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RECORD GROUP 25 61  
ACC 83  
VOLUME 29  
FILE 3464

NO. 3464-B-40C From  
To 31 July 1942

Subject:

STATUS & TREATMENT OF JAPANESE

IN CANADA IN WARTIME

--GENERAL FILE

L-117-624 283365

# References to Related Files

File No.	Subject
3464-B-40C	MESSAGES TO & FROM JAPANESE INTERNED IN CANADA
3464-C-40C	VISITS BY VARIOUS PERSONS TO JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS IN CANADA--REPORTS & ARRANGEMENTS RE.
3464-D-40C	INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE IN CANADA IN WARTIME
3464-E-40C	--GENERAL FILE.
3464-F-40C	REFUSAL OF AIR & RAIL TRANSPORTATION & AIR EXPRESS FACILITIES TO JAPANESE NATIONALS.
3464-G-40	CONTROL OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS IN CANADA FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF WAR WITH JAPAN.
3464-H-40C	RE-REGISTRATION OF JAPANESE IN CANADA FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF WAR WITH JAPAN.
3464-I-40	EMPLOYMENT OF JAPANESE IN CANADA IN WARTIME.
3464-J-40C	FISHING LICENCES FOR JAPANESE IN CANADA IN WARTIME
3464-K-40	EVACUATION OF JAPANESE FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COSTAL AREAS
3464-L-40	P. W. I. B. forms re Japanese interned in Canada.
3464-M-40	Books for Japanese interned in Canada.
3464-N-40	Recreational & educational facilities
3464-O-40	Relief for families of Japanese internees
3464-P-40	Rations for Japanese internees.
3464-Q-40	British Columbia Security Commission
3464-R-40	Treatment of property & assets of Japanese
3464-S-40	Use of radio receiving & transmitting sets
3464-T-40	Formation of Japanese Construction Corps.



9754 90 Avenue,  
Edmonton, Alta., T6E 2S9  
July 29, 1983

Mr. Dacre Cole,  
Historical Division,  
Department of External Affairs,  
Lester Pearson Building,  
125 Sussex Drive,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
K1A 0G3

To / A	C / H
From / De	MGIA
Aug 12 1983	
Att'n:	

Dear Mr. Cole,

I am writing to thank you for your assistance during my research trip to Ottawa last week. It is always a pleasure dealing with you and your department.

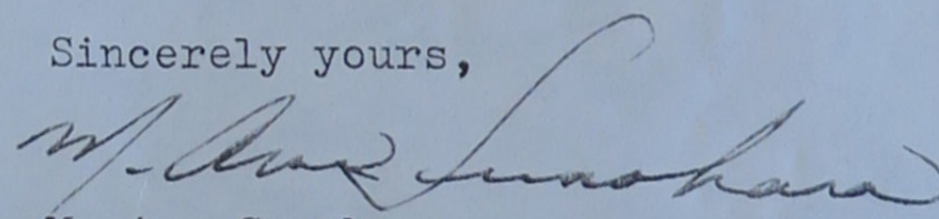
As I noted at the time one of the files I wanted, 773-B-40 was missing. At your suggestion I informed Paulette Dozois at the Public Archives so that she might look for it there. It the event, however, that it turns up again at the Department of External Affairs, possibly because it was misfiled, I should like to indicate the documents I wished to make copies of which should be in it. Should the file turn up I would be very pleased if you could arrange to have copies of the following sent to me:

Letter: H.L. Keenleyside, Under-Secretary of External Affairs, to Lt. Gen. Maurice A. Pope, Vice Chief of General Staff, January 3, 1942 - in part one of 773-B-40 (2 pages)  
I would also appreciate any reply from Pope, if one exists, in the same file.

Minutes, Conference on the Japanese Problems in B.C., in 773-B-40(C) The conference was held on January 8 and 9 1942 and the Minutes are 8 pages in length.

Again thank you for your help. I hope and pray that the missing file turns up.

Sincerely yours,

  
M. Ann Sunahara.



## DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Ottawa, July 3, 1942

NO. 427

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS	
File No.	3464-B-40
Sub.	4 Chron. 3 Filed

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. A.99 of June 19th in which you transmitted an enquiry from the Reverend J.A.B. Mercier about the treatment of Japanese in British Columbia. It has been the policy of the Canadian Government to remove all persons of Japanese racial origin from a protected area west of the Cascade Mountains and the following information which has been obtained from the British Columbia Security Commission concerns those persons who are being evacuated from this area.

In the work camps a distinction is made between Japanese nationals and Canadians of Japanese racial origin (whether Canadian nationality has been acquired by birth or naturalization) by assigning to each group certain areas in the camps. There is, however, no distinction as regards pay or food.

In the early stages of the movement it was found necessary to separate some of the men from the other members of their families. The working Japanese may be many miles from their dependents who are looked after in large centres in different parts of the interior of British Columbia. Recently

The High Commissioner for Canada in the  
United Kingdom,  
Canada House,  
London, S.W.1.



however this policy has been changed and a plan is being put into operation for re-uniting these Japanese families irrespective of whether they are Canadian or Japanese by nationality.

The responsibility for the education of the children lies with the Security Commission which has completed satisfactory arrangements with the different educational departments of the provinces to which Japanese children have been transferred. Under these arrangements they will continue their education in the ordinary manner in the public schools of the provinces.

The Japanese are not forbidden to obtain private employment in certain areas provided that they do not work for less than the standard rate of wage. While working on government projects or government-assisted projects the Japanese are partially self-supporting. Each worker has to assign \$20.00 monthly for the maintenance of his wife and family. In addition the British Columbia Security Commission allows the wife \$5.00 per month for the first child and \$4.00 per month for each of the next four children.

If the husband is unable to work the Commission assumes full responsibility for his support allowing him the usual scale of relief paid to white people who are indigent in the locality in question.



This report is obviously incomplete in that it does not describe the arrangements made with regard to the property of alien enemies and with regard to property which Canadians of Japanese racial origin have been compelled to relinquish in one way or another (e.g. fishing boats, berry farms, etc.). It is, however, probably sufficient for the purposes of the Reverend Mr. Mercier.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*N. A. Robertson*

*for the*  
Secretary of State for  
External Affairs.



COPY

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

File No. 773-2-40  
Sub. Chron. Filed

Ottawa, 21st February, 1942.

My dear Prime Minister,

At a meeting of British Columbia Members, held this morning, they unanimously agreed to recommend the following programme with regard to the Japanese situation in British Columbia:

1. They point out that great and growing public apprehension exists with regard to the slowness of the removal of Japanese from the protected area.
2. They are all of the opinion that all those of Japanese origin should be removed as rapidly as possible from the protected areas.
3. They recommend that all regulations hitherto passed with reference to explosives, cameras, receiving sets, transmitting sets, etc., should be made immediately to apply to Canadian Nationals as well as to Japanese Nationals, and to companies owned or partially owned by Japanese; and that all existing permits for explosives be cancelled and such explosives confiscated.
4. They recommend that all restrictions in regard to gasoline, etc., now applicable to the Japanese Nationals, be made to apply to Canadian Nationals of Japanese origin.
5. They recommend that licenses for automobiles and trucks of Japanese Nationals and Canadian Nationals of Japanese origin be forthwith cancelled.
6. They recommend that immediate steps be taken to remove all those of Japanese origin from defence areas and defence projects, such as guns, batteries, emplacements and aerodromes, and from power plants and reservoirs; and that there be no delay whatsoever in this matter, whether they are Japanese Nationals or Canadian Nationals.
7. They recommend that all able bodied males be removed, whether of military age or not, and that when weather conditions improve, arrangements should be made for the removal of all families.
8. In regard to the restriction of land acquisition, they recommend that there should be complete prohibition, and that this be made retroactive to the date of declaration of war with Japan; that this prohibition should apply anywhere within the province of British Columbia.
9. That in the meantime a dusk-to-dawn curfew

Right Honourable W.L. Mackenzie King, M.P.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa.



