

Q. 4. What is the viewpoint of the Canadian High Command as to the minimum requirements of ground and air forces necessary for the protection of each strategic area?

A. 4. (a) Strategic Areas, East Coast and Newfoundland

(i) It is considered unlikely that Germany and Italy would attempt a major scale invasion of Canada's East Coast without first having established an advanced air base or bases from which the landings could be supported by shore based aircraft. Successive or simultaneous attempts to establish such bases in Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland, and in our Maritime Provinces, are possible. An attack on Iceland for this purpose could be explained as being a necessary move in connection with the present battle for England. Attacks on Greenland and Newfoundland, however, could not be interpreted in any sense other than as preliminaries to an attack on North America. It would seem unlikely, therefore, that serious attacks on the latter areas would be made until shortly before an invasion of North America was attempted. In other words such attacks, with a definite purpose of occupation, are unlikely to be made within the next six to eight months. In the meantime it is Canada's problem, with such assistance as can be obtained from the United States in the way of equipment for our army and airforce, to provide for the effective defence against small scale invasion of the Botwood Bay and Newfoundland Airport areas. In this connection it is important that Canada be made aware of the attitude which the United States Government would take to such an act on the part of Germany or Italy. Can Canada rely upon immediate intervention by the United States in such an eventuality?

(ii) It is obvious, of course, that unless adequate defensive measures are taken in this area and the necessary equipment provided, United States intervention would probably be too late to save this vital region. It follows, therefore, that the only satisfactory solution would be for the United States to make available to us at an early date, such defensive resources as are mutually agreed upon as being the minimum required to protect the vital Newfoundland Airport region. The understanding being that such resources would be turned back to the United States for operation by their own personnel as soon as the U.S. Government entered the war.

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Q. 5. What part of the above minimum requirements is Canada prepared to furnish now? at 60m., at 120m., at 240m. [sic]

A. 5. (i) Canada, with such assistance as the United States can give in the way of equipment, will continue to be responsible for the