

RECORD GROUP 117
VOLUME 1
FILE 2 pt 3
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Date 6/12/88

File 2

Certified to be a true copy of a Minute of a Meeting of the Committee
of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor
General on the 4th FEBRUARY 1942



FEB 11 1942

Duplicate

The Committee of the Privy Council have
had before them a report, dated 3rd February, 1942,
from the Secretary of State for External Affairs,
representing that by Order in Council dated January 7,
1941 (P.C. 117) there was established a Standing
Committee on Orientals in British Columbia for the
purpose of supervising the carrying out of certain
recommendations of the Special Committee on Orientals
in British Columbia and to keep the Government
constantly informed as to the Oriental situation in
that Province;

That the situation in British Columbia has
changed materially as a result of the outbreak of
war with Japan;

That the policy of the Government in regard to
the handling of the Japanese problem in Canada has
been laid down in the statement issued by the Prime
Minister on January 14, 1942; and

That the action of the Government, in taking
direct control of the execution of the said policy,
has made it unnecessary to place upon the members
of the said Committee the responsibility for
continuing to advise the Government in regard to
conditions in British Columbia.

The Committee, therefore, on the recom-
mendation of the Secretary of State for External
Affairs, concurred in by the Minister of Justice
and the Minister of National Defence, advise
that the Standing Committee on Orientals in
British Columbia be dissolved, and that the
Government record its thanks to the members of
the Standing Committee for the valuable assistance
that they have rendered to the Government during
the past year.

A. P. Hurry.

Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Comptroller of the Treasury.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORIENTALS IN B.C.

Noted transferred from Mr. Stein's Office in 1961-62

Personal and
Confidential

Ottawa, January 15, 1942.

Dear Doctor Keenleyside, -

I have your personal and confidential letter of January 13th enclosing Minutes of the Conference on the Japanese Problem in British Columbia.

Since I wrote you on the 10th I had been informed concerning the recommendations and the action which is being taken. I am glad, however, to have the opportunity of looking over the Minutes.

Yours sincerely,

E. H. COLEMAN
Under Secretary of State.

Doctor H. L. Keenleyside,
Assistant Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
O t t a w a .

* Sergeant J. K. Barnes,
* M. A. Robertson, (first meeting only) Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.
J. E. Read, - Legal Adviser, Department
of External Affairs.

STANDARD COMPLIANCE ON CRIMINALS IN B.C.

Material transferred from Mr. Stein's Office in 1961-62

Department of External Affairs

NOT TO BE ADDRESSED TO:
THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, January 13, 1942.

Personal
and
Confidential.

UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE

Dear Dr. Coleman:

I have received your letter of January 10, in which you enquire concerning the Minutes of the Conference on the Japanese problem in British Columbia, which was held here at the end of last week.

It is not quite clear to me ~~yet~~ at just what point the Custodian is likely to find the records of this discussion of interest, but I am forwarding for your personal information and disposition one copy of the Minutes, together with one copy of the Recommendations, submitted to the Government. I shall be very much obliged if you would treat these as being most confidential.

It is likely that the Government will, tomorrow, announce its decisions in regard to the problems covered in the documents mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Mackenzie

Under Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

Dr. E. H. Coleman,
Under Secretary of State of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

Sergeant J. K. Barnes,

- R.C.M.P. Secretary.

M. A. Robertson, (first meeting only) Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

J. E. Read,

- Legal Adviser, Department
of External Affairs.

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SECRET

January 10, 1942.

CONFERENCE ON THE
JAPANESE PROBLEM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
January 8 - 9, 1942, Ottawa.

