

quarters and Housing for approximately 12 officers and 50 airmen, an explosives building for storage of bombs and ammunition, and free use of the airport facilities; other operational and maintenance expenses incurred by such detachment, including fuel on repayment, to be the responsibility of the Canadian Government.

I should be grateful if you would bring these points to the attention of the Newfoundland Government.

Yours sincerely,

[O.D. SKELTON]

72.

NPA S-5-5-2

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

TELEGRAM 229

[St. John's,] April 30, 1940

SECRET. Your telegram No. 408 of 6th November, 1939, Secret. Penson reports that during a recent visit to Ottawa Dominion Minister of Transport stated in private conversation that he wished Canada could take over the use and responsibility of the Newfoundland Airports for the period of the war. In view your telegram under reference Penson merely replied that he would convey this statement to the Commission of Government. Canadian Government sending officers shortly to St. John's for discussion regarding possible Royal Canadian Air Force operations in Newfoundland. See telegram from High Commissioner repeated to you No. 815<sup>1</sup> Secret. In view of possibilities therein contemplated we venture to urge that suggestion contained in our telegram No. 288 of 15th September, 1939, should be reconsidered notwithstanding objections mentioned in your telegram above referred to. We feel strongly that if Canadians had full use of and responsibility for our Airports during war they would take much more interest in maintaining aerial reconnaissance of whole coast of Newfoundland which we regard as of great importance from defence point of view. We consider also that Newfoundland interests would be served by use of Airports in war time in this way. Moreover course suggested may be expected to relieve Newfoundland budget of considerable dollar expenditure thus in turn avoiding necessity for United Kingdom finding dollars for this purpose which we understand to be a matter of increasing difficulty. Please telegraph reply as early as possible as in the meantime proposed visit of Canadians is in abeyance.

<sup>1</sup> Non reproduct.

<sup>1</sup> Not printed.