

6. *SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL RESPECTING CERTAIN TERRITORIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND LEASED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE UNITED STATES SIGNED IN LONDON ON MARCH 27, 1941. PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT, MARCH 27, 1941.*

I have referred from time to time to the fact that since the outbreak of the war Canada has been contributing to the defence of Newfoundland. This has been done in consultation and co-operation with the United Kingdom and Newfoundland. Its purpose has been that of assistance in the common cause, and our own immediate and direct protection.

The defence of Newfoundland has also been a subject of consideration by the permanent joint board on defence, which has made certain specific recommendations to the governments of Canada and the United States following meetings in which representatives of the government of Newfoundland participated.

It will be recalled that under the terms of the agreement reached between the United Kingdom and the United States, and announced on September 3 last, the United States was given the right to establish defence facilities in Newfoundland.

During recent weeks, representatives of these two governments have been meeting in London for the purpose of preparing a formal agreement setting forth the conditions upon which the United States is to enjoy possession for ninety-nine years of certain leased areas in Newfoundland and in certain British colonial possessions in this hemisphere. Except as they affect the situation in Newfoundland, the Canadian government has not a direct interest in the terms of this agreement. In view, however, of the responsibilities which Canada has accepted in Newfoundland, we have kept closely in touch with the London discussions. At Canada's suggestion the general agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States has been supplemented by a protocol of which Canada is also a signatory, and which clarifies the rather complicated situation in Newfoundland.

The general agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States was made public to-day. In the supplementary protocol to which I have referred the signatories recognize that the defence of Newfoundland is an integral feature of the Canadian scheme of defence, and as such is a matter of special concern to the Canadian government, which has, in fact, already assumed certain responsibilities for such defence.

In view of this fact it has been agreed that in all powers which may be exercised and in such actions as may be taken under the leased bases agreement in respect of Newfoundland, Canadian interests in regard to defence will be fully respected.