

As regards Botwood it is intended if circumstances permit to resume weekly trans-Atlantic services with flying boats next summer, and it is understood that United States will wish to resume their regular service to Newfoundland with flying boats. It would appear probable therefore that air base facilities in Newfoundland will be required to a substantial extent in near future for civil aviation.

As regards financial position we appreciate advantage of a saving in maintenance costs but having regard to large contribution which Air Ministry have undertaken to make towards construction of the bases they feel that disadvantages of relinquishment of control far outweigh advantage of this saving moreover there will be some considerable return for maintenance expenditure in way of use of facilities by civil aircraft.

In the circumstances it is considered it would be best not to raise matter with the Canadian Government, if they should make request for use of airports we should be ready to consider possibility.

Question of utilising the air base facilities in Newfoundland directly or indirectly in connection with Empire air training scheme will be considered in examination of position of Newfoundland in relation to that scheme which as stated in my telegram No. 393 of October 31st¹ is being undertaken but it is not possible at present to say what will be result.

52.

722-39

Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au gouverneur de Terre-Neuve

Secretary of State for External Affairs to Governor of Newfoundland

SECRET

Ottawa, November 20, 1939

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that a new scheme for the control of navigational lights in war time has just been put into operation on the east coast of Canada. Under such scheme such lights can be extinguished and fog signals and radio beacons discontinued on all or any sections of the Coast at short notice for any required length of time.

Although the lights maintained by Canada on the West and South coasts of Newfoundland have been brought into this organization, the Defence authorities here consider it desirable that the scheme be made complete by making arrangements to have the Lights maintained by the Newfoundland Government also brought under this control. It is therefore requested that consideration be given to the possibility of instituting an organization for the extinguishing of the main navigational lights maintained by the Newfoundland

¹ Non reproduit.¹ Not printed.