

Sent Air Mail

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1 9 4 0  
Sep. 23rd

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

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I have been informed that it is the intention to call up for war service Japanese and Chinese citizens.

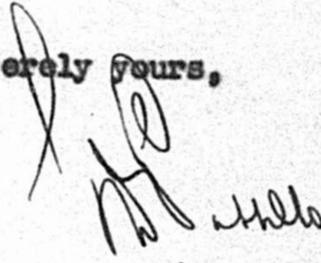
I most strongly urge that nothing of the kind be done. In the first place, it would put the Japanese in possession of arms, when recently measures were formulated to collect arms. Perhaps an even more important consideration is that if they are called up for service, there will be a demand that they be given the franchise, which we in this Province can never tolerate.

If any instructions have been given to call up Japanese or Chinese, I sincerely hope that you will have them immediately countermanded.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,



*P-3-7 conf.*  
*38179<sup>21</sup>*



Personal and  
Confidential

Ottawa, September 27th, 1940.

Honourable T. D. Pattullo, M.L.A.,  
Premier of British Columbia,  
Victoria, B.C.

My dear Premier:

Your letter of September the 23rd, regarding the calling up of Japanese and Chinese for military training, was considered carefully, last evening, by the War Committee of the Cabinet.

The Associate Acting Deputy Minister of National War Services is being directed to confer with the Attorney General of British Columbia, in this connection, and meantime I may tell you, for your own confidential information, that instructions are being given not to include Japanese and Chinese citizens in British Columbia in the first call for military training..

With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*W. Woodsworth*

38350 *g* 22

Personal and  
Confidential

Ottawa,  
October 25th, 1940.

Honourable T.D. Pattullo, M.L.A.,  
Premier of British Columbia,  
Victoria, B.C.

My dear Premier:

In view of the special circumstances in British Columbia to which you have drawn attention in your letter to me of September the 23rd, the Government, as you know, decided not to include Japanese and Chinese citizens of the Province in the first call for training under the compulsory programme recently initiated.

Subsequently, it was agreed that this decision should apply as well to the second training period, and, in view of the delicacy and difficulty of the ~~whole~~ problem of Orientals on the Pacific Coast, the Cabinet War Committee appointed a special Committee to investigate fully the whole problem and, at an early date, make recommendations as to the policy which, in the circumstances, the Government should follow:

This special Committee consisted of Colonel Sparling of the Department of National Defence, (Convener), Assistant Commissioner Mead of the R.C.M. Police and Mr. H.L. Keenleyside of the Department of External Affairs. It is hoped we may also have the assistance of Sir George Sansom, formerly Commercial Counsellor at the British Embassy in Tokyo, who is now in the United States, and whose special knowledge, wide experience and ability would make his counsel most valuable in the Committee's investigation.

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The Committee is already at work and it is intended that they should proceed in a strictly private and informal way and complete their task within the shortest possible time, in view of the dangers inherent in the local situation.

You will, I think, agree that pending the completion of the Committee's examination and report, it is most desirable to avoid any action which would be likely to add to public nervousness and apprehension. I feel strongly also, as I have no doubt you do yourself, that there should be the closest cooperation between the Federal and Provincial Governments in any course which, in this important matter, it may be decided to adopt in the national interest.

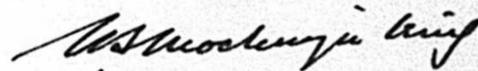
In the circumstances, you and your colleagues will appreciate, I feel sure, the paramount importance of avoiding precipitate action which might jeopardize the work of the Committee and of the Government in formulating and putting into effect a policy based upon the widest national considerations and the most effective conduct of the war.

As the success of the Committee's work will depend largely upon the informal and unobtrusive nature of their procedure, I will appreciate your regarding this communication as confidential.

With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,



*P-3-7 conf.*

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*War  
Japanese &  
Chinese*

Personal and  
Confidential

1 9 4 0  
Oct. 28th

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

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I have your letter of October 25th  
re Oriental situation.

You may be assured that your communi-  
cation will be treated confidentially and that  
our Government will co-operate to the full.  
In fact, we have been co-operating in tangible  
fashion for many years.

Our opponents have been trying to  
get some kudos on this question and have talked  
blatantly. On one or two occasions I succeeded  
in preventing resolutions passing the House  
which would, I thought, be of harmful character.

Ever since I first took office in the  
Government of 1916, we have had to meet press-  
ure of the Japanese in many directions, and we  
have had many awkward situations, but we have  
endeavoured to meet them, not only in the inter-  
ests of our own Province, but in the national  
interest.

With kind regards,

I am,  
Sincerely yours,