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should be established immediately for all of Japanese origin.

10. They recommend that the various Ministers concerned should immediately decide upon action to be taken within the respective departments having the necessary jurisdiction.

11. If deemed desirable, we would appreciate an interview with you in regard to the above.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Olof Hanson  
Tom Reid  
George Cruikshank  
R.W. Mayhew  
Alan W. Neill  
T.J. O'Neill  
G.E.L. Mackinnon  
J.G. Turgeon.



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Subject *File*

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS  
File No. *773-B-46*  
Sub. *Chron. 2* Filed

Date

Feb. 19, 1942

Publication

House of Commons Debates

JAPANESE NATIONALS

EVACUATION TO BRITISH COLUMBIA INLAND AREAS—MESSAGE FROM KELOWNA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. GROTE STIRLING (Yale): I should like to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) a question based upon a telegram which I received this morning from the city clerk of Kelowna, British Columbia. This reads as follows:

Copy of resolution passed by municipal council of Kelowna on sixteenth.

Whereas under dominion regulations all male Japanese of military age have to vacate areas west of Cascade range by April 1st; and whereas apparently no supervision or restrictions have been made of this evacuation; and whereas these Japanese are steadily seeping into the Okanagan valley seeking to purchase land, residences and to settle, many of them coming in new automobiles and acting in a very truculent and insolent manner; and whereas public indignation is being roused to such an extent that violence against this infiltration may easily break out and unless stopped almost certainly will break out;

Be it resolved, (1) that all male Japanese of military age be interned by the dominion government; (2) orders in council be issued prohibiting the sale or lease or rental of land and other real estate to Japanese during the present crisis; (3) any evacuation of other Japanese to east of Cascade be under strict supervision of the dominion government only to such areas as may be deemed advisable where strict police supervision can be made at all times and in such a manner as not to arouse popular indignation and outrage.

A copy has been sent to the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister in position to make a statement which will alleviate the anxiety of those who take charge of the inhabitants of the interior of British Columbia?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend was good enough to send me a telegram which had been received this morning, and while it is not in the same terms as the one he has just read, the purport is much the same. I would say at once that the policy of the government for the duration of the war is to restrict, except under permit from the Minister of Justice, the acquisition of land by

purchase, lease or otherwise by persons of Japanese origin or by Japanese controlled companies.

In replying to my hon. friend, I think I ought perhaps to express just a word of caution with respect to the wording of messages and public utterances generally which may relate to the present position of Japanese nationals and other persons of Japanese origin in Canada at this time. I need not say how critical the situation is and how necessary it is, if we are to maintain law and order in the different communities and prevent hasty and unwarranted action on the part of individuals who may not be sufficiently appreciative of the effect of their actions, for all to be as restrained as possible in the language used in dealing with these difficult questions.

PETITION

REQUEST FOR INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE ADULTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. MAYHEW (Victoria, B.C.): Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a petition signed by 1,100 residents of the municipality of Saanich which I ask permission to lay on the table at this time. Saanich is in the county of Nanaimo, and as the representative for that district is at present serving overseas, I am laying this petition on the table in his behalf. I shall not read the whole petition but just the substance of the prayer, namely:

We therefore do earnestly petition the government of the Dominion of Canada to take immediate steps to eliminate all possibility of subversive acts by the resident Japanese in this province.



RECORDS  
100-773-1-400  
Sub. 7 Chron. 9 Filed

file  
9 Feb 1942

On Monday I promised the Honourable Member for New Westminster that I would seek an early opportunity to refer to the policy of the Government in relation to the Japanese problem in British Columbia. With the permission of the House I should like to make a statement on this subject today.

The presence in British Columbia of a population of nearly 24,000 men, women and children of Japanese race has created a situation which has demanded and received the closest attention from the Government of Canada. Ever since Japan, on September 27, 1940, associated herself with Germany and Italy the situation has been of increasing complexity. It was a situation, moreover, which offered opportunities for exploitation to a small number of persons who had for years maintained themselves in the public eye and had sought to advance their personal interests by exaggerating and distorting certain aspects of the problem. Recognizing this new situation which had been created by the changed international alignment and realizing the difficulties that might result in British Columbia, the Government within four days, that is on October 1st, appointed a Special Committee to investigate and report upon the problem of Japanese in British Columbia from the standpoint of



national security. There is no need for me to labour the findings of that Committee whose Report and Recommendations were tabled and published in December, 1940. The most important recommendation was that there should be a re-registration of the Japanese population of British Columbia and that a small Standing Committee should be set up to keep the Government constantly informed as to the oriental situation in that Province. These recommendations were acted on at once and in determining its policy the Government has had the benefit of the advice of this Standing Committee on which various viewpoints were represented.

In the months which followed the re-registration was carried out by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under the supervision of the Standing Committee and with the utmost cooperation from Japanese nationals as well as from Canadians of Japanese racial origin. When Canada, immediately following the treacherous attack by Japan on Pearl Harbour, declared war upon Japan the registration was all but complete and precautionary measures, which have proved entirely adequate, were put into effect forthwith.



The circumstances of the new war were such as to arouse the most justifiable indignation against Japan and the initial developments occasioned considerable public apprehension in British Columbia. It was inevitable that our fellow citizens on the Pacific Coast should recall that Fifth Columns had done much to facilitate the conquests of aggressor nations and that they should wonder whether similar insidious elements might not be at work among the Japanese residents of British Columbia. It says much for Canadian Democracy, and perhaps something for the policy pursued by this Government, that alarm did not degenerate into panic and that there were no popular demonstrations against the community of Japanese race. It has been part of that policy to encourage the good behaviour and loyalty of the population of Japanese race, but not to hesitate to take vigorous action when this was recommended by our naval or military advisers or by the Police. On the outbreak of war with Japan the Government took immediate steps similar to those taken against Germans and Italians and interned all Japanese against whom there was any ground for individual suspicion, and in addition steps were taken to immobilize all fishing boats operated by men of Japanese race for the duration of the war.



However, from many sources, evidence reached the Government that widespread popular apprehension prevailed, and in some quarters the most extreme measures were advocated. Legitimate apprehensions were concerned with three things: the aid which might be given to enemy submarines and enemy raiders if they should be supplied with fuel or furnished with information, the possibility of acts of sabotage and the possibility of anti-Japanese riots in which military force might have to be used to restore order. It was to discuss the grounds for these legitimate apprehensions and to determine the policy that should be followed that those members of the Standing Committee who were not already in Ottawa were summoned here for a meeting on January 8th. This meeting was held under the chairmanship of my Honourable friend the Minister of Pensions and National Health and was attended by the Honourable George Pearson as a representative of the Government of British Columbia.

The sessions of the Conference confirmed a fact that had already become apparent. This was that in addition to the legitimate apprehensions I have mentioned, other fears were being stimulated in British



Columbia by the activity of certain irresponsible persons who were taking advantage of the national crisis to advance their selfish personal interests.

