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NPA S-4-1-1

*Mémorandum du commissaire à la Justice à la commission pour Terre-Neuve*  
*Memorandum from Commissioner for Justice to Commission of Government*  
*of Newfoundland*

J. 58-39

[St. John's,] October 2, 1939

CONFIDENTIAL

I annex hereto the report of the Secretary for Justice upon his recent visit to Canada in connection with equipment for the Newfoundland Defence Force.

He seems to have had a good reception and to have covered the ground very fully and to have obtained pretty well everything that we want, subject only to such delays as are inevitable in the circumstances.

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[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*Mémorandum du secrétaire à la Justice**Memorandum by Secretary for Justice*

SECRET

[St. John's,] September 30, 1939

REPORT UPON ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR  
 THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEWFOUNDLAND DEFENCE FORCE

I arrived at Ottawa on Sunday night, September 17th, and on Monday morning proceeded to the British High Commissioner's office at Earncliffe where I saw Mr. Paul Mason, Chief Secretary, who took me in to see the High Commissioner, Sir Gerald Campbell. We compared notes as to the communications which had passed heretofore and they recommended approach to the Government through the Department of External Affairs. They, accordingly, rang up Dr. O. D. Skelton, Under-Secretary of State for that Department, and made an appointment, and I went over to see him. He made an appointment, forthwith, for me to see Colonel D. E. Dewar, Director of Clothing, Equipment and Manufacturing Establishments.

I went into the situation fully with Col. Dewar, who was most kind and helpful and spent a very considerable time with me on both Monday and Tuesday, examining our requirements, making suggestions as to our needs and explaining the situation as to supply.

I may summarize at this stage by saying that while perhaps the needs of the National Defence Department are more clearly defined than those of most departments, both they and every department with which I dealt are, admittedly, in a state of furious improvisation. Owing to the political situation, it had not been possible to deal with or mention war matters until the last moment. I heard that many militia units had been called up, and were doing