

Premier

Nat'l. Defense

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CANADA

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

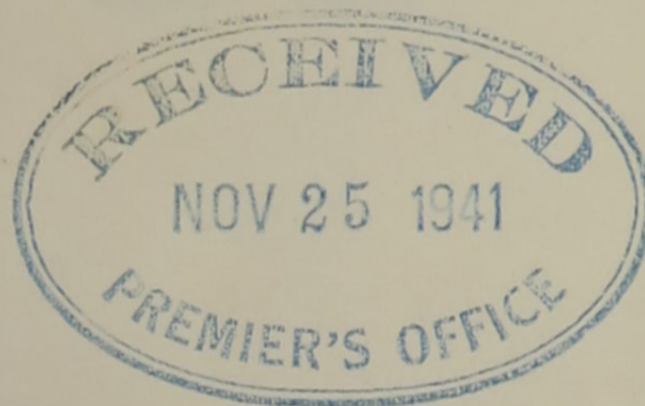
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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
ARMY

Headquarters, Pacific Command,
Victoria, B.C., November 24, 1941

Hon. T.D. Pattullo, K.C.,
Prime Minister of British Columbia,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.



Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Many thanks for your letter of the 22nd November, in which you state that your government would have no objection to the enlistment of Japanese Canadian-born, provided they are sent out of the province as soon as possible.

I do not propose to take any definite steps in this regard until one is in a better position to know what will be the result of the discussions between the Japanese and American governments at Washington.

Yours sincerely,

W. A. G. G. G.

1 9 4 1
Nov. 22nd

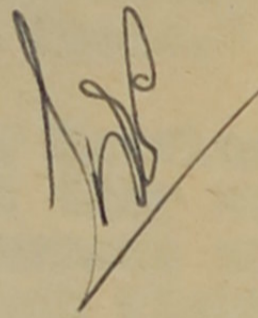
Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King,
Prime Minister of Canada,
O t t a w a, O n t.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am enclosing for your information
copy of letter forwarded today to Major-General
R. O. Alexander.

I beg to remain,

Very faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. O. Alexander', written over a horizontal line.

1 9 4 1
Nov. 22nd

Major-General R. O. Alexander,
G.O.C.-in-C., Pacific Command,
Work Point Barracks,
ESQUIMALT, B. C.

Dear General Alexander:

I have a note before me as follows:

"Major-General Alexander had interview with
Mr. Whittaker:

Wanted to know what the stand of the Provincial Government would be with reference to enlistment of Canadian-born Japanese in the Army. Said they had only enlisted about three, but a considerable number would like to enlist. Men of German and Italian descent born in Canada are enlisted and are drafted for compulsory service in Canada. Japanese have not been drafted.

States that enlisted Japanese would be moved overseas or to eastern Canada as soon as possible so that in the event of war with Japan they would not present any problem on this Coast.

Definite instructions on this matter would have to come from Ottawa, but Ottawa would like to know how the Provincial Government feels."

I advised Ottawa that our Province was opposed to enlisting Japanese on the ground that they would subsequently claim the right to vote. The Germans and Italians who are British subjects already have that right.

After the last war, some fifty-five Japanese British subjects who had been in the war, were given the right to vote in British Columbia.

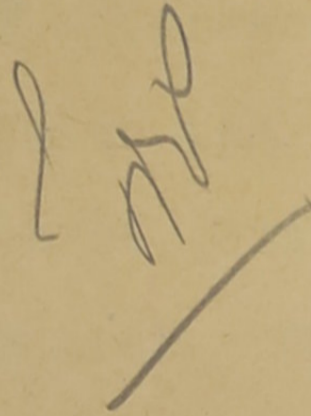
In giving this matter further consideration, it would seem that the Japs who are British subjects who enlist, will be doing so knowing that they have not now the right to vote. What status they may enjoy on their return perhaps should best be left to authority existing at that time.

2.

I therefore, on behalf of the Government, withdraw any objection to enlistment of Japanese Canadian born, provided that they are sent out of the Province as early as possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, but do not think that anything is to be gained by giving it general publication.

Very faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'L. M. P.', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

November 18, 1941.

MAJ. General Alexander had interview with Mr. Whittaker:

Wanted to know what the stand of the Provincial Government would be with reference to enlistment of Canadian-born Japanese in the Army. Said they had only enlisted about three, but a considerable number would like to enlist. Men of German and Italian descent born in Canada are enlisted and are drafted for compulsory service in Canada. Japanese have not been drafted.

States that enlisted Japanese would be moved overseas or to eastern Canada as soon as possible so that in the event of War with Japan they would not present any problem on this Coast.

Definite instructions on this matter would have to come from Ottawa, but Ottawa would like to know how the Provincial Government feels.