The recommendations of the Conference of January 8th and 9th were considered by the Government, and on January 14th I made an announcement of policy to the Press. As this is the policy of Canada today it may be well to restate it in summary here.

The first consideration on which the policy is based is victory in our war with Japan. Canadians of Japanese race, whether by birth or by naturalization, and Japanese nationals resident in Canada will be justly treated and both their persons and their property will receive the full protection of the law. No action will be taken which would give any excuse for the ill-treatment of Canadians under the control of Japan, nor will anything be tolerated which will play Japan's game of inflaming Asiatic hostility against the white race. Canadian policies will march in step with those of Britain and the United States.



There is no conflict between these aims. Injustice could not be a road to victory, and military security demands nothing that derogates from British fair play for Canadian citizens of Japanese race.

We come next to specific measures. They are clear and simple. All persons of Japanese race will be removed from fishing boats and other vessels for the duration of the war. For the same period the sale of gasoline and explosives to persons of Japanese race will be controlled by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Japanese nationals have been forbidden to possess or use short-wave receiving sets, radio transmitters and cameras. Their present surveillance by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - similar to that successfully exercised over German and Italian nationals - will be continued.

These precautions which go beyond the measures taken earlier afford, as against any Japanese action, a margin of safety which is over and above the recommendations of the military, naval and Police authorities.

will be provided.



For Canadians of Japanese race who are anxious to serve Canada and whose recruitment for the armed forces has not been encouraged, a Civilian Corps will be formed to be used on projects of value to the national cause. It is hoped to make acceptance in this Corps a matter of pride, and discharge from it a disgrace, and to find tasks for it that will visibly contribute to our national war effort. We expect that the great majority of these Canadian nationals of Japanese race who are physically fit will volunteer for service in this Corps.

Enemy aliens, whether nationals of Japan or of Germany or of Italy will be required to leave a Protected Area on the Coast of British Columbia. Permits to remain may be granted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and it is expected that these will normally be granted to women and children and to men who are unfit. Those who leave may be placed in normal employment, if it can be found for them, outside the Protected Area and will, of course, be under the usual Police surveillance over enemy aliens. If there are any for whom ordinary employment cannot be found, work will be provided.



To ensure the sustained productivity of the fishing industry in British Columbia, on the one hand, and fairness to Canadians of Japanese race who own fishing vessels or have an interest in such vessels, on the other, a Commission has been set up to arrange for the sale, lease, requisition or charter of the boats.

Special consideration will be given to veterans of the last war.

There is little to add to this statement of Canadian policy. The defence area from which enemy aliens must withdraw has been defined by the Ministers of National Defence and Justice. The placing or employment of enemy aliens is being arranged by the Department of Labour through the Unemployment Insurance Commission. The Civilian Corps will be organized by the same Department and a recruiting campaign will begin as soon as the terms of enlistment have been decided. A Committee of the Cabinet has been set up consisting of the Ministers of Agriculture, Pensions and National Health, and Labour. It will take such decisions of policy as may be needed from time to time to implement the general programme which I have described.



This is where the policy of Canada stands today. The Government will continue to be alert and vigilant. If conditions change, if any of the Government's expectations are disappointed, steps will be taken to deal with the new situations as they arise.

The success of the policy will depend on the people of Canada and mainly on the people of British Columbia. In the cause of victory and of justice the Government is making demands upon them and is doing so with confidence. Let me be specific on this point. We cannot afford to waste manpower in this war and we are asking employers (as the President of the United States has done) not to discriminate against employees of Japanese race nor against Japanese nationals whose work forms part of our war effort. We are making an appeal to Canadian labour not to discriminate against fellow workers because of their race. We are making the same appeal to the public of Canada. We ask the public, particularly in British Columbia, to be patient and sympathetic with those men and women of Japanese race whose whole world has been terribly shattered by the wanton and treacherous aggression of Japan. It is the people of



British Columbia who must continue to show that in a democracy intolerance may be the noisy exception but that the temper of the people is calm, just and resolute. It should be easier for them to do so now that the war has terminated the agreement under which some immigration has been permitted from Japan. I can assure the House that this agreement will never be renewed.

We are asking our fellow citizens of Japanese race to bear some inevitable hardships and losses with patience, to show their patriotism by enrolling in the Civilian Corps, and to join with other Canadians in the effort to bring the war to a victorious conclusion. We expect enemy aliens to respond with loyalty to treatment which in the circumstances is fair and even generous.

For all Canadians the effort for which we ask is well worth making, for if democracy is to survive it must show itself worthy of survival, and if the relations between the races of mankind are ever to be placed on a sound footing the example and the leadership must come from those countries where political traditions are sound and where democracy has achieved its highest development.





House of Commons  
Canada

Ottawa, February 3, 1942.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS	
FILE NO.	773-B-400
S.E.	11 11

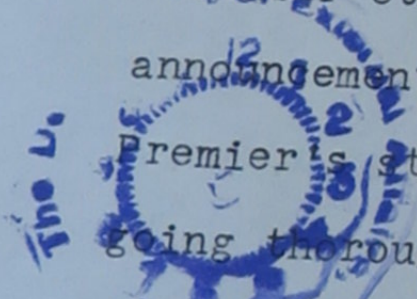
N. A. Robertson, Esq.,  
Under-Secretary of State,  
for External Affairs,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

I have your letter of the 31st ultimo. I reiterate my statement that the Government's policy was not adopted with the full agreement of all parties to the conference. It may have been that they acquiesced finally, but that is a very different thing. Were they all, all the time in a condition to recall what was said or done?

I stated in my letter referred to that it was not mentioned in the Premier's statement that the Japanese naturalized since 1922 would be treated as a National. Your answer to that is that there was an announcement made on December 8th to that effect. I know nothing about such an announcement. I never heard of it. What I went by was the Premier's statement officially put forward on January 14th going thoroughly into the matter.

You haven't answered my objection that, according to the Premier's statement, the restrictions on going into defence



FEB 4 1942



areas apparently applied only to Japanese Nationals, and I maintain the naturalized Japanese is very often the more dangerous.

It is also a part of the Premier's statement, item No. 8, that Japanese Nationals will be forbidden to possess or use radio sets, transmitters and cameras. If that means anything, it means that it applies only to Japanese Nationals and all naturalized Japanese can use radio sets and cameras all they like. Well, if the naturalized Japanese are to be allowed to go where they like and photograph what they like and transmit by radio what they like, we might as well apply the same liberty to the Nationals as well, because the naturalized man will do all the harm required.

As regards Professor Angus, I don't think that his service in the last war has any bearing on the matter whatever and need not have been introduced. You say that as a Canadian citizen he is exercising the rights to which he is entitled. These rights would undoubtedly enable him legally to be as pro-Japanese as he desired up until the 7th of December but after Japan declared war, I think it would have been wise and tactful for him to have taken a less prominent part in handling the Japanese situation on that committee or in any other way that is well known. If the Government want to stir up feeling in British Columbia against the local Japanese, and certainly there is no need to do that, they couldn't have taken a better way



about it than allowing the committee to be organized and conducted by a gentleman whose sentiments were well-known to be so strongly imbued with Japanese sentiment and view-point.

It is now almost two months since Japan began war and the Government promptly deprived them of their fishing boats - a very wise action and promptly done, but since then just what has been done to curtail their activities and two months is a long time in wartime?