MINUTES

- I. The meetings took place in Room 123 of the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. Three meetings were held: the first meeting from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on January 8; the second from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon on January 9; the third from 3 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. on January 9.
- II. The following participated in the Conference:
- * The Honourable Ian Mackenzie, Minister of Pensions and National Health. CHAIRMAN
- * The Honourable J. E. Michaud, Minister of Fisheries.
- * The Honourable G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labour, and Provincial Secretary of British Columbia.
- Standing Committee on Orientals in British Columbia
- * F. J. Hume, - Chairman, and Mayor of New Westminster, B. C.
- * H. F. Angus, - Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs.
- * F. J. Mead, - Member of Special Committee on Orientals in British Columbia (1940); and Assistant Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- * Lieut.-Col. Macgregor Macintosh,
- * Lieut.-Col. A. W. Sparling, - Chairman, Special Committee (1940).
- * Sergeant J. K. Barnes, - R.C.M.P. Secretary.
- * M. A. Robertson, (first meeting only) Under Secretary of State for External Affairs.
- * J. E. Read, - Legal Adviser, Department of External Affairs.

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- F E E
- * H. L. Keenleyside,
 - Chairman, Board of Review (1938).
 - Member, Special Committee (1940)
 - Assistant Under Secretary of State for External Affairs.
 - Escoff Reid
 - Department of External Affairs.
 - Major-General L. R. LaFleche (second meeting only)
 - Associate Deputy Minister of National War Services.
 - * Brigadier S. T. Wood, (first meeting only)
 - Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
 - * T.W.S. Parsons,
 - Commissioner, British Columbia Provincial Police.
 - * Commodore H.E. Reid,
 - Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.
 - * Commander J. McCullough,
 - Officer in Charge of Auxiliary Vessels, Pacific Coast.
 - * Paymaster Lieut.-Commander R. Pennington, (first meeting only)
 - Secretary of the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.
 - * Commander E. Johnstone
 - Assistant Director of Naval Personnel.
 - * Major-General Maurice Pope
 - Vice-Chief of the General Staff.
 - Lieut.-Col. J. E. Lyon,
 - Acting Director of Military Operations and Intelligence.
 - * A. J. Whitmore,
 - Director Western Fisheries, Department of Fisheries,
 - * W. J. Couper,
 - Department of Labour.
 - * R. W. Baldwin,
 - Office of the Press Censor.
 - * Present or past resident of British Columbia.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINALS IN B.C.

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I. Introductory Statements.

1. At the first meeting the Chairman made an opening statement on the purpose of the Conference. He said that the Government had received numerous representations concerning the problem of persons of Japanese racial origin in British Columbia. One particularly important question was whether fishing licences should be issued to persons of Japanese racial origin. The chief purpose of the meeting was to allay apprehension in British Columbia. This must, however, be done in such a way as to minimize the possibility of retaliation by the Japanese against Canadian prisoners of war and against the coast of British Columbia. The Chairman paid a tribute to the work done by the various committees appointed in the past few years and to the work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

2. Mr. Angus outlined in the sense of Section 1B of the Agenda the peculiar position of the Japanese population in Canada which is unlike that of the German and Italian population in several ways.

3. Mr. Keenleyside summarized the steps which had been taken by the Federal Government in recent years to deal with the problem. He went back to the riots in Vancouver in 1907, the subsequent establishment of the Japanese immigration quota which was gradually reduced until by 1930 it was limited to 150 persons of special categories. He pointed out that in recent years the quota had been ~~more than~~ filled so that the problem, even before the outbreak of war with Japan, was not one of immigration but of working out satisfactory relations between the permanent Japanese residents of Canada and other residents of Canada. This had become more difficult ever since 1931 because of the constantly widening area of Japanese aggression. An Interdepartmental Committee under Dr. Skelton had been constituted in 1937 and in the following year a Board of Review had been set up to investigate illegal entries. The Board had found that there were a very large number of illegal entrants in the early 20's, but that by 1933 very few illegal entrants remained in British Columbia, and that since then entry had been carefully controlled. Public opinion, however, in British Columbia remained disturbed, especially after Japan entered into an alliance with Germany and Italy in September, 1940. A Special Committee was therefore appointed on October 1 of that year. Mr. Keenleyside drew attention to its report which had been published in December, 1940, and especially to the summary and the recommendations. The recommendations had been approved of by the Canadian Government and had largely been the basis of the Government's actions since. Under recommendation 7 a registration had been made and under recommendation 8 a small Standing Committee had been set up in British Columbia under Mayor Hume to supervise the carrying out of those recommendations of the Committee which were adopted by the Government.

