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TOP SECRET

**PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
CANADA**

SUBJECT

CABINET

Cabinet Conclusion Correspondence

287336

PRIVY COUNCIL ARCHIVES

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Ottawa, July 6th, 1945.

The Honourable L.S. St.Laurent, K.C.,M.P.,
Minister of Justice,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. St.Laurent:

The following is a note of the items of particular interest to you which were discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet:

1. Halifax dockyards; labour organization

It was reported that the situation in the Halifax dockyards had now reached the stage where an immediate strike was threatened and that a strike at this time would impede the overhauling and re-fitting of Naval vessels for service in the Pacific which would have serious consequences for the R.C.N.

It was pointed out in discussion that the government should avoid any appearance of placing itself in a specially favoured position vis-a-vis labour organizations in comparison with private enterprise and that government policy in respect of organization in Crown corporations and the government service had already been set out in a letter addressed by the Prime Minister to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Congress of Labour and in Order in Council P.C.1003 of February 17th, 1944. Within the limits of P.C.1003, no union in the Halifax dockyards could be granted sole recognition.

Rather than initiate any dangerous precedents at this time, it was suggested that it would be desirable to reply to the labour groups concerned in Halifax, referring to the appropriate parts of the policy laid down by the Prime Minister to Mr. Conroy, pointing out that recognition of labour organizations must be in accordance with procedure already set down in P.C.1003, which sets forth government policy with regard to such organization, and stating that the government did not propose, at this time, to extend P.C.1003 to cover any groups other than those presently covered.

The Cabinet agreed that no labour organization in the Halifax dockyards be granted sole recognition and that a suitable communication be addressed by the Acting Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, in consultation with the Minister of Labour, to the Halifax workers along the lines indicated above.

2. Japanese in Canada; acquisition of property

It was pointed out that present regulations prevented persons of Japanese race from acquiring land and that a number of applications from such persons to acquire property had been received.

It was suggested that, while it might be necessary to modify the regulations in due course, it would appear that any modification at present, to allow acquisition of property, might imply a change in the government's announced policy of repatriation of persons of Japanese race.

The Cabinet, after discussion, agreed that no change be made in the regulations for the present.

3. Recognition of the government of Poland

It was reported that announcement of immediate recognition of the provisional government of Poland in Warsaw was being made by the United Kingdom and the United States and that it was proposed that Canada follow suit by despatch of a wire to the Prime Minister of the provisional government, granting Canadian recognition; this would be followed by an announcement to the press.

The possibility of delaying Canadian action in this respect was suggested and it was pointed out that the recognition of Poland was in accordance with arrangements entered into at San Francisco, whereby Poland would be admitted to the United Nations when the major powers were satisfied that certain conditions had been met; the Canadian announcement of recognition would cause less difficulty if it appeared consequential to action initiated at San Francisco.

The Cabinet approved the granting of recognition to the Polish provisional government on the understanding that announcement in Canada would follow the lines indicated above.

Yours sincerely,

J.R. Baldwin,
Acting Secretary.

Secret

C-20-2

C-10
H-15-1
D-16-2
J-25-1

Ottawa, July 6th, 1945.

The Honourable Humphrey Mitchell, M.P.,
Minister of Labour,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

The following is a note of the items of particular interest to you which were discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet, held in your absence:

1. Halifax dockyards; labour organization

It was reported that the situation in the Halifax dockyards had now reached the stage where an immediate strike was threatened and that a strike at this time would impede the overhauling and re-fitting of Naval vessels for service in the Pacific which would have serious consequences for the R.C.N.

It was pointed out in discussion that the government should avoid any appearance of placing itself in a specially favoured position vis-a-vis labour organizations in comparison with private enterprise and that government policy in respect of organization in Crown corporations and the government service had already been set out in a letter addressed by the Prime Minister to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Congress of Labour and in Order in Council P.C.1003 of February 17th, 1944. Within the limits of P.C.1003, no union in the Halifax dockyards could be granted sole recognition.

Rather than initiate any dangerous precedents at this time, it was suggested that it would be desirable to reply to the labour groups concerned in Halifax, referring to the appropriate parts of the policy laid down by the Prime Minister to Mr. Conroy, pointing out that recognition of labour organizations must be in accordance with procedure already set down in P.C.1003, which sets forth government policy with regard to such organization, and stating that the government did not propose, at this time, to extend P.C.1003 to cover any groups other than those presently covered.

The Cabinet agreed that no labour organization in the Halifax dockyards be granted sole recognition and that a suitable communication be addressed by the Acting Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, in consultation with you, to the Halifax workers along the lines indicated above.

2. Japanese in Canada; acquisition of property

It was pointed out that present regulations prevented persons of Japanese race from acquiring land and that a number of applications from such persons to acquire property had been received.

It was suggested that, while it might be necessary to modify the regulations in due course, it would appear that any modification at present, to allow acquisition of property, might imply a change in the government's announced policy of repatriation of persons of Japanese race.

The Cabinet, after discussion, agreed that no change be made in the regulations for the present.

3. Daylight Saving Time; reversion to Standard Time

The Cabinet agreed that the following sub-committee be established to consider and report upon the question of reversion to Standard Time:

The Minister of Finance (Convener),
The Minister of Munitions and Supply,
The Minister of Labour,
The Minister of Fisheries,
The Minister of Transport and
The Secretary of State.

You will, no doubt, be hearing direct from Mr. Ilsley with regard to the convening of a meeting of the sub-committee.

Yours sincerely,

J.R. Baldwin,
Acting Secretary.

Ottawa, July 6, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

The attached is a note of the items discussed at the meeting of the Cabinet held, in your absence, on July 5th.

May I draw your attention, particularly, to the following paragraphs:

- Paras. 1 to 4: Halifax dockyards; labour organization.
- Paras. 5 to 9: Recognition of the government of Poland.
- Paras. 12 and 13: Japanese in Canada; acquisition of property.
- Paras. 18 and 19: Canadian Army overseas; disturbances at Aldershot.
- Paras. 22 to 24: Food position in Canada; meat rationing.

J.R. Baldwin.

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D-13-1

Ottawa, May 4th, 1945.

W.C. Ronson, Esquire,
For Secretary, Treasury Board,
Department of Finance,
O T T A W A.

The following item involving a possible financial commitment was dealt with by Cabinet on May 3rd, 1945.

1. Employment of prisoners of war in agriculture and lumbering; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick -

Approval was given to a recommendation submitted from the Ministers of National Defence and Labour seeking approval of the employment of Class I "White" prisoners of war to meet the shortage of labour for agriculture and lumbering in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Method of employment would be on individual farms and at temporary camps and hostels. It is estimated that a total of 6,542 prisoners of war were available after excluding officers and other special groups.

A.D.P. Heeney,
Secretary to the Cabinet.

WEDH/TS