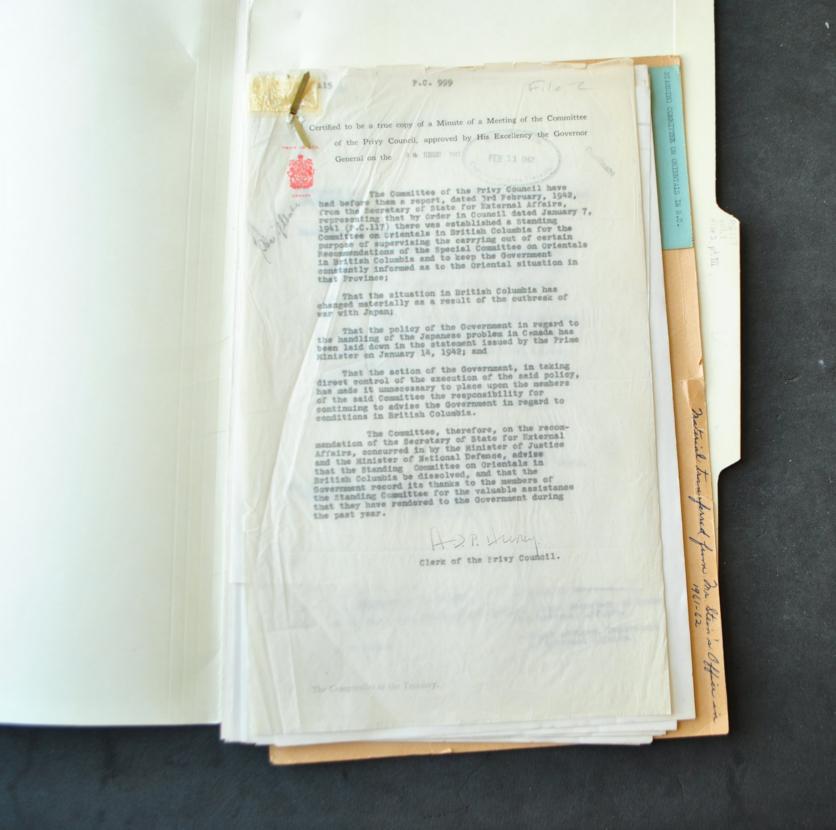
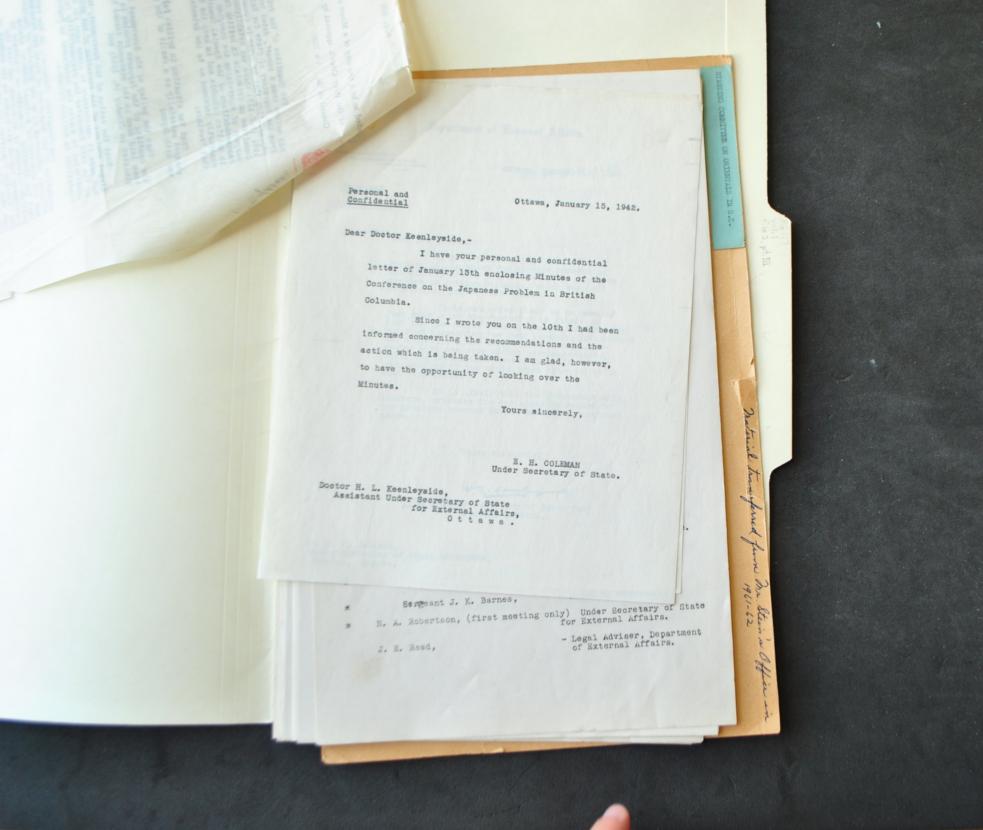
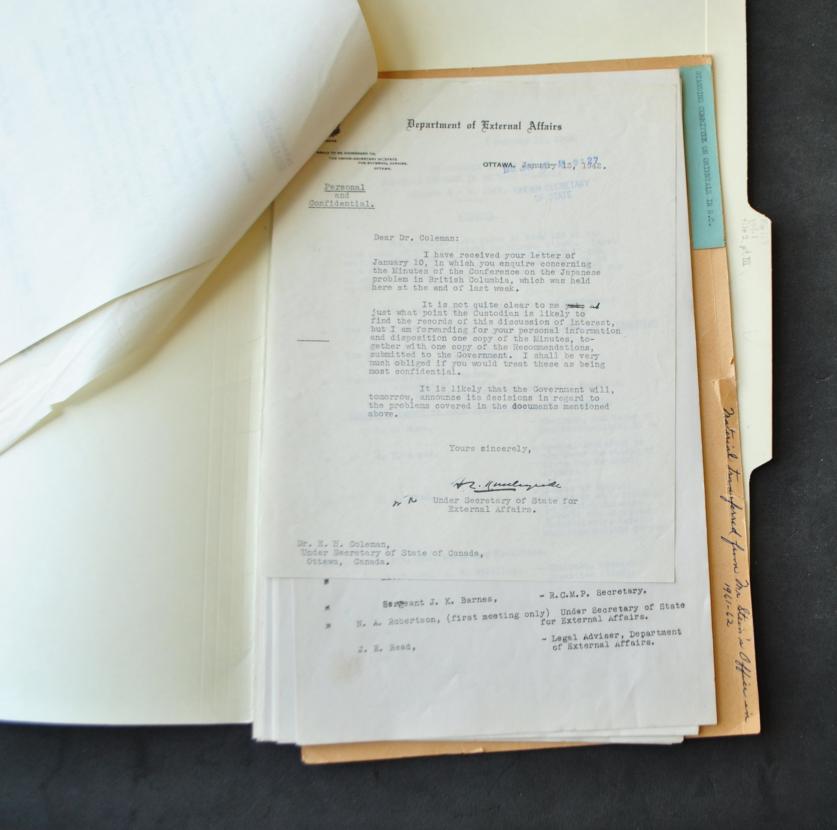
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January 10, 1942. CONFERENCE ON THE JAPANASE PROBLEM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA January 8 - 9, 1942, Ottawa. MINUTES The meetings took place in Room 123 of the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. Three meetings were held: the first meeting from 2.30 p.m. to to 6 p.m. on January 8; the second from 9.30 aym. to 12 noon on January 9; the third from 3 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. on January 9. on January 9. 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 - Chairman, and Mayor of New Westminister, B. C. F. J. Hume, - Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of H. F. Angus, State for External Affairs. - Member of Special Committee on Orientals F. J. Mead, ommittee on Orientals in British Columbia (1940); and Assistant Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Lieut.-Col. Macgregor Macintosh, - Chairman, Special Committee (1940). Lieut.-Col. A. W. Sparling, - R. C.M. P. Secretary. Sergeant J. K. Barnes, N. A. Robertson, (first meeting only) Under Secretary of State for External Affairs. - Legal Adviser, Department of External Affairs. J. E. Read,