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Noted transcript from Mr. Skelton's Office on 1941-42

4. Mr. Keenleyside outlined in the sense of Part 3 of the Agenda the basic principles on which Canadian policy has been and should be based. He drew particular attention to the fourth principle, "the coordination of Canadian and United States policies". He said that the Permanent Joint Board on Defence had recommended that the two governments should do their utmost to synchronize their policies since their problems were almost identical. He referred also to the statement made by the Prime Minister in his broadcast speech made on the day following the outbreak of war with Japan. A somewhat similar statement had been made by President Roosevelt in which the President had appealed to employers not to discriminate against aliens and foreign born citizens. He also referred to a statement by the Attorney General of the United States on the necessity of showing tolerance to enemy aliens resident in the United States. On the whole the actions taken against persons of Japanese origin, even in Hawaii, had been less rigorous than those taken by Canada.

5. Mayor Hume then reported on the activities of the Standing Committee which had been appointed almost exactly a year ago. He said that the Japanese had been re-registered and that while re-registration was being made a considerable number had left Canada. When war broke out with Japan the Committee recommended:

1. That Japanese newspapers be closed down. As a result of this recommendation the Royal Canadian Mounted Police suggested to the Japanese that this be done and the Japanese agreed.
2. That Japanese language schools be closed. *this also was done by agreement*
3. That the Royal Canadian Mounted Police pick up disloyal Japanese.
4. That the Japanese fishing fleet be laid up.

The three last recommendations had been made effective. Mayor Hume concluded by saying that the public in British Columbia was demanding that the Japanese be removed from the coastal area.

6. Assistant Commissioner P. J. Mead of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police made a report on the existing situation. He said that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had received excellent cooperation from the leaders of the Japanese population. These leaders had cooperated in the registration and since the outbreak of the war with Japan had pointed out to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Japanese who should be interned as dangerous. As evidence of the excellent attitude of the Japanese population he read three paragraphs from an operative's report of a secret

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meeting of Japanese fishermen in Vancouver which had taken place recently. The fishermen at the meeting had stated that they realized that the seizure of the Japanese fishing fleet was inevitable under war conditions. Since the outbreak of the war it had been necessary to intern only one Japanese because of disloyal remarks.

IV. Discussion on general principles set out in Item 3 of the Agenda and discussions of the application of these general principles to specific problems as outlined in the Agenda.

A full and frank discussion took place at all three meetings of the Conference. The result of these discussions is embodied in the report of the Conference. In addition to the matters mentioned in the report the following matters of special interest were brought up in the discussion:

1. Commissioner Wood and Assistant Commissioner Mead of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police reported that they had recently been in touch with Mr. Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who reported that the F.B.I. had received no evidence of disloyalty by the Japanese in the United States, Hawaii or the Philippines; espionage had been committed only by persons attached to the Consulates; there was in the United States no important demand that Japanese residents should be moved from the coast.
2. Mr. Whitmore of the Department of Fisheries stated that if fishing licences were refused to the Japanese he did not expect that there would be an influx of many new fishermen, though a few more Indians would probably take out fishing licences. The explanation of this was that in the past the fisheries had been over-staffed. If not enough fish were being caught the Department could take steps to remedy the situation, as, for example, by reducing the weekly closed period or by permitting the use of a different type of fishing gear. He warned, however, that there would be a temporary local shortage of certain types of fish.
3. Mayor Hume reported that the Fishermen's Union had stated to him that they would guarantee that they could get the required amount of fish even if the Japanese were not issued licences and that the canneries had informed him that they could manage without Japanese in the canneries. The canners had also said that they would be willing to buy up the Japanese rights in the fishing boats. The Conference, however, agreed that it would be undesirable to permit the canneries to monopolize ownership of the fishing boats.