Had the Japanese decided to take British Columbia instead of Pearl Harbour, they had a very large number of Nationals and naturalized friends here ready to help them and they are still here and they are still loose and still unchecked except for the taking of their boats from them.

Does Professor Angus not agree, if it is only in the interests of his Japanese friends, that it is desirable to get them away from the Coast as soon as possible? Some drunken white man is going to smash a Japanese store window and the feeling is so inflamed that a tifle like that might start a large sized riot with disastrous consequences.

I have put some questions on the Order Paper to try and find out if any of these cameras or radio sets have been surrendered or seized as should have been done within a week of the declaration of war and, if not, why it wasn't done.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. Neill.

*awneill*



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS  
File No. 773-B.4wc  
Sub. 10 Chron 10 Filed

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Ottawa, January 31, 1942.

Dear Mr. Neill,-

Mr. Keenleyside has given to me the letter which you addressed to him on January 21, in which you refer to a letter dated January 20 from the Department, signed by Mr. Angus on behalf of Mr. Keenleyside as Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

You complain of the letter being signed by Mr. Angus and not by Mr. Keenleyside. I might say that this letter was signed by Mr. Angus in his official capacity, during Mr. Keenleyside's absence from the city on official business, at Mr. Keenleyside's request, and in order that there might be no delay in giving you the information for which you had asked.

Some of the points covered in your letter are concerned with questions of governmental policy, which will need to be dealt with by the responsible Ministers, and I am submitting the correspondence to them for their information and for such action as they may deem to be appropriate. There are other points concerning which I am in a position to give you an explanation.

In your letter you question the statement that the Government's policy was adopted with the full agreement of Mr. Pearson and all the members of Mayor Hume's committee. I am sure that you could not have had all of the facts before you, or you would have known that on several occasions Mr. Pearson, Mayor Hume and other members of the Standing Committee expressed themselves as being in agreement with the view that the policy which was announced on the 14th January offered a satisfactory solution to the problem under review.

A. W. Neill, Esq., M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Canada.



With regard to the position of Japanese naturalized in Canada since 1922, may I refer to the announcement made on December 8 (the day after the Japanese attack), that all Japanese nationals and all Japanese naturalized in Canada since 1922 must report, periodically, to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police? This is the same rule as is applied to the other enemy aliens. The absence of any reference to the regulation requiring reporting, in the Government's announcement of January 14, was due to the assumption that its provisions were well known to all who were interested in the subject.

With regard to the special wire used by trollers, in part of the Government's announcement which relates to the disposition of fishing vessels "and fishing equipment" used or owned by Canadians of Japanese racial origin, you will observe that provision has been made for the disposition of equipment, as well as of the vessels themselves. However, I am bringing your suggestion to the attention of the Special Committee appointed to administer this part of the Government's programme.

With regard to your personal references to Mr. Angus, who is a civil servant appointed to this Department by the Government, while any defence of Mr. Angus is a duty which would need to be undertaken by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who as head of the Department is responsible for the conduct of its members, I feel nevertheless that as Mr. Angus is a member of our staff I should bring to your attention certain facts which are on record.

Mr. Angus served his country, with distinction, in the army throughout the whole of the last war; and in the succeeding years he has taken an honourable and distinguished part both in the field of education and in the public life of this country. As a Canadian citizen he has exercised the rights and performed the obligations which are incident to that status. In the present war, after making a substantial contribution to the war effort of this country by word and by deed, he interrupted his professional career at the request of the Prime Minister, in order to assist directly in the work of this Department.

Yours sincerely,

Under-Secretary of State  
for External Affairs



<sup>c</sup> **CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Canadian Postal Censorship**  
OTTAWA, ONT.

FILE  
File No. 2  
Sub. 17 Chron

Date January 30, 1942

INTERCEPTED LETTER

FROM

"Peg"  
3218 Rumble St.,  
Burnaby,  
New Westminster, B.C.  
Canada.

TO

F1/Lt. D.E. Edser, 41271,  
R.A.F. Station,  
Nutts Corner,  
N. Ireland.

DATE OF LETTER Dec. 27, 1941.

LANGUAGE English

COMMENTS

COMMENT ON LAX TREATMENT OF JAPANESE BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

EXTRACT:

"You're going to be damned annoyed at this, but the Japs here have not been rounded up. Their fishing boats have been confiscated for the duration, that's all. They have pledged their loyalty. How sweet. Damn it all blood is thicker than water. Needless to say the people are up in arms against it."

COPIES OF NOTES REFERRED TO

External Affairs  
National Defence  
R. C. M. P. (4)  
Internment Operations

Received from United Kingdom Censorship.

Bel/446/42

DISPOSITION OF LETTER Released.

C. No. 11  
300,000-3-7-41





EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS  
File No. 773-B-40C  
Sub. 11 Chron. 3 Filed

MINISTER OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL HEALTH

Ottawa, 28th January, 1942

BY HAND

Dear Mr. Robertson,-

You have had Dr. Keenleyside's memorandum. I also had a discussion this morning with the Federal Liberal Members from British Columbia and went through the agenda of the conference held by Dr. Bryce Stewart in regard to active steps being taken. There were two main objections:-

1. They seem to insist on the compulsory evacuation of Canadian nationals if they do not volunteer.
2. There was objection voiced as to the rate of wages being too high.

*I have sent  
a copy to Mr. P. K.*

I think it highly essential that the Prime Minister call a conference of all British Columbia Members - perhaps tomorrow after the Orders of the Day are over - at which will be present yourself, Dr. Keenleyside and Dr. Read, so as to have a full and frank discussion on the whole problem. Otherwise, I fear there may be unpleasant discussion in the speech on the Address.

Yours sincerely,

*Ernest*

N. A. Robertson, Esq.,  
Under-Secretary of State for  
External Affairs,  
O t t a w a.





MEMORANDUM ON PROGRESS WITH RELATION TO THE JAPANESE  
PROBLEM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

file  
Since the authoritative statement of Government policy with respect to persons of Japanese racial origin in B.C. was issued by the Prime Minister a number of practical steps have been taken.

A. STATEMENT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. The execution of the policy was assigned to the Federal Department of Labour.
2. A Committee of Cabinet consisting of Messrs. Mackenzie, Gardiner and Mitchell was appointed to deal with questions of policy.
3. The Defence area has been defined by the Minister of National Defence and the order sent to the Minister of Justice for concurrence.
4. The Unemployment Insurance Commission, to whom the task of finding employment outside this area for Japanese nationals was assigned has begun its work by obtaining a classification by occupation of these nationals who are of military age, and is proceeding to transfer them as employment outside the forbidden area is found.
5. Similar steps will be taken with respect to German and Italian nationals, but there may be some delay as records are not so detailed as those secured by Reregistration of Japanese.
6. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are proceeding to notify the Japanese nationals that they will be required to leave the area, and to inform them that unless they can make independent arrangements they must register with the Employment service.
7. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will also consider applications for permission to remain in the area. In accordance with the views unanimously accepted in general



discussion these will be given generally to women and children, to men over military age, and in special cases in which the police are satisfied that there are valid reasons for remaining and that no public danger is involved. The same principles will apply to Germans and Italians.

8. Some movement will begin at once but the orderly completion of these arrangements will require some time and the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of Labour, will fix a date (probably April 1, 1942) by which all enemy nationals without permits must have left the area. Any not placed in employment will be removed to camps where work will be found for them.

