

But what impresses us even more is the difficulty of taking up this awkward and obviously somewhat explosive subject just at a time when the machinery for the determination of the future form of Government is about to be set in train. I gather that there is as yet no pressure from Canada, and our view accordingly is that the commission would be well advised to find ways and means of stalling on this matter, as indeed they are fully entitled to do when the length of their own tenure of office must in present circumstances necessarily be uncertain.

Yours etc.

P. A. CLUTTERBUCK

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*Le secrétaire d'État suppléant aux Affaires extérieures
au haut commissaire à Terre-Neuve*

*Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs
to High Commissioner in Newfoundland*

DESPATCH 105

Ottawa, May 14, 1946

Sir,

The granting of mining leases in adjoining areas of Labrador and Canada has raised the problem of the location of the boundary line. The Canadian authorities concerned feel it essential for purposes of clarifying jurisdiction that the boundary, at least in some areas, should be determined on the ground with some degree of definiteness in the near future. In particular they consider that surveying of the boundary in the area north of latitude 54 degrees and west of longitude 66 degrees, as shown approximately on the attached map,¹ entitled "Dyke Lake Sheet", should be begun this summer.

2. A survey of the boundary should include vertical photography and mapping of a strip adjacent to the height of land, ground control surveys, establishment, survey and monumenting of the boundary on the ground. The first two of the above operations, vertical photography and mapping of a strip, are essential preliminaries which could readily be undertaken at any time. The Canadian Government is prepared to carry out vertical photography this summer on the strip of country on both sides of the boundary in the above area if satisfactory arrangements can be made with the Commission of Government.

3. The normal practice in surveying boundaries between countries is a joint survey, either by a single party or by separate parties, the two countries sharing the cost. If the Newfoundland Government would not be prepared to participate in a joint survey the Canadian Government might be prepared to undertake the survey alone provided Newfoundland were prepared to assume its share of the cost.

¹ Non reproduite.

¹ Not printed.