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4. It was clear from reports by members of the Conference who had recently come from British Columbia that a serious unemployment situation was being created in British Columbia among the population of Japanese origin. It was not merely a question of unemployed fishermen but persons of Japanese origin in British Columbia were also being dismissed from lumbering, gardening, and domestic service.
5. The members of the Conference who had just arrived from British Columbia found it difficult to accept the assurances of the representatives of the Armed Services and of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that the measures which had already been taken in British Columbia or which were recommended by a majority of the members of the Conference would be sufficient to meet the requirements of national defence and security. Most of them stated that they did not trust persons of Japanese racial origin and that they considered the continued presence of these persons in British Columbia a menace to public safety. They emphasized particularly their fear that virtually all of these residents would commit positive acts of disloyalty if Japan should land forces in British Columbia. Even, however, if the assurances of the Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were accepted a serious situation would still continue to exist in British Columbia since it would be impossible to persuade the majority of the people of British Columbia that the Japanese residents did not constitute a menace. The people of British Columbia were definitely alarmed by the Japanese menace. There is grave danger that anti-Japanese riots may break out and that it will be necessary to call out the troops to defend Japanese residents from attack by other Canadians. The Assistant Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Commissioner of the British Columbia Provincial Police agreed that there was a distinct possibility of anti-Japanese riots in Vancouver and General Pope stated that General Alexander had reported to Defence Headquarters that public security in British Columbia may be endangered by the feeling of the white population against the Japanese.
6. Mr. Couper of the Department of Labour and other members of the Conference from Ottawa emphasized that if Canada was to make the utmost possible contribution to victory in the war it was necessary to make the most effective use of the abilities of all residents of Canada including persons of Japanese racial origin. They based their contention on the impending labour shortage in Canada and argued that racial discrimination was not only unjust but inefficient and thus affected detrimentally Canada's war effort. The members of the Conference from British Columbia found it difficult to believe that there was an impending labour shortage in Canada.

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since they stated there was considerable unemployment existing at the present time in British Columbia.

7. This difference of opinion over the urgency of the manpower problem in Canada was in part the reason for the difference of opinion between members of the Conference over whether it would be useful and desirable to impress on employers and labour alike throughout Canada the importance, from the point of view of the national war effort, of not discharging or refusing to hire or refusing to work with persons of Japanese origin. Members from British Columbia stated that the public in British Columbia was so convinced that the Japanese were untrustworthy and constituted a menace that white workmen would refuse to work with workmen of Japanese racial origin in spite of any appeal which the Government might make.
8. The possibility of Japan using Canadian treatment of Japanese as an excuse for retaliation against Canadians and other allied nationals under Japanese control was discussed at some length. Mr. J. E. Read, Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs, pointed out that Japan was not bound by the Hague Convention and that Canadian prisoners of war in Japan did not, therefore, have the protection of that Convention. Apart, however, from the Convention, the experience of the war hitherto was that both sides gave to prisoners of the other, treatment which was pretty well equivalent to the treatment which their own nationals were being given. If Japan believed that Canada was mistreating Japanese nationals it would probably retaliate, not only against Canadians but against other British subjects and nationals of others of the United Nations. Mr. Keenleyside pointed out that the Commonwealth Governments had tried to follow a common policy of treatment of enemy nationals and that should the Canadian Government decide in favour of a policy of wholesale internment of Japanese nationals the Government, before taking such action, would probably consult with the Government of the United Kingdom. He felt that it was likely that the Government of the United Kingdom would urge Canada not to take such action. Japanese nationals in Canada constituted the largest group of Japanese nationals in the British Commonwealth and it was in the interests of the whole Commonwealth that Japanese nationals in Canada should be made use of to the greatest possible extent in order to secure good treatment for British nationals who fall into Japanese hands.
9. At the request of Mr. R. W. Baldwin of the Office of the Press Censor it was agreed that a Standing Subcommittee of the Conference should be established with which Press Censorship could consult. This Committee would consist of Mr. Angus and of a member nominated by the Defence Departments.