9. Persons of dual nationality are treated by the police as aliens. Persons naturalized since 1922 are required to report to the police, but are not divested of their status as British subjects.

10. Many Canadian nationals of Japanese race are likely to seek employment outside the defence area, and the Unemployment Insurance Commission will endeavour to place them in useful employment, giving priority, however, to the movement of enemy aliens.

11. In addition plans are under way for the voluntary recruitment of a Civilian Corps to be employed "on projects of value to the national cause." It is anticipated, on the basis of the offers of service which have been received, that the response of Canadian Japanese to recruiting for this Corps will be fully comparable to that of non-Canadian Japanese for recruitment for the army.

12. To make enlistment attractive, and to conform to the policy announced by the Prime Minister, certain principles have been accepted:

(a) Enlistment will be treated as a patriotic act corresponding to enlistment in the army. Acceptance will be to confer a privilege; discharge will be a disgrace.



(b) The pay and allowances (like those of the army) must be sufficient for the decent maintenance of dependents but may in many cases involve a financial sacrifice for those who enlist.

(c) The choice of a suitable Commanding Officer will require great care as upon him will depend the preservation of the tone and atmosphere of the Corps.

(d) The type of work chosen should relate directly to the Canadian war effort and it should be plain to the men in the Corps and to the public in Canada and, if possible, in Japan, that the men have enlisted in order to contribute to the defeat of Japan.

13. A telegram has been received from Mayor Hume stating that the Japanese are eager to cooperate but anxious for definite information as to what they should do. The Canadian Japanese Association has asked Mayor Hume to address a meeting and explain the government's policy.

14. Japan, through the protecting power has enquired as to how Japanese nationals are being treated in British Columbia and a copy of the Prime Minister's statement has been given to the protecting power.



B. : IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS

*from Mayor Sumner*

15. This telegram brings out some aspects of the policy which have as yet received little practical attention:

- (a) Steps should be taken to stop the "war nerves" by translating into definite terms the Government's declaration that, subject to military requirements, the Japanese are to be treated with justice. This involves certainty as to their occupations and property. Enquiries, for instance, have been received as to whether they should be encouraged to subscribe to Canadian war loan or told to conserve their cash for emergencies.
  - (b) When Japanese with small businesses or small farms are required to leave a defence area some provision will have to be made for taking over their establishments. This may be done by the Japanese who are allowed to remain but if so the latter will have to be clearly designated as early as possible.
  - (c) A social welfare problem of some magnitude may emerge when men employed (say) in Eastern Canada attempt to maintain families in British Columbia. Responsibilities for dealing with this problem remain to be allocated.
- The principle has a  
out in some of a longer and more costly war  
and a diminished chance of victory - in fact,  
therefore, of the lives of our soldiers and sailors.  
But even at this cost some deviation has been  
sustained (e.g. removal of Japanese residents).
- (e) The dominant consideration of victory re-  
quires that we should not give any moral advantages



6. 1 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDERLYING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

16. As this is the first progress report to be placed in the hands of Members of Parliament from British Columbia, it may be useful to bring to their attention a few general considerations and some information as to the character of governmental discussion, which are not as yet clearly grasped by public opinion.

(a) The dominant consideration is the destruction of the military power of Japan, Germany and Italy.

(b) This consideration requires the observance of all military and naval precautions deemed necessary by the respective services. The Defence Department did not ask for the removal of either Canadians of Japanese race or Japanese nationals.

(c) Victory also requires the utmost use of Canadian manpower of which that of Canadian Japanese and that of enemy aliens form part.

From the standpoint of the war effort a man is often most useful in his normal employment or in replacing another who has been taken away for military service or for some essential civilian occupation.

(d) Any deviation from this principle has a cost in terms of a longer and more costly war and a diminished chance of victory - in terms, therefore, of the lives of our soldiers and sailors. But even at this cost some deviation has been authorized (e.g. Removal of Japanese nationals).

(e) The dominant consideration of victory requires that we should not give any moral advantages



to Japan, Germany or Italy.

(f) We do give such advantages (particularly when Asiatics are concerned) if we display either fear or anger. It is no inconsiderable advantage to us that Japanese have displayed these degrading emotions to some extent. They will lose "face" accordingly.

(g) We have an enormous interest in this war not becoming racial as it might easily be interpreted (as Japan would wish) into "white" vs. "Asiatic" and so jeopardize the support of China and India. This consideration will become even more important if and when Japan approaches collapse. India and China must not feel that their chief protection against "white domination" is being destroyed.

(h) We are ostensibly fighting in the cause of British liberty, British justice, and Christian ethics. We become exposed to the charge of hypocrisy if we derogate from these principles. Our own morale would be impaired if our government were believed to be departing from them.

(i) It is very dangerous to speak publicly of fear of reprisals because to do so will, in the long run, make Japanese feel that their protection against harsh treatment lies not in British traditions and Christian ethics but in the military strength of Japan, and her power to make reprisals. Chinese and Indians will not be slow to accept the same view.



(j) The natural, justifiable and indeed inevitable, resentment against Japan can easily provide an opportunity in which persons acting from interested motives can create an atmosphere very like that which made possible the German action against the Jews. There is ample evidence from correspondence received that this atmosphere is being created in this way.

(k) In view of the indignant denial by the representative of the government of British Columbia that there was any wish to use this opportunity to separate Canadian Japanese from their normal means of livelihood or to uproot them economically so that they might be eliminated from our national life, it seems possible to offer some sort of assurance to men and women who are at present very apprehensive. The wisdom of so doing can hardly be in doubt.

(l) We have attempted to deviate as little as possible from the policy of the United States. There are, however, some differences:

- 1) The United States has never allowed naturalization and has therefore no naturalized Japanese.

- 2) United States citizens of Japanese race are subject to no disabilities and are drafted like men of other races for the army.

- 3) The United States had not prepared beforehand, as Canada did with re-registration, and some of the restrictions imposed in the first days of the war on enemy aliens were stricter than ours.



4) The United States has gone further than Canada in urging employers not to draw racial distinctions and in denouncing "racial discrimination in any of its ugly forms."

5) The United States has not removed either United States citizens of Japanese race or Japanese nationals from the fishing fleet or from the coastal areas.



In the months which followed, registration was carried out by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under the supervision of the Standing Committee.

The situation created by the presence in British Columbia of a population of nearly 24,000 men, women and children of Japanese race has for a number of reasons received the closest attention of the Government over the past four years. The situation increased in complexity when Japan, on September 27, 1940, associated herself with Germany and Italy in the tri-partite pact. Recognizing the most critical situation created when Japan joined the Axis, the Government immediately thereafter appointed, on October 1st, 1940, a Special Committee to investigate and report upon the problem of Japanese in British Columbia from the standpoint of national security. The Report and Recommendations of the Committee were tabled and published in December, 1940. The most important recommendation was that there should be a re-registration of the Japanese population of British Columbia and that a small Standing Committee should be set up to keep the Government constantly informed as to the oriental situation in that Province. These recommendations were acted on at once and in determining its policy the Government had the benefit of the advice of this Standing Committee on which various viewpoints were represented.

