

Premier

Japanese Consul

I-2-6

PADC

CP 1372

Box 53 File 8

J-2-29

1 9 4 0
June 19th

Honourable Kenji Nakauchi,
Consul of Japan,
355 Burrard St.,
VANCOUVER, B. C.

Dear Mr. Consul:

I received your letter of June 13th on my return here.

I note that you have written to His Worship the Mayor of Vancouver. I do not know what, if any, action he may take. Our Provincial Government has no control over statements of individuals unless they are of seditious character, nor do I think much attention need be paid to statements of irresponsible character which may be made by individuals.

I very much deprecate insulting remarks towards groups of individuals within our Province whose intentions may be of the very best.

I have not heard in any way that there is likely to be any attempt at violence against Japanese nationals in Vancouver.

These are disturbing times and in view of the wide authority possessed by the Federal Government, I suggest that it might be well for you to address a communication to the Dominion authorities.

Yesterday I issued a statement of which I hope note may be taken, and a copy of which I enclose for your information.

I beg to remain,
Very faithfully yours,



PRESS STATEMENT

June 17th, 1940.

The war news is so portentous that all else seems nothing, yet we must carry on.

I have had no official advices whatever as to enlistments, but it has been brought to my attention that enlistment is not proceeding as rapidly as could be desired, especially on Vancouver Island. There may be several reasons for this, but I think that we are now immediately face to face with conscription for service in Canada.

General conscription, including service overseas, was not an issue in the recent Dominion election.

Everybody, I think, knows my views on conscription, which are now the same as they were in the first world war. Everyone should be compelled to serve according to his capacity. We have a large number of foreigners in our midst and no one, including those of British nationality, should be permitted to propound subversive propaganda. On the other hand, I think it is a great mistake for anyone to recklessly slur as a body those of foreign birth, whose position, to say the least, is difficult.

It may be recalled that for many years I have been outspoken upon the subject of immigration and I pointed out that any man who could immediately obliterate from his mind the land of his birth would be a poor citizen of this country,

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but that loyalty to this country is the first duty of everyone in Canada.

Under conscription for Canadian service, everyone would have to act when called upon.

1 9 4 0
June 14th

Hon. Kenji Nakauchi,
Consul of Japan,
355 Burrard St.,
VANGOUVER, B. C.

Dear Sir:

In the absence of the Honourable
the Premier, I beg to acknowledge receipt of
your letter of June 13th, together with copy
of your letter to the Mayor of Vancouver.

Your communication will be placed
before Premier Pattullo immediately on his
return to this office early next week.

Meanwhile, I remain,

Yours very truly,

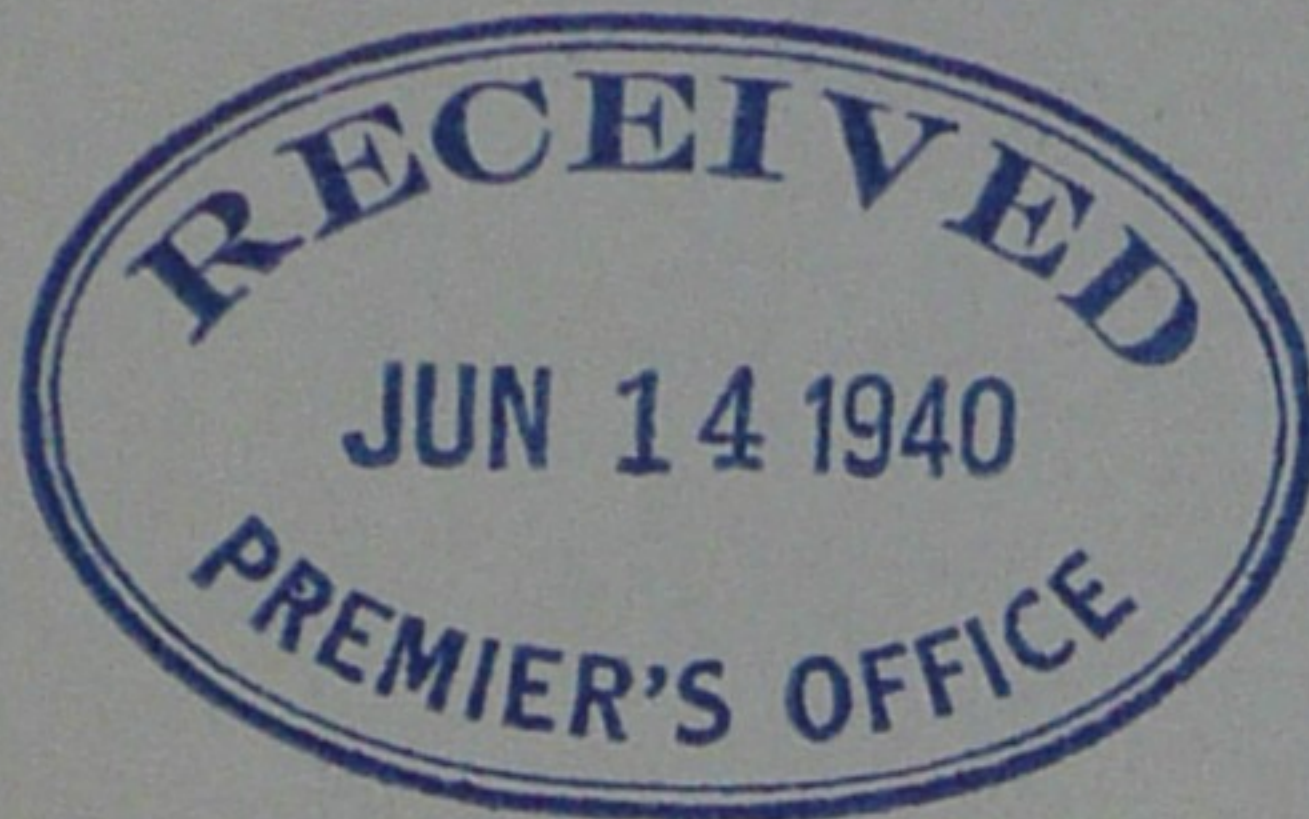
E. J. S.