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10. The members of the Conference agreed that no publicity should be given to the proceedings or recommendations of the Conference until the Government had dealt with the Conference's recommendations. Mr. Ian Mackenzie stated that he would arrange that they should be dealt with by Cabinet on Monday or Tuesday, January 12 or 13.
11. During the course of the discussions telegrams and letters were read to the Conference from various associations and individuals in British Columbia. Some of these communications were addressed to the Prime Minister, others to individual members of the Conference.
12. While the proposal to remove all persons of Japanese racial origin from the Pacific coast was dropped by general agreement, the British Columbia representatives demanded that able bodied adult male Japanese nationals should be removed. They appeared to be willing to make an exception for those whose applications for naturalization under section 8 of the Naturalization Act were outstanding. In making this demand they emphasized that in their opinion it was the minimum necessary to satisfy the people of British Columbia and prevent riots and it was pointed out that the assurances of the Armed Forces and of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police did not extend to denying the dangers of anti-Japanese rioting.
13. At the conclusion of the Conference, when it was clear that the Conference could not agree unanimously on measures which should be taken to control Japanese nationals in British Columbia, Mr. Pearson, as representative of the Government of British Columbia, stated that he wished to make it clear that if the Government of Canada ignores the views of the representatives of British Columbia they could not expect the Government of British Columbia to be enthusiastic or very effective in trying to "sell" the ideas supported by the Dominion Government to the people of British Columbia. In that event it would be necessary for the Government of Canada to try to sell their ideas to the people of British Columbia. The Government of Canada, however, could be assured that whatever decision it made, the Government of British Columbia would do their best to see that things go along peacefully in British Columbia.
14. At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman, the Honourable Ian Mackenzie, thanked all the members of the Conference for their participation in its discussions. He thanked especially members of the Conference who had come all the way from British Columbia to attend. In reply Mayor Hume expressed the thanks of the British Columbia members to the other members of the Conference, especially to the Chairman and to Mr. Keenleyside and Mr. Angus.

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MEETING TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS CONCERNED WITH CANADIAN
JAPANESE AND JAPANESE NATIONALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

JANUARY 8TH, 2:30 P.M., ROOM 123
EAST BLOCK

A G E N D A

1. Opening statement by the Honourable Ian Mackenzie
 - A. A statement of the purpose of the meeting.
 - B. A description of the peculiar position of the Japanese population in Canada which is unlike that of the German and Italian populations in several ways:-
 - I. The Japanese are concentrated in one province in proximity to a theatre of war.
 - II. There are probably no strong elements among the Japanese population hostile to the present Government of Japan.
 - III. The tendency of the Canadian public to identify race and Japanese nationality.
 - IV. The widespread belief in Canada that Japanese loyalties are racial rather than national.
 - V. The intense economic jealousy of the Japanese and a wish in some quarters to appropriate their property.
 - VI. Existing political and economical disabilities of persons of Japanese race.
 - VII. The somewhat similar position of persons of Chinese and East Indian race.
 - VIII. The analogy of Japanese in United States.
 - IX. The absence of any long range Canadian policy with respect to the future of the Japanese population in Canada.
2. Background of the problem. Statement by Mr. Keenleyside

1937	Interdepartmental committee.
1938	Board of Review
1940	Investigation by Special Committee
1941	Registration; collection of firearms; appointment of Standing Committee.
3. Basic principles on which Canadian policy has been and should be based.

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- (a) The primacy of defence considerations.
- (b) In so far as is compatible with (a) just and decent treatment for Canadians of Japanese race.
- (c) In so far as is compatible with (a) the continuation in their normal employments of Japanese nationals resident in Canada.
- (d) The coordination of Canadian and United States policies.
- (e) The maintenance of a reasonable attitude among the civilian population and the use of the full force of the law to prevent anti-Japanese demonstrations and to protect Japanese Canadian communities.
- (f) Avoidance of actions which will lead to retaliation against Canadians under Japanese control.

4. Report on the activities of the Standing Committee by His Worship Mayor Hume

- (i) Prewar.
- (ii) Since the declaration of war.

5. Report on the existing situation, by Assistant Commissioner F. J. Read

6. Discussion of general principles set out in 3

7. The application of general principles to specific problems

(a) Fishing boats and fishing licences

- (1) What restrictions are imperative in the interests of national defence?
- (2) If some Canadian Japanese are allowed to fish what supervision is adequate in the interests of national defence?
- (3) What methods can be used to reassure the public as to the adequacy of precaution?
- (4) Should our policy be influenced by the importance of not playing Japan's game which is to excite race hatreds?
- (5) What measures are needed to maintain the efficiency of the fishing industry, - for instance, to enable Canada to carry out arrangements for the sale of vitamins from dogfish liver oil to the United Kingdom at agreed prices?
- (6) How can fishermen of Japanese race who are excluded from fishing best be employed in the interests of Canada's war effort?