This meeting was under the chairmanship of the Minister of Pensions and National/



In the months which followed, re-registration was carried out by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under the supervision of the Standing Committee. This registration included the photographing and fingerprinting of all persons of Japanese origin. The Committee received the utmost cooperation from Japanese nationals as well as from Canadians of Japanese racial origin. When a state of war was proclaimed as existing between Japan and Canada, the registration was all but complete. Precautionary measures, which have proved adequate, were put into effect forthwith.

The steps taken were similar to those taken in the case of German and Italian residents of Canada. Individuals, whatever their nationality, who there was reason for believing might act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or the safety of the state, were promptly interned. Steps were also immediately taken to immobilize for the duration of the war all fishing boats operated by men of Japanese race.

Legitimate apprehensions in British Columbia were concerned with three things: the aid which might be given to enemy submarines and enemy raiders if they should be supplied with fuel or furnished with information; the possibility of acts of sabotage; and the possibility of anti-Japanese riots in which military force might have to be used to restore order.

To determine the policy to be followed a meeting was called in Ottawa on January 8th, in which the members of the Standing Committee participated. This meeting was under the chairmanship of the Minister of Pensions and

surveillance by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police National/er to that successfully exercised over German and Italian nationals.



National Health, and at it the Honourable George Pearson represented the Government of British Columbia.

For Canadians of Japanese race who are anxious to serve Canada. The recommendations of the Conference of January 8th and 9th were carefully considered by the Government.

On January 14th I announced the Government's policy.

I might summarize the policy as follows:

Persons of Japanese race, who are Canadians either by birth or by naturalization, and Japanese nationals resident in Canada will be justly treated. Their persons and property will receive the full protection of the law.

No action will be taken which would give any excuse for the ill-treatment of Canadians under the control of Japan. Nor will action be permitted which might give Japan an excuse to inflame Asiatic hostility against the white race. Canadian policies will march in step with those of Britain and the United States.

As specific measures, all persons of Japanese race will be removed from fishing boats and other vessels for the duration of the war. For the same period the sale of gasoline and explosives to persons of Japanese race will be controlled by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Japanese nationals have been forbidden to possess or use short-wave receiving sets, radio transmitters and cameras. Their present surveillance by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - similar to that successfully exercised over German and Italian nationals -



Insurance Commission. The Civilian Corps is also being organized by the Department of Labour. A Committee of the Cabinet, consisting of the Minister of Labour, the Minister of National Health, of Labour and of Agriculture, will be continued. National Health, of Labour and of Agriculture, has been entrusted with a general supervision of the programme. This Committee will recommend to the Government from time to time such further action as may be necessary.

For Canadians of Japanese race who are anxious to serve Canada, a Civilian Corps is being formed to be used on projects that will contribute to the national war effort.

In all the arrangements being made in connection with the Japanese problem, special consideration is being given to the Japanese who are veterans of the war in Germany or of Italy, will be required to leave the Protected Area on the Coast of British Columbia. Permits to remain may be granted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. For the time being, permits will normally be granted to women and children and to men who are unfit. Those required to leave may be placed in normal employment, if it can be found for them, outside the Protected Area. They will, of course, be under the usual Police surveillance over enemy aliens.

One of the results of the existence of a state of war between Canada and Japan has been the abrogation of the Immigration Agreement which was signed in 1911. As a result of Japan's own action, there are no longer any agreements of understanding, expressed or implied, in regard to the admission of Japanese to Canada. It is recognized that Canadian citizens of Japanese race have been placed in a very difficult position. A Commission has been set up to arrange for the sale, lease, requisition or charter of fishing vessels with a view to ensuring the sustained productivity of the fishing industry in British Columbia, and fairness to Canadians of Japanese race who own or have an interest in such vessels.

The defence area from which enemy aliens must withdraw has been defined by the Ministers of National Defence and Justice. The placing or employment of enemy aliens is being effectively met by an equal number of Canadians and the Unemployed arranged by the Department of Labour through the Unemployed



Insurance Commission. The Civilian Corps is also being organized by the Department of Labour. A Committee of the Cabinet, consisting of the Ministers of Pensions and National Health, of Labour and of Agriculture, has been entrusted with a general supervision of the programme. This committee will recommend to the Government from time to time such further action as may be necessary.

In all the arrangements being made in connection with the Japanese problem, special consideration is being given to Japanese Canadians who are veterans of the last war.

The situation on the Pacific Coast has now been clarified. The Government's policy has been determined and is being carried out by the responsible agencies. Under the circumstances it has been decided that that we need no longer place on the members of the Standing Committee the burden and responsibility of advising the Government in regard to this problem. I have written to the members of the Committee and thanked them for the assistance they have rendered during the past year.

One of the results of the existence of a state of war between Canada and Japan has been the abrogation of the Immigration Agreement which was concluded in 1928. Thus as a result of Japan's own action, there are no longer any agreements or understandings, expressed or implied, in regard to the admission of Japanese to Canada.

It will be recognized that Canadian citizens of Japanese race have been placed in a very difficult position. They are being asked to bear with patience inevitable hardships and losses. A situation of this kind can only be effectively met by an equal measure of tolerance and



understanding on the part of the people of Canada generally. In the national interest it is of the utmost importance that the problem should be approached in this spirit.

For all Canadians the effort for which we ask is well worth making, for if democracy is to survive, it must show itself worthy of survival, and if the relations between the races of mankind are ever to be placed on a sound footing, the example and the leadership must come from those countries where political traditions are sound and where democracy has achieved its highest development.



Record of Conference-Department of Labour-January 23, 1942.

Re: Japanese and Other Enemy Aliens in the B.C. Protected Area

Present:

Bryce M. Stewart  
H. L. Keenleyside

Deputy Minister of Labour  
Asst. Under Secretary of State for  
External Affairs.

H. F. Angus  
A. MacNamara  
A. M. Mitchell  
F. J. Mead  
A. J. Whitmore  
W. J. Couper

Department of External Affairs  
Unemployment Insurance Commission  
" "  
Asst. Comm. R.C.M.P.  
Dept. of Fisheries  
Dept. of Labour.

It was generally understood or agreed as follows:

1. That the policy of the Government is to differentiate clearly between enemy aliens of Japanese, German or Italian nationalities and Canadian nationals of such foreign origins. Only male enemy aliens of military age, unless specially permitted by the R.C.M.P. are required to move or be moved from the protected area. Canadian nationals are not required so to move but many may wish to do so, in addition to those who may wish to enlist in the Civilian Corps.
2. That the Minister of National Defence and Justice were preparing a recommendation to Council defining the protected area.
3. That Commissioner Mead would arrange for a recommendation to Council setting April 1st as the deadline before which Japanese nationals should be required to move or be moved from the protected area.
4. That the R.C.M.P. would be responsible for the selection of those Japanese nationals and other enemy aliens who would be required to move or be moved from the protected area.
5. That the Unemployment Insurance Commission should be responsible for:
  - (a) the placement of Japanese nationals in private employment or work camps outside of the protected area,
  - (b) the placement of Canadian nationals of Japanese origin in private employment within or without the protected area, and,
  - (c) the organization of the proposed Civilian Labour Corps.
6. That the Unemployment Insurance Commission would therefore:
  - (a) Clarify their instructions to their Regional



Superintendent in B.C. in the following respects:

(i) that he should break down his occupational and other classifications by citizenship, i.e., distinguishing Japanese nationals and Canadian nationals of Japanese origin;

(ii) that he should obtain a complete employment service registration for all Japanese, whether Japanese nationals or Canadian nationals, other than unskilled labourers;

(iii) that he should extend his survey to include enemy aliens of German and Italian nationalities.