Escost Reid

Major-General L. R. LaFleche (second meeting only)

Brigadier S. T. Wood, (first meeting only)

H. L. Keenleyside,

- T.W.S. Parsons,
- Commodore H.E. Reid,
- Commander J. McCullough,
- Paymaster Lieut. Commander R.Pennington, (first meeting only)
- Commander E. Johnstone
- Major-General Maurice Pope

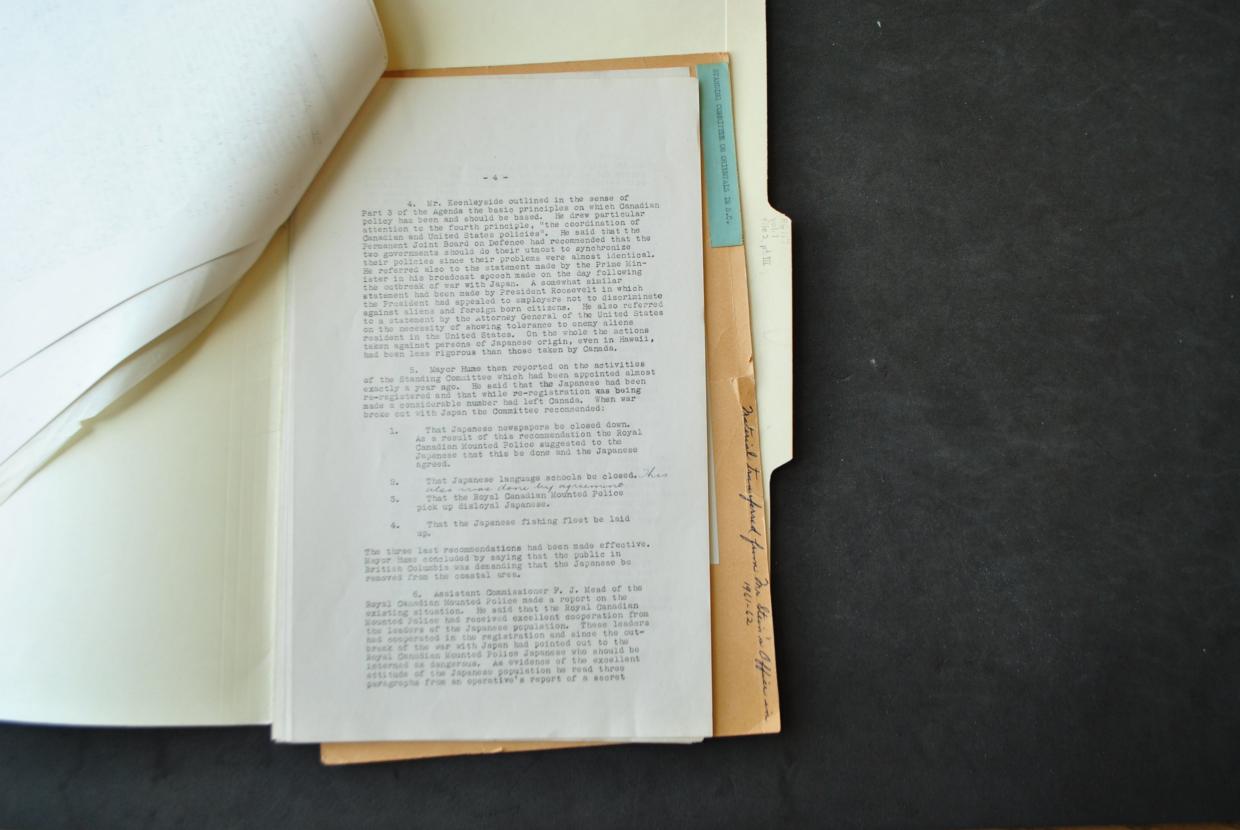
Lieut, -Col. J. E. Lyon,

- A. J. Whitmore,
- W. J. Couper, R. W. Baldwin,

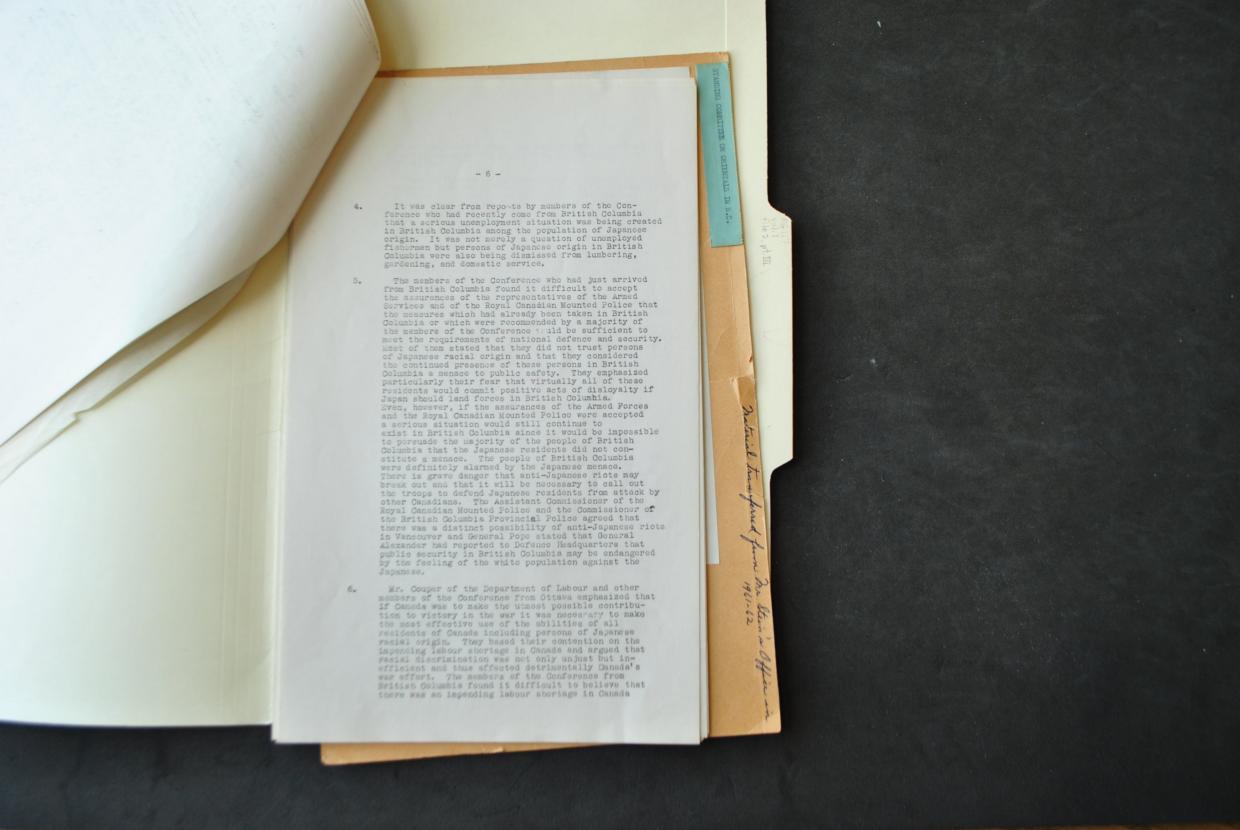
- Chairman, Board of Review (1938).

- Department of External
- Associate Deputy Minister of National War Services.
- Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Commissioner, British Columbia Provincial Police.
- Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.
- Officer in Charge of Auxiliary Vessels, Pacific Coast.
- Secretary of the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.
- Assistant Director of Naval Personnel.
- Vice-Chief of the General Staff.
- Acting Director of is ..... Military Operations and Intelligence.
- Director Western Fisheries, Department of Fisheries,
- Department of Labour.
- Office of the Press Censor.

