

Minutes of the
Cabinet War Committee
January 17, 1945

TOP SECRET

Ottawa, January 17th, 1945.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Wednesday, January 17th, 1945, at 3 p.m.

Present:

The Prime Minister (Mr. King), in the Chair,
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley),
The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe),
The Acting Minister of National Defence for Air and Naval Services (Mr. Gibson),
The Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent),
The Minister of National Defence (General McNaughton).

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

Also present (for items dealt with in paragraphs

The Minister of National War Services (General LaFleche),

and (for item dealt with in paragraphs 1 to 3):

The Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Captain DeWolf),

and (for item dealt with in paragraphs 1 to 5):

Major P. Geymonat, Directorate of Military Intelligence (Army).

Operational reports;
anti-submarine warfare; land operations

Assistant Chief of the Naval

Employment of Japanese-Canadians for
special duty in Australia

14. The Secretary, referring to the decision taken at the meeting of October 11th last, reported that, as a result of investigation, three Japanese-Canadians had been found whom the Australian government wished to employ for special duty in connection with psychological warfare. A barrier to their so doing, however, was the unwillingness of such personnel to accept this employment unless the government guaranteed their re-entry into Canada after the war.

An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Secretary's note, Jan. 16, 1945 -
C.W.C. document 921).

15. The Under-Secretary of State for
External Affairs explained the position.

It would clearly be impossible to include, in any postwar deportations to Japan, any Canadians of Japanese race who accepted war employment under the Australian government. On the other hand, under the decision of October 11th, it was not possible to give any guarantee for their re-entry into Canada without which they were unwilling to accept this employment. The Australian government was very anxious to obtain their services.

16. The Minister of National Defence felt that the original Army recommendation, namely, that such persons be taken into the Canadian Army and then loaned to Australia, offered the best solution. If this procedure were adopted, there need be no publicity involved and it could be arranged that personnel so enlisted serve without uniform. Such men were capable of making a valuable contribution to the war.

17. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed that suitable Canadians of Japanese race, to a maximum, for the present, of one hundred, might be accepted for enlistment in