(b) Take immediate steps to place as many Japanese as possible in private employment outside of the area.

(c) Prepare a statement of employment policy covering such points as the extent to which travel and other allowances might be made or advanced to those being placed in private employment at a distance, the kind of information which would be required from employers before placements were made, the character and extent of consultation with provincial authorities before placements were made in large numbers.

(d) Arrange with the Department of National Defence to have Colonel Muallaley (?) former British Military Attache in Tokyo, now in Victoria, ordered to fly to Ottawa to serve in an advisory capacity with respect to the establishment of the Civilian Labour Corps and to assist in drafting the requisite Orders in Council prescribing among other matters rates of pay and allowances. There seemed to be a consensus, though not unanimous agreement, that the pay and allowances should be substantially similar to though slightly lower than army pay and allowances.

7. That Mr. Hereford of Labour and Mr. Wardle of Mines and Resources would continue to explore the extent of available camp facilities and related matters.
8. That the Department of Labour would notify and consult the leaders of organized labour about the policy and, as appropriate, about detailed arrangements.
9. That the Department of Labour would arrange for any necessary relief for the families of enemy aliens.
10. That the Department of Labour would prepare a statement of policy for submission to the special cabinet committee.



COPY

EXT	RECORDS
File No. 773-B-40C	
Sub. 9	Chen 9 Filed

7/11  
1/11/42

Minister of Pensions and National Health

Ottawa, 23rd January, 1942.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO--

Dr. Bryce M. Stewart,  
Deputy Minister of Labour:

1. A Committee of Cabinet was appointed to deal with questions of policy, consisting of Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Mitchell and myself.
2. No decisions on policy, made by your conference, should be made public until approved by our Committee.
3. I definitely disagree with paragraph 1 of your statement of January 23, 1941.
4. My understanding, after participating in all the discussions in conference and in Council, was that all able-bodied, adult enemy aliens would have to be removed from protected areas.
5. My further understanding was also that all able-bodied Canadian nationals would have to be moved, but that first they should be given an opportunity to volunteer in the Civilian Corps.
6. There was no suggestion that they could remain indiscriminately in the protected areas.
7. Only those, either Japanese nationals or Canadian nationals could remain in protected areas, who would receive special permits from the R.C.M.P.
8. I do not know who Colonel Muallaley is. I never heard of him-- but he should be seen by the Cabinet Committee before being appointed.
9. I think if he is suitable, Colonel Macgregor Macintosh should be appointed as his assistant, resigning from the Standing Committee on Orientals.
10. I think that all policies agreed upon should be communicated to the British Columbia Federal Members - not for endorsement but for information.
11. The Cabinet Committee should meet next Tuesday, and if Mr. Mitchell cannot be there, Dr. Stewart should take his place.

I.A.M.

(Dictated by Mr. Mackenzie, but not signed.)



hik-jg

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS	
File No.	773-B-40C
Sub.	9 Chron 16 Filed

*ful*  
*10*

January 25, 1942.

Please refer to  
File No. 773-B-40

Dear Mr. Mackenzie,

*one in 3464-J. for*

I have received your two letters of January 22nd, with reference to the Japanese situation in British Columbia. I am glad that you agree with my understanding that the whole situation is to be kept under Federal control.

This morning the Deputy Minister of Labour held a meeting which was attended by representatives of the other interested departments, and I believe that a memorandum is to be prepared in that Department which will be placed before the Government for approval. In this memorandum definite proposals will be made in regard to the execution of the various aspects of the policy announced by the Government on January 14th. In the meantime the Department of Labour is going ahead with the study of proposals that have already been received in regard to employment for Japanese and other enemy aliens in other provinces, and I believe that the movement away from the coastal area may be started very shortly. The officials of the Department are aware of the desirability of placing those men in occupations where they will make the most useful contribution to the war effort.

I am somewhat worried by your suggestion that Lieutenant-Colonel Macintosh should be appointed to take charge of the Civilian Corps. As you know, Colonel Macintosh has been, with the exception of Alderman Wilson in Vancouver, the most outspoken opponent of the Japanese in British Columbia during

The Honourable Ian Mackenzie,  
Minister of Pensions and National Health,  
O t t a w a.



the last ten years. Moreover, he has definitely committed himself on the platform, and in writing on a number of occasions, in support of the view that all persons of Japanese racial origin now in Canada should be deported to Japan. It seems to me that, in view of these facts, it would be impossible to expect that the native-born and other Canadian nationals among the Japanese in British Columbia would enlist in a corps under his command. If we are to gain the largest enlistment and the maximum value from the creation of the Corps, conditions of service in it should be made as attractive as may be reasonably possible.

With regard to the Standing Committee, I am inclined to think that if it is to continue to operate an effort should be made to strengthen its personnel. I am sorry that Mayor Hume has exploited the situation to his personal advantage. However, I suppose it would be difficult to arrange for his resignation, and I think it would be desirable for Colonel Macintosh and Colonel Sparling to continue to work on the Committee. I wonder what you would think of the suggestion that Judge Dennis Murphy, who has now retired, be appointed to fill one of the vacancies. It seems to me that his name, quite properly, would carry a great deal of weight both with the people of the Province and with the Governments in Victoria and Ottawa. Might it not be useful to consider the appointment of Mayor Cornett of Vancouver? As you know, he has maintained a very sane and helpful attitude throughout the whole period of agitation. It has occurred to me, also, that there might be something to be said for the appointment of a representative of labour. If this appeals to you Mr. Percy Bengough might be considered. Of the names you mentioned my personal preference would be very strongly for Mr. Frank Burd. The appointment of Alderman Mott would, I am afraid, give the Committee too definite a bias and might be taken as indicating that the Government has altered its basic policy towards the whole Japanese problem. The appointment of Mayor Cornett and either Judge Murphy, Percy Bengough or Frank Burd would give us a Committee that would command both popular and official respect.

Yours sincerely,  
NORMAN ROBERTSON

Under Secretary of State for  
External Affairs.





MINISTER OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL HEALTH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS - CORPS
File No. 773-B-40c
Sub. 9 Chron 16 Filed

Ottawa, 22nd January, 1942

Dear Mr. Robertson,-

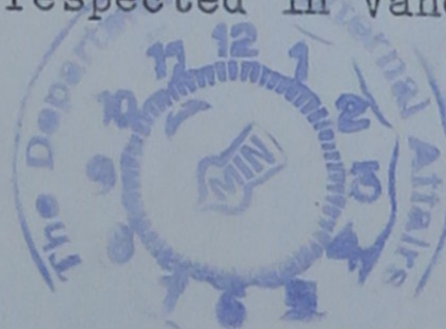
I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, enclosing copy of a memorandum to the Prime Minister in regard to the Standing Committee on Orientals.

I have had an interview with the Federal Members from British Columbia and they are very antagonistic to the Standing Committee. They feel that Mayor Hume has over-exploited the situation for personal advantage. As a matter of fact, you are probably aware that Mayor Hume was of no use down here. The real work was done by the Honourable George Pearson and Colonel Sparling.

I would therefore suggest that, to placate the Members, not only the two resignations now in effect but that of Colonel Macgregor Macintosh be received and he be appointed in a civilian capacity to look after the Civilian Corps. That would leave three vacancies on the Standing Committee and I think it would be a very diplomatic move to accept the resignations of the members themselves.