Present or past resident of British Columbia.



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. 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 dutlined 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: 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 dis-loyalty 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 Mr. Whitmore of the Department of Fisheries stated 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 guar. He warned, however, that there would be a temporary local shortage of certain types of fish. Mayor Hime 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.



since they stated there was considerable unemployment existing at the present time in British Columbia. 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 refust to work with workmen of Japanese racial origin in spite of any appeal which the Government might make. 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 advisor to the Department of External Allairs, 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. 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 Censorhsip could consult. This This Committee would consist of Mr. Angus and of a member nominated by the Defence Departments.

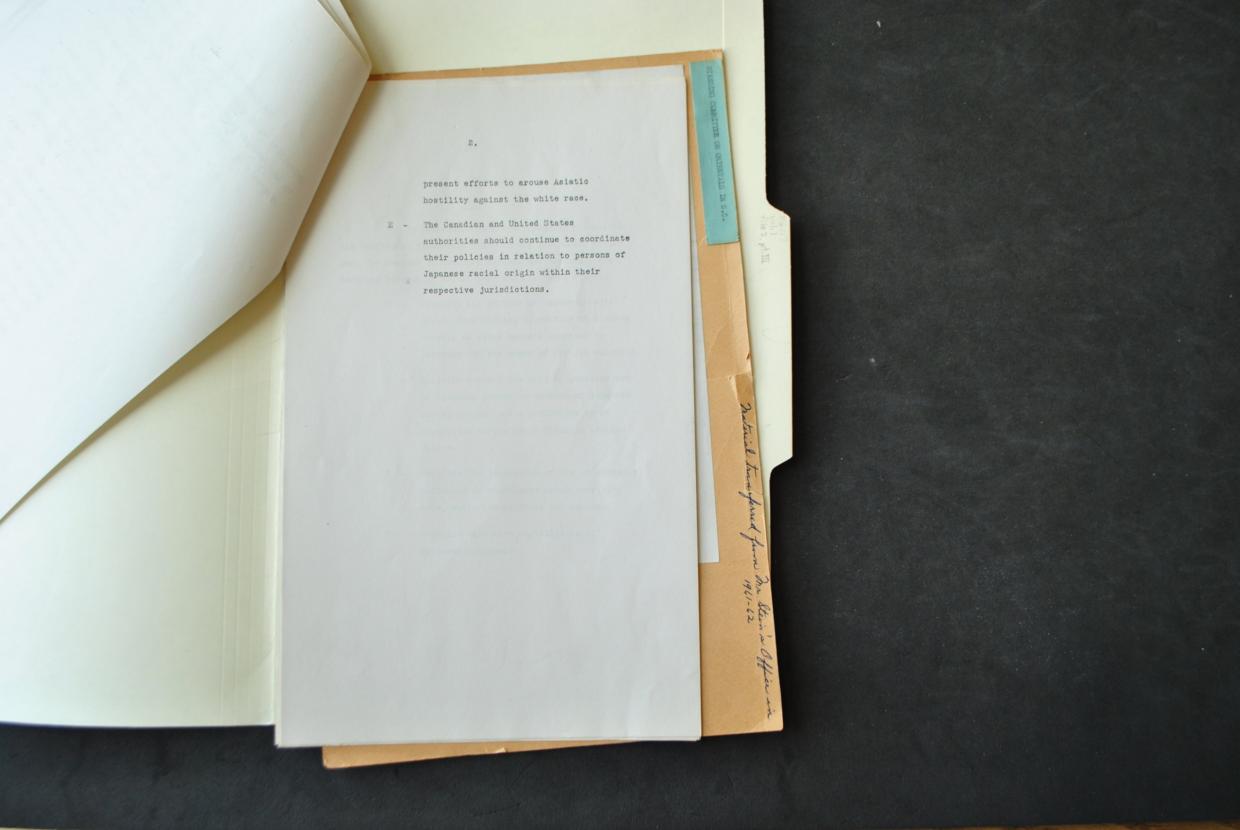


AGENDA Opening statement by the Honourable Ian Mackenzie A. A statement of the purpose of the meeting. B. A description of the peculiar position of the Japanese population in Janeda which is unlike that of the German and Italian populations in several ways:-I. The Japanese are concentrated in one province in proximity to a theatre of war. II. There are probably no strong elements among the Japanese population hostile to the present Govern-ment 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 Last 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. Background of the problem. Statement by Mr. Keenleyside 1937 Interdepartmental committee. Board of Review Investigation by Special Committee Reregistration; collection of firearms; appointment of Standing Committee. lesis principles on which Canadian policy has been and should be based,

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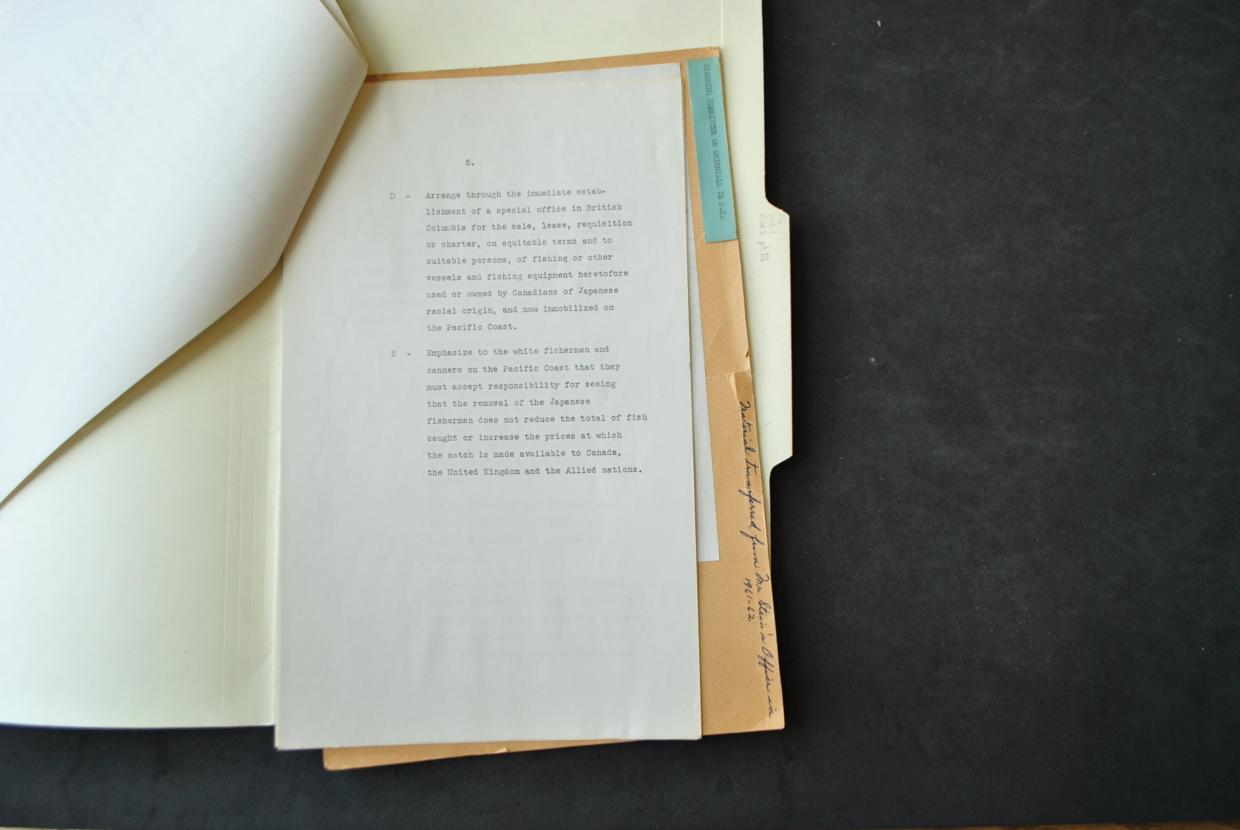
- 4 -(c) The Press. (d) Informal approach to local Government officials and others. (e) Action with respect to groups promoting race panic for ulterior purposes.

