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MEMORANDUM REGARDING MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN THE
EVENT OF WAR WITH JAPAN

1. The Special Interdepartmental Committee which reported last year on measures to be taken in the event of war with Italy was reconvened on July 25, under the chairmanship of Mr. J.E. Read, Legal Adviser of the Department of External Affairs. The Committee produced a report (with three appendices), a copy of which is annexed. More copies are available. The Appendices are entitled as follows:

Appendix A. - Internment
Appendix B. - Shipping and Economic Questions.
Appendix C. - Trading with the Enemy.

2. The report outlines the steps which should be taken by the Departments of the Government, in the event of war with Japan.

3. In addition to general Ministerial approval of the report, it is necessary for the Government to decide the following fundamental questions of policy:-

(a) The report is based on the assumption that almost all of its recommendations will be put into effect on receipt of the War Telegram, i.e. on the commencement of a state of war between the United Kingdom and Japan, even though some days or weeks might elapse before the commencement of a formal state of war between Canada

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and Japan. Not only would economic and security measures be taken on receipt of the War Telegram, but the fighting forces would be authorized to engage the Japanese. The decision to take the War Telegram as the signal for all of these actions is, of course, one for the Government to make.

(b) It is proposed at this time (without waiting for war developments) to make compulsory and to extend to the rest of Canada, the "voluntary" registration of Japanese in British Columbia which the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have almost completed. If war comes between Canada and Japan, the registration just mentioned would in effect be substituted for the registration of enemy aliens provided in the Defence of Canada Regulations. In other respects, the policy towards Japanese enemy aliens would be like that towards Germans and Italians. No wholesale internment is planned.

4. The economic and shipping measures against Japan are modelled on those planned by the United Kingdom and United States in the event of war.

5. If, in the event of war between the United Kingdom and Japan, the Government should decide to place Canada in a state of war with Japan, with or without parliamentary concurrence, the draft legal documents required are ready in the Department of External Affairs.