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NPA GN1/3 320/35

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

TELEGRAM 139

[St. John's,] May 22, 1939

SECRET. Reference Newfoundland Despatch Secret No. 108¹, Newfoundland Defence Force. Subject has been reconsidered after my return in the light of information obtained by Captain Schwerdt in interviews with War Office, and Commission now recommend establishment of Defence Force to consist in first place of Headquarters and two Companies, eleven Officers and one hundred and seventy-eight other ranks in all. Initial outlay will include rifles, pistols for officers, eighteen Lewis guns, service dress for other ranks and outfit allowance for officers, supplies of ammunition and, subject to further examination, of camp equipment. Capital cost at present estimated \$27,000. Barracks will not be required. The recurrent cost in the first year should not exceed \$23,000, and will thus be within the total of \$50,000 provided in Estimates 1939-40. Cost in subsequent years, apart from any increase in numbers, may slightly exceed this latter figure.

If you approve, it is proposed to arrange immediately for provision of permanent training staff consisting of one British Captain and two Warrant Officers at Normal rates as indicated in correspondence with War Office.

We request authority immediately for steps to be taken to arrange for detailing of this training staff and ordering of equipment as follows: One hundred and seventy-eight service rifles with web equipment, eleven pistols (.38), eighteen Lewis guns, material for one hundred and seventy-eight suits of service dress, (old pattern), fifty-four thousand rounds of .303 ammunition and small quantity of .38 ammunition.

It would be valuable if Emerson before he leaves London could visit Major G. G. Mears, War Office, and take preliminary steps with a view to detailing of training staff and ordering of this equipment. Despatch containing full details follows, but in view of urgency we would be grateful if telegraphic approval could be given forthwith. We should be grateful also if priority could be given to supply of arms and ammunition on above limited scale.

We should be grateful if you would communicate with Emerson, if you approve, so that he could undertake this if prepared to do so.

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Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au gouverneur de Terre-Neuve
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Governor of Newfoundland

TELEGRAM 1

Ottawa, June 6, 1939

SECRET. In view of the present international situation, Department of National Defence of Canada are anxious to obtain as much information as

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