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1156-D-39

*Mémorandum du conseiller juridique¹
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*
*Memorandum from Legal Adviser¹
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

[Ottawa,] January 18, 1940

BELL ISLAND

The position with regard to Dosco is fundamentally different from the position of Canadian corporations doing business in Canada.

The responsibility is upon Dosco, both in Canada and in Wabana, for doing the sort of protective work that the Prime Minister almost certainly has in mind.

There is no instance in Canada of any corporation undertaking the sort of measures that the Department of National Defence has in mind with regard to the Wabana area. Indeed, no Canadian corporation would be permitted to undertake such measures, and Dosco would certainly not be permitted to undertake them in Newfoundland.

The measures in question are basic defence measures, including the provision of coastal batteries and air patrols.

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au président de Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Limited*
*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to President
of Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Limited*

SECRET

Ottawa, January 19, 1940

Dear Sir,

The Government of the United Kingdom has requested the Canadian Government to adopt certain measures of co-operation with regard to the defence of Bell Island in Conception Bay, Newfoundland. In determining the course that the Government should follow in dealing with this request, it is necessary to ascertain the general nature of the protective measures that have been adopted by your company with regard to its mining properties and other plants at Wabana. I should be grateful, therefore, if you would let me have, at your earliest convenience, an indication of the nature of the protective measures that your Company has adopted, with a view to coping with possible enemy activities arising out of the war.

You are, of course, familiar with the extent to which Canadian business enterprises have undertaken protective measures against enemy activity in this country. Your own company will have, undoubtedly, adopted such measures in the Sydney and Glace Bay areas and Halifax and elsewhere. It would

¹J. E. Read.