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 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

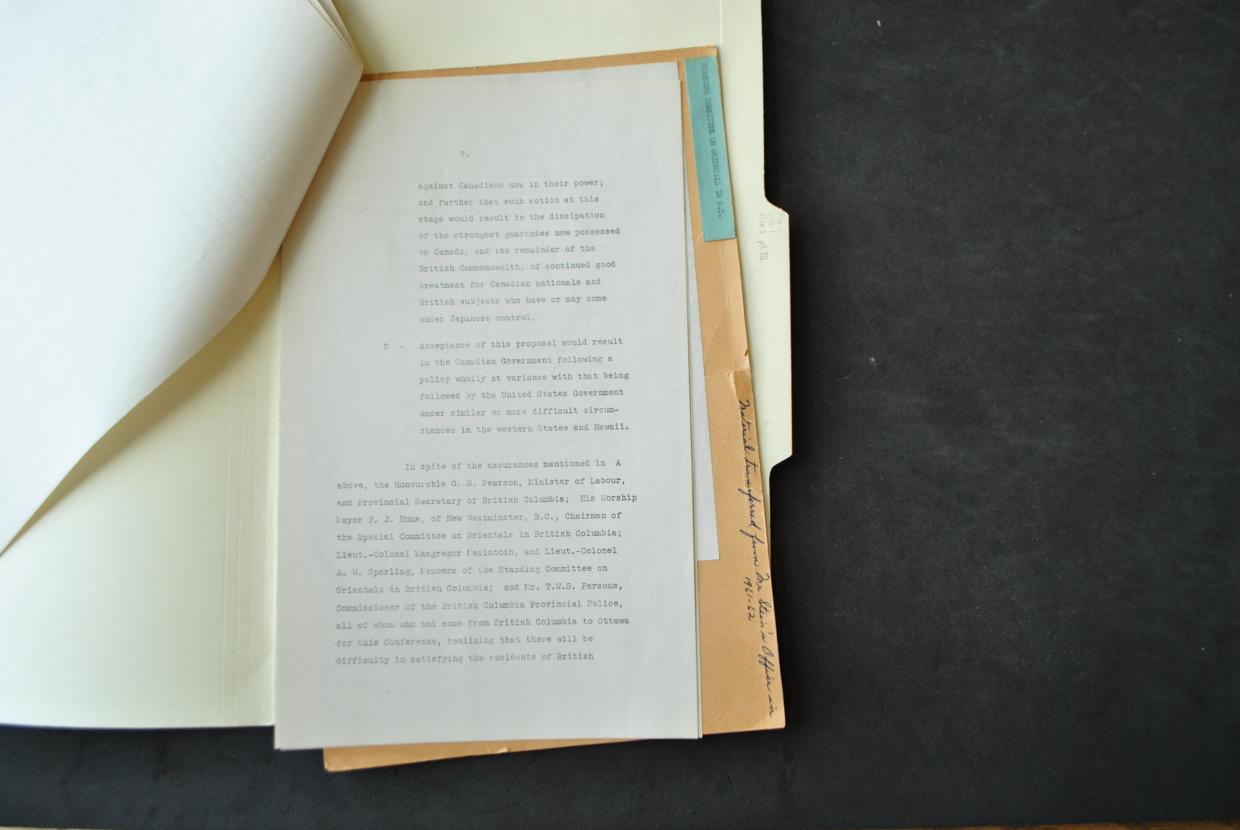


In accordance with the foregoing principles the Conference recommends that, during the period of the war, for reasons of national defence and security, the Canadian Government should take the following steps:-A - Prohibit all persons of Japanese racial origin from fishing or serving on fishing vessels 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.

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 Lobilization Act, for service outside British Columbia, all Canadian nationals of Japanese racial origin properly subject to the provisions of the said



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



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.

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.

