

they would ask to base aircraft on the Newfoundland Airport for the reconnaissance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Coast of Newfoundland in order to prevent interference with shipping. It is for consideration whether Squadron-Leader Pattison should be sent for to discuss

(1) What aircraft can be accommodated.

(2) To what degree Canadian aircraft based at the Newfoundland Airport could contribute to the defence of Newfoundland, observing that in the event of any raiding cruiser arriving off Newfoundland aircraft might constitute our sole defence.

It is realized that this is a delicate matter but it may be desirable to let the Dominions Office know that if the Canadian Government desire to base aircraft here for the protection of Canadian shipping, the Newfoundland Government would be willing to co-operate and to suggest to them that as a precautionary measure a representative of the Royal Canadian Air Force might be invited through the appropriate channel to fly over to discuss this question.

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J. A. WINTER

NPA GN1/3 320/35

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

[St. John's,] September 27, 1938

TELEGRAM 236

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. In view of your Secret and Personal telegram of the 24th September¹ we have had under consideration provision of defence force that may become necessary if emergency arises. We calculate that numbers required for defence of St. John's and points of importance noted in Defence Scheme is about three hundred. Generally speaking we think that force not less than four hundred should be provided for. Whilst no precise estimate of cost involved is available, we consider that force of 400 would cost not less than \$275,000 a year (including equipment, arms and ammunition, and machine guns).

As you are aware no funds are available to meet such an expenditure, and indeed financial situation here, apart from this special expenditure, would in an emergency be serious in the extreme owing to special liabilities, e.g., Italian insurance and probable loss of revenue.

Commission accordingly desires to lay the whole matter before you, and request your advice and guidance. We consider, however, that in the event of the emergency arising provision of some force is inevitable.

¹ Non reproduit.

¹ Not printed.