

considered vital to the defence of the United States and Canada and should be maintained as a military base on such a scale as to provide for the stationing of operational squadrons as required.”<sup>54</sup>

The draft agreement worked out at the Conference of 1946 proved acceptable to the three governments concerned. Each of the three countries reaped substantial benefits. To Canada it meant assurance of freedom of action in the Newfoundland area in the event of another emergency; to Newfoundland it meant assurance of immediate support from Canada in the event of a crisis, without loss of sovereignty; to the United Kingdom it meant assurance that the wartime partnership of Canada, the United Kingdom and Newfoundland for the maintenance of transatlantic sea and air communications, which had been so important in the achievement of victory in the North Atlantic, still survived in fact. But the 1946 Agreement was soon superseded by events. For the time being, the issue of Newfoundland's political future took precedence, at least among Newfoundlanders. Three years from the day the Agreement of 1946 became effective, Newfoundland became the tenth province of Canada. Henceforth its defence would be the responsibility of the Government and Parliament of Canada.

Ottawa, September 1974

R. A. MACKAY

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<sup>54</sup> Document 1010.