

Memorandum re Meeting of  
Cabinet War Committee

October 3rd, 1940.

SECRET

Ottawa, October 3rd, 1940.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Prime Minister's Office in the East Block, on Thursday, October the 3rd, at 11.30 a.m.

There were present the following members:

The Prime Minister,  
The Minister of Mines and Resources  
(Mr. Crerar),  
The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston),  
The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe),  
The Minister of National Defence for  
Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald).

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

Compulsory Military Training -

Policy regarding postponements and exemptions  
of key personnel in war industries.

1. The Acting Minister of National War Services (Mr. Macdonald) raised, as a matter of urgency, the policy to be adopted regarding the granting of postponements or exemptions to key personnel employed in war industries. This matter had been under consideration by a Special Cabinet Committee who had conferred with the Chairman of the National Labour Supply Council and officers of departments immediately involved.

The effect of the compulsory thirty day training programme upon industries engaged in war production was causing grave concern. It was proposed as an immediate measure that a circular letter of instruction should be addressed to boards of review, directing them to grant postponements to key men in industries directly involved in war work. The circular would be supplemented by instructions

16. The Minister of Munitions and Supply stated that Canada was now proceeding on this basis. It had been decided to take steps to produce aircraft engines in this country. We had now been told that we could not rely upon U. S. sources, as we had earlier been informed that we could not rely upon the United Kingdom.

17. Rear Admiral Nelles favoured the further development of facilities for the construction of naval craft in Canada. He would propose that upon the completion of destroyers now building for the R.C.N., in the United Kingdom, we should begin to build destroyers in this country.

18. Mr. Ralston pointed out the substantial scale of the naval, military and air establishments being considered by the Permanent Joint Board on Defence. On this basis we would require three and possibly four divisions for duty in Canada and Newfoundland.

The meeting adjourned at 12.45 p.m., to resume at 2.30 p.m.

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) was present when the Committee (without the representatives of the Services), resumed its session.

#### Japanese and Chinese in British Columbia

19. The Secretary enquired as to the terms of reference for the Special Committee which had been appointed at the last meeting to consider matters relating to persons of Japanese and Chinese racial origin in British Columbia.

It was agreed that the Committee's function should include that of examination and report upon the general problem of Japanese and Chinese in British Columbia, from the point of view of internal security, and with particular reference to the question of military training.

#### Africa and the Middle East

20. The Prime Minister read a communication from the Prime Minister of South Africa, to the