

10. The Joint Staff Committee are of the opinion that the danger of attack from enemy air, surface or submarine raiders on Canadian shipping in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off the East Coast of Canada will be at its greatest in the early days of an emergency. There will then be a large number of German vessels on the high seas, many of which are believed to be prepared for immediate conversion to armed raiders and some without doubt will be in the immediate vicinity of our coast. It is during this period that little or no direct assistance from Royal Navy forces is to be expected.

11. In these circumstances it is recommended that a further communication be sent to the Government of the United Kingdom to inform them that note has been taken of the contents of Dominions Office Despatch No. 323 of the 21st October 1938, that Canadian Defence Measures include the basing of several Royal Canadian Air Force Squadrons at Halifax, that for the further protection of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland ore supply, base facilities in Newfoundland are required, and that the Canadian Government desire to ascertain whether the United Kingdom Government would agree to this matter being taken up direct with the Government of Newfoundland.

T. V. ANDERSON, Major-General
Chief of the General Staff

PERCY NELLES, Rear-Admiral
Chief of the Naval Staff

G. M. CROIL, Air Vice-Marshal
Senior Air Officer

25.

DND HQS 7410

*Mémorandum du secrétaire du comité des chefs d'état-major
au secrétaire du ministre de la Défense nationale*

*Memorandum from Secretary of Chiefs of Staff Committee
to Secretary of Minister of National Defence*

SECRET

[Ottawa,] April 3, 1939

DEFENCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

At its 54th Meeting held this date the Chiefs of Staff Committee instructed me to invite your attention to the fact that to date they had had no word regarding the memorandum dealing with the Defence of Newfoundland which they had submitted to the Minister on 27th December, 1938.*

MAURICE POPE
Colonel

*Note telle que dans l'original:

*Note as in original:

Sec'y C. of S. Committee: The Minister is not prepared at the moment to deal with this question C.N.S.[ENIOR]¹ 5.4.39

¹Secrétaire particulier du ministre de la Défense nationale.

¹Private Secretary to Minister of National Defence.