

SECRET

*1st CG Dist*

*File over*

13 June, 1947

LORAN STATIONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

1. With reference to the proposed transfer of Loran Stations in Newfoundland to the Canadian Government the following information is submitted.
2. The transaction involves the transmitting stations at Bona Vista, Newfoundland, Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland and Battle Harbor, Great Caribou Island, Newfoundland. The monitor Stations at Twillingate and St. Brides, Newfoundland, are no longer operated by the Coast Guard and the leases on these properties have been allowed to expire.
3. The original acquisition of the properties in question and the original construction of the Loran Stations were handled by the National Defence Research Council and turned over to the Coast Guard to operate.
4. The Coast Guard holds leases with the permission of the Newfoundland Government on the property at Battle Harbor and Port Aux Basques which expire 30 June, 1950 or before if desired by the Coast Guard. It is understood that the lessor of the property at Battle Harbor has a claim to squatter's rights only, and this land in fact belongs to the Crown. The station at Bona Vista is Crown property and no recorded conveyance was made to acquire the property.
5. In view of the fact that all transactions concerning the acquisition of the properties involved were handled by the National Defence Research Council, this Headquarters has no information concerning the basic rights and titles to ownership or if any rights have been reserved to Newfoundland to take over the stations.
6. It is believed that the Department of State could more advantageously supply the information desired as to what continuing interest the United States would have in the operation of the stations, and also whether the United States would contemplate a direct sale to Canada or, alternatively, a sale to Newfoundland for further sale to Canada.
7. With reference to the estimate of the initial cost to Canada of acquiring the Loran Stations, all equipment, buildings, and material at these stations were installed and constructed by the Navy Department or with Navy Department money. It is therefore believed that the Navy could supply information as to the initial cost to Canada of acquiring the stations.