

of a little fish, a little meat, and some vegetables, which are locally produced, the food of the population is imported and paid for in cash. The dislocation, therefore, of the Island's trade by enemy interference might produce conditions of famine and despair, which would be very embarrassing to the responsible authorities.

Summary

48. To summarize, therefore, the reasons for undertaking the defence of the Island are as follows:

- (i) The strategic and political value of the Island both to the Empire and to Canada.
- (ii) Its possible importance as a refuge port.
- (iii) Its importance as the centre of cable communications.
- (iv) Its potential importance as a source of iron-ore.
- (v) General reasons of patriotism and Imperial solidarity.

(C)—SCALE AND FORM OF ATTACK

- (i) *Strategic and other Considerations covering the Probable Nature of Attack by Sea, Land and Air*

Strategic Considerations

49. The strategic considerations are outlined in Section (B) of this Chapter.

Other Considerations

52. *Air*—The distance of the Island from all possible centres of aggression is such that hostile bombing operations from a land base could not in the present state of the science be carried out, nor would the value of any military objectives in the Island warrant the employment of aircraft on any but the smallest scale. It is highly improbable that ships carrying any number of aircraft would have occasion to be in the neighbourhood of the Island.

53. *Supplies*—Newfoundland is largely dependent on Canada and the United States for food supplies, and upon the trade in salt fish with the Mediterranean countries, the West Indies and South America, the trade in newsprint paper with the United States and Great Britain, and the trade in iron-ore with Germany, for the cash wherewith to purchase those supplies. In the event of interruption of the Island's trade, therefore, it would be necessary to take emergency measures for the provisioning of the population. A list of necessary commodities is annexed (see Chapter VI, Section 24, and the Annex thereto.)¹

It is possible that the programme of agricultural development now envisaged by the Commission of Government may within a considerable number of years make the Island more nearly self-supporting in the matter of food supplies. It is, however, definitely not so self-supporting at present, and that by a large margin.

¹Non reproduite.

¹Not printed.