

In view of the circumstances disclosed in your note of February the 29th, with respect to the importance of the supply of iron ore from Bell Island, the Canadian government should undertake, for the defence of the Island against possible attack, such measures as are approved by the Minister of National Defence.

I informed the Prime Minister that it was my understanding that the actual measures contemplated had been considered and approved by the Department of National Defence.

A. D. P. H[EENEY]

65.

1156-D-39

*Le haut commissariat de Grande-Bretagne
au sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures
High Commission of Great Britain
to Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

516 K/17

Ottawa, March 16, 1940

SECRET

Dear Mr. Beaudry,

The High Commissioner has asked me to bring to your notice the matter of the defence of Bell Island in Conception Bay, Newfoundland, regarding which I last wrote to Dr. Skelton in my letter of the 6th February (516 K/17).

As this matter was originally raised with the Department so long ago as the 22nd November last, you will understand that Sir Gerald Campbell wishes to be able to reply to the Commission of Government of Newfoundland without further delay.

Yours sincerely,

W. C. HANKINSON

66.

1156-D-39

*Le Premier ministre au haut commissaire de Grande-Bretagne
Prime Minister to High Commissioner of Great Britain*

SECRET

Ottawa, March 16, 1940

My dear High Commissioner,

RE: DEFENCE OF BELL ISLAND IN CONCEPTION BAY

As the government of the United Kingdom is aware, the Canadian government has, since the outbreak of war, been prepared to co-operate, and has been actively co-operating in the air defence of Newfoundland, including the approach thereto, as inextricably tied in with the air defence of the Atlantic coast and, at the request of the Canadian government, the Newfoundland government has already granted full use of its existing air facilities to the Royal Canadian Air Force. An air reconnaissance, by aircraft of the