

Minutes of the
War Committee of the Cabinet
May 22nd, 1942.

Ottawa, May 22nd, 1942.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in Room 401, House of Commons, on Friday, May the 22nd, at 4 p.m.

There were present the following members:

The Prime Minister (Mr. King), in the Chair,
The Minister of Mines and Resources
(Mr. Crerar),
The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston),
The Minister of National Defence for Air
(Mr. Power),
The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe).

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

Canadian troops for service in British Guiana

1. The Minister of National Defence reported a request of the U.K. government for a number of Canadian officers and N.C.O.'s to undertake training of native coloured troops engaged in guard and security duties on ships carrying bauxite on the Demarara River.

It was recommended that, in order to comply with this request, the mobilization of No.34 Company of the Veterans' Guard, on a limited establishment of 2 officers and 32 N.C.O.'s, be authorized with authority to complete the establishment as required.

The cost to the Canadian government would be \$15,600. Approval was recommended. An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Departmental memorandum May 19, 1942 - C.W.C. document 169).

garding exemptions from Canadian taxation of persons, including corporations, engaged on the Alaska Highway, be extended to other undertakings of the same nature authorized by agreement between the two governments. The improvement of port facilities at Prince Rupert, by the U.S. Army, and the establishment of facilities to obtain and refine oil at Fort Norman and at White Horse would be in this category.

(External Affairs memorandum, May 19, 1942).

31. The War Committee approved exemptions from Canadian taxation, as recommended.

Japanese in the Canadian Army

32. The Secretary referred to the earlier discussions of this question at the meeting of May 16th. External Affairs and the R.C.A.F. were to look into the question.

33. The Minister of National Defence for Air reported that there were no persons of Japanese race in the R.C.A.F., and the question therefore did not arise.

34. The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs said that, before any formal action were taken, further information should be obtained regarding U.S. policy. The situation in respect of Japanese in the U.S. Army was not clear.

35. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed that no formal step be taken, at this time, but that the Army might take other means to provide for the discharge of Japanese on other than racial grounds.

Air Service between Canada and the United Kingdom

36. The Prime Minister reported that the Canadian High Commissioner in London had raised the