

2. 300 revolvers of .38 calibre with holsters, cleaning apparatus and ammunition pouches.

3. 18 Lewis guns with any necessary equipment for field use and 200,000 rounds of .303 ammunition.

The Newfoundland Government are not at present sure of what major equipment they may require.

The High Commissioner will be grateful if the list of items given above may be regarded as revising or, where necessary, supplementing the list contained in my letter of the eleventh of September. Sir Gerald Campbell understands that the Newfoundland Government have already been in direct touch with the Canadian Government authorities in the question of the equipment of the Newfoundland Defence Force, but he has been, nevertheless, requested to ask that consideration may be given as soon as possible to the possibility of supplying this equipment from Canada.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL MASON

44.

NPA GN1/3 39/1-17

Le gouverneur de Terre-Neuve au secrétaire aux Dominions

Governor of Newfoundland to Dominions Secretary

TELEGRAM 288

[St. John's,] September 15, 1939

SECRET. In view of Canada's publicly proclaimed interest in defence of Newfoundland we suggest for consideration that Canadian Government be invited to take over for the duration of the war the Newfoundland Airport and the Botwood Seaplane Base for the use of the R.C.A.F. Details of such temporary transfer could best be arranged by direct negotiation in Canada but we think basis of the arrangements should be that Canada should assume entire responsibility for maintenance and operation of the Bases and for all expenditure attributable to meteorological and wireless services and for other expenditure insofar as it is attributable to military as distinct from civil requirements. Incidentally to the above proposal we suggest that the Fairchild and Fox Moth belonging to the Newfoundland Government Internal Air Service should be placed at the disposal of the R.C.A.F. and that the present arrangement with Imperial Airways which is expensive and also incompatible with military use of the planes should be terminated forthwith. The total cost of maintenance and operation of the Bases on the scale required for their continued use for trans-Atlantic flights will be at the rate of about \$180,000.00 per annum exclusive of the cost of wireless and meteorological staff and of any military measures. We are doubtful whether this expenditure will be justified at the present time unless military use can be made of the Bases far beyond anything our resources would permit.