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16 May*

C-10-3-D

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D-19-A

**SECRET**  
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Document No 167

MEMORANDUM

Copy No 12

TO: M.C.O.  
C.M.C.  
C.C.S.

H.Q.S. 8746 F.D. 13 (M.R. 2)

30th April, 1942.

As Canadian born men of Japanese origin are British subjects, they are eligible for enlistment in the Canadian Army under the existing regulations.

Some of these Canadian born Japanese have been well educated, and the length of time during which they and their parents have been subjected to occidental manners and customs has made them feel that they are Canadians and anxious to contribute their share to the Canadian War Effort. Many of them have become so accustomed to Canadian standards of living that they do not wish to see those standards lowered, and feel most keenly that they are not wanted and that, through no fault of their own, there is no place for them in the country of their birth.

While Canadian born persons of Japanese origin may appear to be good Canadian citizens, they do, however, bear the appearance and characteristics of another race, which immediately sets them apart from the average Canadian. In the course of a war with Japan, events are bound to occur which inflame racial hatreds and lead to unfortunate incidents which would make army life miserable for a soldier of Japanese origin.

The influence of an ancient oriental civilization such as the Japanese persists to such an extent that an adoption of Western manners and customs may be only a thin veneer, which, in some cases, may be assumed in order to engage in business affairs. The development of racial hatreds may result in the swerving of a loyalty which had previously been unquestioned.

The policy of the United States Army is that Japanese of either American or Foreign birth are not



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The policy of the United States Army is that Japanese of either American or Foreign birth are not accepted for enlistments, irrespective of whether or not they are American citizens. (See cable from Canadian Military Attache at Washington dated 28th April, 1942, at folio 6 on H.C.S. 6615-4-A F.D. 43, flagged "A").

Apart from considerations of Canadian Security it would appear unwise to enlist persons of Japanese origin in the Canadian Army, as such would ultimately lead to an unfortunate situation in places where Canadian and United States troops are in close contact.

In view of the foregoing it is considered that the risk involved in the enlistment in the Canadian Army of persons of Japanese origin is considerable, and is not offset by the services that could be expected from such enlistments.



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It is suggested that any Japanese already enlisted in the Canadian Army should be discharged.

The above is concurred in by:

Chief of General Staff  
Adjutant-General  
Master General of the Ordnance  
Quartermaster General