

who must be "regarded as practically unarmed for purposes of modern warfare." In view of the weighty reasons for undertaking the defence of Newfoundland, which are clearly stated in Chapter I, Section (B), this is a state of affairs which gives the Committee serious concern.

8. It is a fundamental principle of Imperial Defence that each part of the Empire should take such steps as are within its capacity to provide for its own local defence. It appears from Chapter II, paragraph 3, that the personnel to form a local volunteer defence force 1,000 to 2,500 strong is readily available, but that no steps have been taken to provide the necessary equipment or to organise and train this manpower.

9. It is clear that without equipment, training or organisation, the part which such volunteers could play in the defence of the Island would be of small account. To postpone the raising of a defence force until a state of emergency actually arises might be to risk the whole security of the country and of the important communications which pass through it.

10. An additional reason for maintaining a local defence force is the need for having available at all times an armed and disciplined body to support the civil power in emergency in the preservation of law and order.

11. The necessity for maintaining local forces, both for defence against external aggression and for the maintenance of civil authority in case of internal disorder, has been referred to in various Memoranda of the Oversea Defence Committee (*vide* O.D.C. Memoranda Nos. 537-M¹, 618-M¹ and 667-M¹). Their value for both purposes has been clearly shown in the past on many occasions and in many places. No part of the Empire can be considered immune from the danger of such emergencies arising.

12. The Committee understand that a branch of the Royal Naval Reserve existed in Newfoundland before the war, and that the question of reviving this force or, alternatively, of forming a local branch of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, is now being examined by the Government of Newfoundland. For the reasons given the Committee would welcome any steps that it might be found practicable to take to organise a local force.

5.

NPA GN1/3 320/35

*Le sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Dominions au gouverneur
de Terre-Neuve*

*Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Dominions to Governor
of Newfoundland*

SECRET

[London,] January 21, 1938

My dear Governor,

Sir Francis Floud, the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Canada, has recently raised the question of the supply to the Canadian Government of a copy of the Newfoundland Defence Scheme.

¹ Non reproduct.¹ Not printed.