

*Act.* Broadly speaking, these regulations were intended to be effective for the duration of the war only and they would cease to be valid within a reasonable period after hostilities ended.

In addition Canada had been promised post-war tenure to certain defence installations constructed during the war, but, with the exception of Goose Bay, none of these promises had been implemented when hostilities ceased in Europe.

### *The Defence Agreement of 1946*

After prolonged discussion in Ottawa on Canada-Newfoundland post-war defence relations and, informally, between the governments concerned, the Canadian Government took the initiative in proposing a formal conference between the Canadian and Newfoundland governments (and the United Kingdom Government as required) on the post-war use of military airfields and related defence matters. Before the conference the Newfoundland Government was assured that Canada had no plans calling for the stationing of Canadian forces in Newfoundland in normal times.<sup>50</sup> It was thought desirable, however, that defence facilities in Newfoundland be maintained and that they be readily available to Canadian forces in the event of emergency, so as to enable them to act promptly in the region. It was also proposed that there be a general understanding between the two governments that they consult with one another from time to time as occasion required in order to co-ordinate their defence activities.

The conference was convened in St. John's early in 1946 and quickly achieved a satisfactory agreement, the main points being as follows:<sup>51</sup>

- (1) Canada undertook to vacate Gander, Gleneagles and Botwood, as provided in the Air Bases Agreement of 1941, and to forego fifty-year leases promised by the Newfoundland Government to parcels of land within the air bases on which Canada had constructed housing, hangars and other facilities mainly to meet the needs of American forces. Newfoundland agreed: to pay Canada \$1,000,000 for improvements useful for civil aviation; to store military equipment and supplies at Gander and to permit similar storage by Canada at Torbay; that in the event of hostilities involving Newfoundland and Canada, Newfoundland would transfer control and operation of Gander to Canada on request for duration of the emergency; that the two parties should consult one another on defence matters from time to time (the United Kingdom to be included as required); and that Canadian and United Kingdom military aircraft might fly at any time over Newfoundland and use airports under Newfoundland or Canadian control as required.
- (2) Canada was also to be granted title in fee simple to Torbay airport as promised by Newfoundland in 1941. Torbay was to become a

<sup>50</sup> Document 985.

<sup>51</sup> Appendix H.