

*Circulated with Agenda
October 5-12*

SECRET
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE
Document No 630

SECRET

J-25-1

Copy No. 12

C-10-3-D

MEMORANDUM

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Re: B.C. Security Commission - travel of
Japanese in Canada

At the meeting of September 22nd, Cabinet War Committee approved the recommendation of Defence Council for amendment of the B.C. Security Commission Order No. 1 New Series, to provide that persons of Japanese race in British Columbia must obtain an R.C.M.P. permit prior to travel, for any purpose whatsoever, a distance of five (5) miles from their residence. This approval was subject to the concurrence of the Department of Labour and the Department of Justice (R.C.M.P.).

The Minister of Labour has now reported that the proposed amendment has been the subject of a conference between officials of the two departments. It was the unanimous opinion of these representatives that any amendment of this nature would be totally unworkable and unenforceable under present conditions. The R.C.M.P. further testify that no Japanese in Canada has been active in an attempt at sabotage since the war began and they are satisfied that the present security measures are sufficient.

For the reasons outlined above, the R.C.M.P. and the Department of Labour are unwilling to concur in further restrictive measures applied to Japanese Canadians as well as to Japanese Nationals, which measures are not contemplated toward other enemy aliens in British Columbia. It is suggested as an alternative that the Commissioner of Japanese Placement and the Officer Commanding the British Columbia Division, R.C.M.P. confer on the advisability of such measures in British Columbia.

Re: B.C. Security Commission - travel of
Japanese in Canada

At the meeting of September 22nd, Cabinet War Committee approved the recommendation of Defence Council for amendment of the B.C. Security Commission Order No.1 New Series, to provide that persons of Japanese race in British Columbia must obtain an R.C.M.P. permit prior to travel, for any purpose whatsoever, a distance of five (5) miles from their residence. This approval was subject to the concurrence of the Department of Labour and the Department of Justice (R.C.M.P.).

The Minister of Labour has now reported that the proposed amendment has been the subject of a conference between officials of the two departments. It was the unanimous opinion of these representatives that any amendment of this nature would be totally unworkable and unenforceable under present conditions. The R.C.M.P. further testify that no Japanese in Canada has been active in an attempt at sabotage since the war began and they are satisfied that the present security measures are sufficient.

For the reasons outlined above, the R.C.M.P. and the Department of Labour are unwilling to concur in further restrictive measures applied to Japanese Canadians as well as to Japanese Nationals, which measures are not contemplated toward other enemy aliens in British Columbia. It is suggested as an alternative that the Commissioner of Japanese Placement and the Officer Commanding the British Columbia Division, R.C.M.P. confer on the advisability of a zoning system for Japanese in British Columbia, which it is felt would serve the same purpose more effectively.

A.D.P. Heaney,
Secretary.

Privy Council Office,
October 5th, 1943.