

50.

NPA S-5-5-2

Le gouverneur de Terre-Neuve au secrétaire aux Dominions
Governor of Newfoundland to Dominions Secretary

TELEGRAM 367

[St. John's,] October 31, 1939

SECRET. My telegram No. 288 Secret. We should be glad to know if there is any likelihood of the adoption of our suggestion for temporary transfer to Canada of Newfoundland Airport and Botwood Seaplane base. We are deferring decision on estimate of annual cost of maintenance and operation pending some reply to telegram referred to.

51.

NPA S-5-5-2

Le secrétaire aux Dominions au gouverneur de Terre-Neuve
Dominions Secretary to Governor of Newfoundland

TELEGRAM 408

[London,] November 6, 1939

SECRET. Questions raised in your telegram of September 15th No. 288 with regard to use of Newfoundland airport¹ and seaplane base have been carefully considered. While there can be no reason why Royal Canadian Air Force should not have fullest use of facilities available in Newfoundland, on suitable terms for duration of the war if any request to this effect should be put forward by Canadian Government, it is felt there are strong reasons against handing over airports to Royal Canadian Air Force. Newfoundland is destined to play an important part in objective [sic] trans-Atlantic services and it is considered it would be undesirable to allow these airports, which are such an important factor in our bargaining position vis-à-vis Pan-American Airways and United States, to pass out of our control even temporarily.

It had been hoped to use aerodrome Hattie's Camp¹ for trans-Atlantic services with projected new type of land plane in 1941. Owing to war the construction of these aircraft has been dropped and it is not yet possible to say when aerodrome is likely to be required for a regular service. It is however known that Pan-American Airways are contemplating use of land aircraft in 1940 or 1941. Moreover as you know Air Ministry particularly desire to do some experimental work during forthcoming winter in regard to packing or removal of snow and they have two Harrow machines at Hattie's Camp it is proposed to use for test flights in this connection.

¹ L'aéroport de Gander.

¹ Gander Airport.