Bases we should be prepared in present circumstances to agree in principle to such an arrangement and would have no objection to this suggestion being discussed at proposed meeting with Canadian representatives.

If it is found, as indicated by Canadian Minister of Transport, that Canadian Government are prepared to take over full responsibility for both Botwood and Hatties Camp, certain financial questions would arise. We do not wish at this stage to lay down precise and absolute conditions but we should hope that you will be able to secure an arrangement under which Canada would pay for maintenance costs as well as cost of wireless facilities. The Air Ministry would in any case wish to stipulate that no alterations should be made to existing lay out, that any damage would be repaired, and that Air Ports should be handed back on a definite date.

We recognize that if Canadian Government desire to take over Air Ports on some reasonable basis prompt action is important and we should not wish delay to be caused by discussion of financial details. You will no doubt however report position at once if any proposals which you would regard as acceptable to United Kingdom [are made] in the course of discussions with Canadian representatives so that we may have an opportunity of making any comments before definite action is taken. Important thing is however that as stated above discussions should not delay early action by Canadian Government to take over Air Ports assuming they agree to do so.

82.

NPA S-5-5-2

Le gouverneur de Terre-Neuve au secrétaire aux Dominions
Governor of Newfoundland to Dominions Secretary

TELEGRAM 324

[St. John's,] June 6, 1940

IMPORTANT. SECRET. Addressed to Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs No. 324, repeated to High Commissioner for United Kingdom, Ottawa, No. [?], Secret. Your telegram No. 374 Secret of 5th June. This morning