

come from the United Kingdom or from Canada and would like this uncertainty to be resolved. We could then discuss in the light of the above outline the extent to which assistance will be forthcoming and the risks which we are asked to take.

We would appreciate your views at an early date.

70.

1156-D-39

*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au haut commissaire de Grande-Bretagne*
*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to High Commissioner of Great Britain*

URGENT. SECRET

Ottawa, April 10, 1940

Dear Sir Gerald,

May I refer to your letter, dated the 26th March, 1940, addressed to the Prime Minister, on the subject of the defence of Bell Island in Conception Bay.

In so far as the military, as distinct from the air force, aspect of the questions are concerned, it is agreed that the necessary discussions should take place in St. John's, Newfoundland.

To this end, and also to select the actual sites of the guns and lights it is proposed to install arrangements have been made for Colonel C.S. Craig, D.S.O., M.C., and Captain N.J.W. Smith, R.C.E., to proceed to St. John's by the boat due to leave from Sydney on Sunday next (April 14th); and I should be grateful if you would communicate this information to the Newfoundland authorities.

In the meantime, the manufacture of the two extemporized coast defence mountings which will be required for the 4.7-inch guns, will be put in hand forthwith.

With regard to your reference to the training of some eight or ten men of the Newfoundland militia, at Halifax, the District Officer Commanding Military District No. 6 has been advised that this proposal has been approved and that he is to authorize Colonel Craig to make such arrangements, as may be necessary to this end, direct with the Newfoundland authorities. In his discussions under this head, Colonel Craig will be informed that the Commission of Government of Newfoundland will be asked to meet only the actual expenditures incurred in this connection, that is to say the pay of the men, transportation charges and the cost of the maintenance and sustenance. No charge will be made for tuition fees and expenditures of that sort.

The questions arising out of the Air Defence of Newfoundland will be dealt with separately by a later communication.

Yours sincerely,

[O.D. SKELTON]