

Minutes of the
War Committee of the Cabinet
July 15, 1942.

Secret

Ottawa, July 15, 1942.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Wednesday, July the 15th, at 11.30 a.m.

There were present the following members:

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 Munitions and Supply
(Mr. Howe),
The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud),
The Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent).

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

There were also present, for consideration
of items dealt with in paragraphs 12 to 33:

The Chief of the Air Staff
(Air Marshal Breadner),
The Vice-Chief of the General Staff
(Major-General Murchie),
The Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff
(Commodore H.E. Reid),
The Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff
Committee (Captain DeWolf, R.C.N.)

Alaska - report by Minister of National Defence
for Air

1. The Minister of National Defence for
Air submitted a report upon a recent visit to Alaska,
undertaken with the objects of inspecting the staging
route from Edmonton, examining the defence position

Affairs reported that, as no satisfactory reply had been received from the Swiss government, M. Dupuy would proceed to Berne for the purpose of urging upon Swiss authorities the importance of direct Canadian representation in Switzerland.

Japanese labour on Blue River highway

4. The Secretary reported that, in accordance with the War Committee's decision of July the 1st, the Ministers and representatives of the Departments of Mines and Resources, National Defence, Labour and Justice had met to consider this question.

They had recommended:

(a) that the Japanese be moved from the vicinity of the railway as quickly as possible; and

(b) that the Departments of Labour and Justice confer with a view to the provision of additional protective measures during the period before the movement was completed.

Action was being taken accordingly. It was anticipated that the movement would be completed in about two months. A note of the sub-committee's recommendations had been circulated.

(Acting Secretary's note, July 14, 1942 - C.W.C. document 224).

5. The War Committee approved the sub-committee's report and the action taken in accordance therewith.

Attachment of journalists to Canadian Army overseas

6. The Minister of National Defence submitted a communication from Lieutenant-General McNaughton, offering hospitality and facilities to Canadian newspapers who wished to send approved representatives for attachment to Canadian Army headquarters. Copies of the telegram had been circulated.