

Minutes of the
War Committee of the Cabinet
January 20th, 1941

Ottawa, January 20th, 1941.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Prime Minister's Office, in the East Block, on Monday, January the 20th, at 2.45 p.m.

There were present the following members:

The Prime Minister,
The Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar),
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley),
The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services and Acting Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Macdonald).

The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs (Dr. Skelton),
The Secretary (Mr. Heeney).

Permanent Joint Board on Defence

1. The Prime Minister referred to the Twelfth Recommendation of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, namely, "that a war industry member be appointed to the Board by each of the two governments". At the Committee's meeting on January the 2nd, it had been decided to defer any action upon this Recommendation until the return of the Minister of Munitions and Supply. In view, however, of the fact that the President of the United States had approved the Recommendation, subject to the concurrence of Mr. Morgenthau and Mr. Purvis, and in view of general agreement as to the desirability of having representation on the Board of agencies of both governments responsible for the obtaining of munitions and supplies, the Committee might now approve the Recommendation, in principle, leaving to a later date the appointment of a Canadian representative.

2. It was agreed that the government approve, in principle, the Twelfth Recommendation of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence; the nomination of a Canadian "supply" representative to be deferred until the Secretary was accordingly.

(See telegram No. 72 of January 15th, and No. 104 of January 18th, from the Canadian High Commissioner in London, to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa).

56. After some discussion, it was agreed that the question should be referred to the Minister of Mines and Resources, for examination with officers of the Immigration Branch, and subsequent report to the Cabinet.

Orientals in British Columbia

57. The Secretary enquired whether formal approval could now be recorded in the Minutes, of the Report and Recommendations of the Special Committee on Orientals in British Columbia, which had been submitted to the government, in revised form, on January the 6th, accompanied by a letter of the same date from Mr. H. L. Keenleyside. Since that date, the Cabinet, by Order-in-Council, had appointed the Standing Committee, the constitution of which had been recommended in the Report.

58. It was agreed, thereupon, that the Report and Recommendations of the Special Committee (as revised) and submitted to the Prime Minister on January the 6th, 1941, and the recommendation set out in Mr. Keenleyside's letter of the same date, be approved; also that the Report be printed and tabled in Parliament.

Department of Munitions and Supply
Insurance upon explosives in transit
and mechanical transport.

59. Mr. Macdonald as Acting Minister of Munitions and Supply, raised the question as to whether explosives, in transit, and mechanical transport should be insured against liability to third parties. The Department recommended that insurance be placed upon explosives in transit, but not on mechanical transport.

60. After some discussion, it was decided to refer this question to the Minister of Finance for consideration with the Superintendent of Insurance.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

A. J. Murray