

another responsible for the defence of Botwood and Newfoundland Airport, and its approaches. It was important to provide what the United States regarded as adequate military protection for air personnel at the Airport.

24. MAJOR-GENERAL CRERAR said that the protection of the Airport had been the subject of joint reconnaissance by Canadian and U.S. officers. Both had come to the conclusion that further troops were required, and it was feared that if Canada were not prepared to provide them, the United States would send forces of their own. This would be unfortunate in view of Canadian policy with regard to the island's defence. Air personnel at the Airport would be approximately 3,400¹ U.S. Air Corps, 500 R.C.A.F., 600 civilian ferry service personnel, as well as construction personnel.

If the recommendation to despatch an additional Canadian infantry unit were approved, it was proposed to use an already mobilized battalion without, for the present, mobilizing another unit to replace it.

25. MR. KING agreed that all steps necessary should be taken to keep Newfoundland within the Canadian orbit. In the circumstances described, a further Canadian infantry battalion for the protection of the airport should be provided.

26. The Committee, thereupon, approved the employment of a further Canadian infantry battalion in Newfoundland, as recommended.

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Procès-verbal d'une réunion du Comité de guerre du Cabinet
Minutes of a Meeting of Cabinet War Committee

SECRET

Ottawa, October 29, 1941

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CANADIAN POLICY WITH REGARD TO NEWFOUNDLAND

20. THE SECRETARY reported that the Chairman of the Canadian Section of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence had submitted to the Prime Minister a memorandum regarding the policy to be pursued in relation to Newfoundland.

In his covering letter to Mr. King, Mr. Biggar had observed that certain of the decisions taken in regard to Newfoundland and referred to in the memorandum were, in some degree, inconsistent with others. It would be of assistance to Canadian members of the Board if the general principle which would govern were to be as specifically defined as circumstances permitted. The specific enquiry for direction was formulated by Mr. Biggar as follows:

Is it desirable that Newfoundland, outside the United States leased bases, should for the purposes of defence be treated so far as possible as a part of Canada, or should the United States be encouraged to assume responsibility for the defence

¹ Le nombre réel du personnel américain à Gander n'atteignit jamais plus qu'une fraction de ce nombre.

¹ The actual number of United States personnel at Gander never reached more than a fraction of this figure.