Assistant Secretary.

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His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Consulate

VANCOUVER, B. C.



June 13, 1940.

Sir:

I enclose copy of a letter which I have today addressed to the Mayor of the City of Vancouver. This letter speaks for itself.

I appeal to you, as the Leader of the Government in this Province, and as one charged with the administration of the law in this Province, to see that steps are taken to check actions which are mischievous and can only lead, in their final result, to violence against Japanese nationals in Vancouver. The Japanese in this Province are amenable to the laws of the Province, and if need arises, can, I am sure, be dealt with satisfactorily according to the laws.

May I point out further that if mischievous and unfair attacks may be made on the nationals of one friendly nation there is no limit to the attacks which may be made on members of any race, class, religion or creed.

As at all times, I will be glad to co-operate with you in this and in any other matter which tends to the maintenance and the betterment of relations between our two countries.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Kenji Nakachi
Consul of Japan

The Honourable the Prime Minister
of British Columbia,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.

June 13, 1940.

His Worship the Mayor,
The City Hall,
Vancouver, B.C.

Sir:

May I draw to your attention at this time the campaign which is being conducted by Alderman Halford D. Wilson, an alderman of the City of Vancouver, against Japanese resident in this Province?

On May 16th, at a meeting held in the Horticultural Hall, Fraser and 41st Avenues, notwithstanding the fact that the meeting had been called by the British Canadian Allies Club to deal with pro-German activities in South Vancouver, Alderman Wilson went out of his way to attack the Japanese in Vancouver. In referring to residents of German origin, he compared them to the Japanese residents in Vancouver -- to the disadvantage of the Japanese. He suggested that the Japanese were likely to become a far greater menace than other aliens on the Pacific Coast.

On May 29th Alderman Wilson, addressing the Knights Of Pythias Lodge No. 3, stated that Holland and Norway owed their downfall to subversive minorities, and he suggested that the Japanese might be classed with such minorities.

Alderman Wilson will doubtless maintain that the speeches made by him on the two occasions mentioned are no concern of the Council of the City of Vancouver. May I point out, however, that these speeches are only part of a general campaign which Alderman Wilson has in the Council, and by virtue of his position as an alderman of this City, conducted against the nationals of a friendly nation, and more particularly against the nationals of a nation, which

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on this coast gave great support to Great Britain
Britain and her Allies in the last war, and helped to
maintain the status quo in the Pacific, and also against
the nationals of a nation which is strictly observing
neutrality in the present war.

May I point out further that Japan, providing a
natural market for the products of this Province, is one
of Canada's best customers and that she is always striv-
ing to cultivate friendship with your country. Any
action such as your Alderman's which may injure the existing
trade relations or which may impede further promotion
in the matter of trade as well as friendly relationship
is certainly undesirable.

The reaction in the Japanese Community in Vancouver
has been extremely unfavourable. Such attacks made
on nationals of a friendly nation, which nationals do not
vote and have, therefore, no power to give an answer at the
polls, are most cowardly and not in accordance with the
British traditions of fair play. At the present time, the
British Empire is engaged in a war in support of minorities
and yet, in the City of Vancouver, a stronghold of British
tradition, the Alderman seems to be permitted to go unchecked
with his mischievous and unfair propaganda.

May I ask that Alderman Wilson be advised that his
actions are not befitting a man in public life, and that
he be warned that he should restrict his remarks within
the proper limits of fair comment?

If the Japanese nationals are not complying with
the laws of this Province, they should be dealt with in
accordance with the proper provisions of the law, and not
by oppression and personal attacks.

It is realized, of course, that the attacks made by

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Alderman Wilson are purely political in their nature, and in an effort to secure political support from people who may not appreciate the nature of the propaganda. I understand quite well that the great majority of thinking Canadians deprecate the actions of the Alderman, but the propaganda has become so violent and in the present state of affairs is likely to create such mischief that I cannot let it go without protest to you. Carried to its logical conclusion, it can only lead to anti-Japanese disturbances and resulting violence. For such a situation-- if it results -- I can assume no responsibility.

I have referred this matter to the Japanese Minister at Ottawa, but as the Alderman referred to comes under the jurisdiction of your Council, I ask that steps be taken to restrain him in his action, which is not only most cowardly and unfair, but can result only in unhappiness, unfriendliness and, possibly, in violence.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Consul of Japan