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- (7) How can fishermen of Japanese race be replaced with least damage to Canada's war effort?
- (8) What measures, if any, should be taken to assure fishermen who are displaced of the just protection of their economic interests which will include compensation for their boats and an assurance of ability to resume their normal occupation after the war?
- (b) Gasoline
 - (1) Should the sale of gasoline in bulk to Japanese nationals and its storage by them be prohibited or controlled?
 - (2) Should such sales to Japanese Canadians be prohibited or controlled?
 - (3) If these measures result in putting men out of employment to what activities should they be directed?
- (c) Blasting powder
 - (1) Somewhat similar questions are raised with reference to blasting powder.
- (d) Japanese language newspapers
 - (1) Should the suspension of Japanese language newspapers be continued or not?
- (e) Should possession of receiving sets, cameras by Japanese, etc., be controlled?
- 8. Should consideration be given now to the position which Canadians of Japanese race should be expected to occupy in Canada during and after the war?
- 9. Should similar consideration be given now to the position of Canadians of Chinese and East Indian race?
- 10. Is the general policy with respect to Japanese nationals satisfactory?
- 11. Censorship problems
- 12. Other problems
- 13. How can any general policy which may be adopted as the result of recommendations made at this meeting, best be made known to the public of Canada in order to insure their intelligent cooperation?
 - (a) Declaration by Ministers of the Crown.
 - (b) Radio addresses (for instance an account of the deliberations of this meeting).

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- (c) The Press.
- (d) Informal approach to local Government officials and others.
- (e) Action with respect to groups promoting race panic for ulterior purposes.

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I

The Conference endorses the following principles which underlie Canadian policy in relation to the Japanese problem and by which, in its opinion, all proposals in relation to this matter should be judged:-

- A - National defence and victory are the first and overriding considerations.
- B - In so far as it may be compatible with the requirements of national defence, Canadians of Japanese racial origin and Japanese nationals resident in Canada shall be treated with justice and consideration.
- C - Every feasible step shall be taken to encourage the maintenance of a calm and reasonable attitude among Canadian citizens generally, and it shall again be made known that the full force of the law will be invoked to prevent anti-Japanese demonstrations and to protect Canadian residents of Japanese race.
- D - No action shall be taken or allowed which would give any possible excuse to the Japanese Government for mistreating Canadians under Japanese control, or which would help the Japanese in their

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2.

present efforts to arouse Asiatic
hostility against the white race.

- E - The Canadian and United States
authorities should continue to coordinate
their policies in relation to persons of
Japanese racial origin within their
respective jurisdictions.

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3.

II

In accordance with the foregoing principles the Conference recommends that, during the period of the war, for reasons of national defence and security, the Canadian Government should take the following steps:-

- A - Prohibit all persons of Japanese racial origin from fishing or serving on fishing vessels or other vessels operated by Japanese off the coast of British Columbia.
- B - Strictly control the sale of gasoline and of blasting powder to persons of Japanese racial origin, under conditions to be prescribed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- C - Prohibit the possession or use by Japanese nationals of short-wave radio receiving sets, radio transmitters and cameras.
- D - Continue intensive surveillance of Japanese nationals.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINALS IN B.C.

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4.

III

The Conference recommends that, for the furtherance of the Canadian war effort, the Canadian Government should take the following steps:-

- A - Accept at once the offers of various groups of Canadians of Japanese race to perform wartime service for Canada.
- B - Organize for the foregoing purpose a Civilian Corps of Canadian Japanese to be used on projects of value to the national cause, and take such other action as will make most effective use of the abilities of Canadian residents of Japanese race.
- C - Encourage the enlistment in the Canadian Armed Forces, for service outside British Columbia, of Canadian nationals of Japanese racial origin; and call up under the terms of the National Resources Mobilization Act, for service outside British Columbia, all Canadian nationals of Japanese racial origin properly subject to the provisions of the said Act.

