

Minutes of the
War Committee of the Cabinet

January 12, 1944

SECRET

Ottawa, January 12th, 1944.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Wednesday, January 12th, 1944, at 3.00 p.m.

Present:

The Prime Minister (Mr. King), in the Chair,
The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston),
The Minister of National Defence for Air
(Mr. Power),
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley),
The Minister of Transport (Mr. Michaud),
The Minister of Munitions and Supply
(Mr. Howe),
The Minister of National Defence for
Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald),
The Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent).

The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Robertson),
The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Heeney).

Mr. J. R. Baldwin, Privy Council Office.

Also present (for consideration of subjects dealt with in paragraphs 1 to 18):

The Chief of the Naval Staff
(Vice-Admiral Melles),
The Vice Chief of the General Staff
(Major-General Murchie),
The Acting Chief of the Air Staff
(Air Vice-Marshal Sully),
The Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee
(Lieutenant-Commander Todd),
Squadron Leader Armstrong, R.C.A.F.

and (for consideration of the subject dealt with in paragraphs 19 to 22):

In view of the lessening risk from submarine warfare, this transfer could be accomplished without injuring the escort position on the Eastern Canadian Coast. Minesweepers remaining were sufficient to deal with possible enemy mine-laying; the Admiralty would be willing to support the Canadian Navy in the event of increased U-boat activity on the Atlantic Coast.

(Memorandum, Director of Operations Division, Department of National Defence for Naval Services to Chief of Naval Staff, Jan. 12, 1944, and attached Naval Messages).

9. The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services recommended approval of the movement of Canadian vessels in the circumstances contemplated.

10. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that there would be no objection to the proposed movement and that, if a request to that effect were made by the U.K. government it should be favourably received.

Travel of Japanese in Canada

11. The Secretary, referring to the discussion at the meeting on October 6th, submitted a new draft Order to govern the movement of Japanese persons in Canada. This draft Order had been approved by the Chiefs of Staff, the R.C.M. Police and the Department of Labour, who had conferred on the subject, at the War Committee's direction.

12. The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs raised the question of basing regulations of this character upon discrimination between citizens of different racial origins, and enquired as to the possibility of revising the Order so as to reduce such restrictions to the minimum necessary from the security point of view.

13. The War Committee, after discussion, referred the draft Order to the Department of External Affairs for reconsideration with representatives of the departments concerned, with a view to revision along the lines suggested by the Under-Secretary.