

of aircraft in the Nova Scotia peninsula and Saint John, N.B. It is being represented to the Government that the proper patrolling of the Gulf of St. Lawrence inevitably involves the patrolling of the much indented Newfoundland coast. It would therefore be entirely natural, assuming that Canada was with us in a European war, for the Canadian Air Force to ask for such aviation facilities as exist in Newfoundland, i.e., a situation for their own purpose, the defence of Canada and Canadian waters.

This is the sort of way in which, as you will realise, the Department of National Defence here must approach the problem, but so far as we can see it suits our own purposes well and the Canadian Government have as you know already expressed concern not only at the possibility of enemy bases being established on the Newfoundland and Labrador coasts, but also at the possible interruption of the present heavy shipments of iron ore (from Bell Island in Conception Bay) required for the steel works at Sydney, N.S. I think that we may therefore take it that the whole of Newfoundland would be regarded as a Canadian defence "commitment" in the technical sense and that plans will be made accordingly.

I imagine that you will agree that this is as far as we can take the matter at present but naturally at a later stage, if the Canadian Government have not reverted to the correspondence officially, we should be able to enquire at least informally how their minds are working on the basis of what was conveyed to them in the despatch of the 21st October.

Yours ever,

GERALD CAMPBELL

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*Le conseiller au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*  
*Counsellor to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

[Ottawa,] November 26, 1938

Dr. Skelton,

Herewith is Croil's "Liaison Letter" to London of Nov. 23,<sup>1</sup> which National Defence have now asked to be returned to them for some reason I do not know.

Before it goes back I suggest you read paragraph 4—at page 3 re defence of Newfoundland as part of our East Coast defence.

The D.O. reply—No. 323 of Oct. 21/38—shows quite clearly that the U.K. are not going to make any special preparations for the defence of Nfld. as such. Their interest is protection of trade routes for their own supplies. Their position as shown in this despatch is entirely intelligible and entirely in line with their main defence policy defined by Mr. Chamberlain last March. (See my memos. of June 16/38<sup>2</sup> and June 24/38<sup>2</sup>.)

<sup>1</sup> Non reproduite  
<sup>2</sup> Non reproduit.

<sup>1</sup> Not printed.  
<sup>2</sup> Not printed.