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5.

- D - Arrange through the immediate establishment of a special office in British Columbia for the sale, lease, requisition or charter, on equitable terms and to suitable persons, of fishing or other vessels and fishing equipment heretofore used or owned by Canadians of Japanese racial origin, and now immobilized on the Pacific Coast.
- E - Emphasize to the white fishermen and canners on the Pacific Coast that they must accept responsibility for seeing that the removal of the Japanese fishermen does not reduce the total of fish caught or increase the prices at which the catch is made available to Canada, the United Kingdom and the Allied nations.

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6.

IV

The Conference considered a proposal that all Japanese nationals (or at least all males between 18 and 45) now resident in Canadian territory on or near the Coast of British Columbia, be compulsorily removed to areas lying east of the Rocky mountains. The majority of the Conference did not accept this proposal, for the following reasons:-

- A - The representatives of the Department of National Defence, National Defence for Naval Services, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police assured the Conference that the requirements of national defence and security can be met by the measures already taken or recommended, and do not warrant such action.
- B - The acceptance of this proposal would be a contradiction of Canadian and Allied professions of justice and humanity.
- C - Officers of the Department of External Affairs informed the Conference that in their opinion action of the kind proposed would almost certainly result in cruel retaliation by the Japanese authorities

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against Canadians now in their power; and further that such action at this stage would result in the dissipation of the strongest guarantee now possessed by Canada, and the remainder of the British Commonwealth, of continued good treatment for Canadian nationals and British subjects who have or may come under Japanese control.

- D - Acceptance of this proposal would result in the Canadian Government following a policy wholly at variance with that being followed by the United States Government under similar or more difficult circumstances in the western States and Hawaii.

In spite of the assurances mentioned in A above, the Honourable G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labour, and Provincial Secretary of British Columbia; His Worship Mayor F. J. Hume, of New Westminster, B.C., Chairman of the Special Committee on Orientals in British Columbia; Lieut.-Colonel Macgregor Macintosh, and Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Sparling, Members of the Standing Committee on Orientals in British Columbia; and Mr. T.W.S. Parsons, Commissioner of the British Columbia Provincial Police, all of whom who had come from British Columbia to Ottawa for this Conference, realizing that there will be difficulty in satisfying the residents of British

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Columbia that there is no need to fear subversive activities on the part of Japanese nationals in British Columbia, agreed on the following recommendations:-

1. That arrangements be made by the Canadian Government for the removal of able-bodied adult male Japanese nationals from the coastal area of British Columbia, and that employment of a suitable character be provided for them under conditions which may be considered reasonable under the circumstances; in areas and under conditions which will assure their removal from any suspicion of possibility of subversive activities.
2. That where the circumstances reasonably permit, women and children be allowed to accompany the head of the family.

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V

Finally the Conference, recognizing the great anxieties imposed on the people of British Columbia as a result of the dangers created by war with Japan, recommends that the Canadian Government should endeavour to secure the full cooperation of the Government of British Columbia, and should make known to the public the details of its policy in relation to the Japanese problem by the following means:-

- A - A statement by radio to the people of British Columbia by the Prime Minister of Canada.
- B - One or two explanatory statements over the radio by participants in this Conference in which the various considerations presented and the reasons for the recommendations made, will be clearly discussed.
- C - Full and complete "off-the-record" discussions with representatives of the press and radio to be held in Victoria, Vancouver and Ottawa, and to be participated in by Members of the Standing Committee, representatives of the Armed Services, and of the Department of External Affairs, with the cooperation of the Director of Public Information.

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ATM

Ottawa, January 10, 1942.

Private and
Confidential

My dear Robertson,-

I do not know if any notes have been made concerning the representations of the delegation from British Columbia on the Japanese question. I have seen several items in the press concerning the meetings which have been going on during the last few days.

Is it your intention to supply the Custodian with a memorandum concerning the representations and any decisions which may have been taken in respect to them? Such a memorandum would be of great service to us in connection with the Custodian's work.

Yours sincerely,

H. A. Robertson, Esq.,
Under Secretary of State for External Affairs,
O t t a w a .

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