Mr. Reid is very anxious that Alderman Mott, of New Westminster, be appointed, and I know him to be an excellent man. I would, myself, suggest Frank Burd, of the Vancouver Daily Province, who is retired but is very popular and respected in Vancouver.

N. A. Robertson, Esq.,  
Under-Secretary of State for  
External Affairs,  
O t t a w a.



JAN 23 1942  
Canada

*Harris?*  
*John Murphy?*  
*1942*

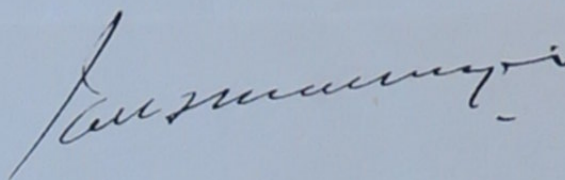
*J. J. Murphy*  
*S. H. Harris*  
*Kidd*



2.

No one seems to know the McWilliams mentioned by you previously, but we can easily get a third good name, if this course is approved by the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. S. McWilliams".



**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

DIVISION "K" SUB-DIVISION LETHBRIDGE DETACHMENT C.I.B. (Intell.)  
 PROVINCE Alberta DATE Jan. 10th, 1941.

RE: JAPANESE CONDITIONS - Canada - Generally.

FILE REFERENCES  
SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

SUB-DIVISION  
LS 58 121

DETACHMENT  
491-108

P. C. R.  
9-8-40  
to  
9-12-41

A. R. V. No.

1. During the Xmas holidays three of the Japanese in the armed services were back at Raymond on leave, being T. Iwasa, S. Oshiro, and S. Takahasi. They visited many Japanese homes where parties were held in their honour and the colony put on a large banquet in the auditorium of the Buddhist Church inviting thereto a number of leading citizens including the local M.L.A. J. H. Walker and Mayor Percy Cope. During this banquet K. Sugimoto stated, "In behalf of the young Japanese association of Raymond, we are back of the boys at the front, and all of us Japanese of Raymond are willing to do our best to back Canada which is now our country."
2. Their actions in this regard indicate that the colony here are making the best of their opportunities to indicate their loyalty to Canada.
3. Close contact is being maintained and there has been nothing noted since the outbreak of war with Japan to indicate any intercourse with the Japanese of B.C. Business and Social relationships appear the same locally. There has been no noted boastfulness nor national pride indicated by any of this colony on hearing of early Japanese successes.
4. Observation will be continued.

STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

O.C. "K" Division.

Sir:

FORWARDED for your information.

Leth. 12-1-42.

E/X

agd. "G. Harvey" S/Sergt.  
 Officer Commanding, for O.C. Lethbridge S/Division, ACD.  
 "E" Div., R.C.M.P.,  
 VANCOUVER, B. C.

1. Sir: Forwarded for your general information. Copies to the Commissioner.

Edmonton, Alta.,  
 13-1-42. P/H  
 The Commissioner,  
 R.C.M. Police, OTTAWA.

J. D. Bird, Supt.,  
 i/c "K" Div. C.I.B.

Sir: Forwarded for your information.

DIARY DATE

SET FOR-----

Edmonton, Alta.,  
 13-1-42. P/H

W. F. W. Hancock, A/A/Com'r.,  
 Commanding "K" Division.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- \* The Honourable Ian Mackenzie,  
Minister of Pensions and National Health. CHAIRMAN
- The Honourable J. E. Michaud,  
Minister of Fisheries.
- \* The Honourable J. T. Thorson,  
Minister of National War Services.
- \* The Honourable G. S. Pearson,  
Minister of Labour, and  
Provincial Secretary of British Columbia.
- .....

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORIENTALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| * F. J. Hume,                      | - Chairman, and Mayor of<br>New Westminster, B.C.  |
| * H. F. Angus,                     | - Special Assistant to<br>the Under Secretary of<br>State for External<br>Affairs.   |
| * F. J. Mead,                      | - Member of Special<br>Committee on Orientals<br>in British Columbia<br>(1940); and Assistant<br>Commissioner, Royal<br>Canadian Mounted Police. |
| * Lieut.-Col. Macgregor Macintosh, |  |
| * Lieut.-Col. A. W. Sparling,      | - Chairman, Special<br>Committee (1940).   |
| * Sergeant J. K. Barnes,           | - R.C.M.P., Secretary.   |
| <hr/>                              |  |
| * N. A. Robertson,                 | - Under Secretary of State<br>for External Affairs.  |
| J. E. Read,                        | - Legal Adviser, Department<br>of External Affairs.  |
| * H. L. Keenleyside,               | - Chairman, Board of Review<br>(1928)<br>Member, Special Committee<br>(1940)<br>Assistant Under Secretary<br>of State for External<br>Affairs.   |
| Escott Reid,                       | - Department of External<br>Affairs.   |
-



* Brigadier S. T. Wood,	- Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
<hr/>	
* T.W.S. Parsons,	- Commissioner, British Columbia Provincial Police.
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* Commodore H.E. Reid,	- Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.
* Commander J. McCullough,	- Officer in Charge of Auxiliary Vessels, Pacific Coast.
* Paymaster Lieut.-Commander R. A. Pennington,	-
<hr/>	
* Major-General Maurice Pope,	- Vice-Chief of the General Staff.
Lieut.-Col. J. E. Lyon,	- Acting Director of Military Operations and Intelligence.
<hr/>	
* Dr. D.B. Finn,	- Deputy Minister of Fisheries.
* A. J. Whitmore,	- Director Western Fisheries, Department of Fisheries.
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* W.J. Couper,	- Department of Labour.
<hr/>	
R. W. Baldwin,	- Office of the Press Censor.

\* Indicates present or past resident of British Columbia.



MEETING TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS CONCERNED WITH CANADIAN  
JAPANESE AND JAPANESE NATIONALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA  
JANUARY 8TH, 2:30 P.M., ROOM 123  
EAST BLOCK

A G E N D A

1. Opening statement by the Honourable Ian Mackenzie
  - A. A statement of the purpose of the meeting.
  - B. A description of the peculiar position of the Japanese population in Canada which is unlike that of the German and Italian populations in several ways:-
    - I. The Japanese are concentrated in one province in proximity to a theatre of war.
    - II. There are probably no strong elements among the Japanese population hostile to the present Government of Japan.
    - III. The tendency of the Canadian public to identify race and Japanese nationality.
    - IV. The widespread belief in Canada that Japanese loyalties are racial rather than national.
    - V. The intense economic jealousy of the Japanese and a wish in some quarters to appropriate their property.
    - VI. Existing political and economical disabilities of persons of Japanese race.
    - VII. The somewhat similar position of persons of Chinese and East Indian race.
    - VIII. The analogy of Japanese in United States.
    - IX. The absence of any long range Canadian policy with respect to the future of the Japanese population in Canada.
2. Background of the problem. Statement by Mr. Keenleyside

1937	Interdepartmental committee.
1938	Board of Review
1940	Investigation by Special Committee
1941	Reregistration; collection of firearms; appointment of Standing Committee.
3. Basic principles on which Canadian policy has been and should be based.



- (a) The primacy of defence considerations.
- (b) In so far as is compatible with (a) just and decent treatment for Canadians of Japanese race.
- (c) In so far as is compatible with (a) the continuation in their normal employments of Japanese nationals resident in Canada.
- (d) The coordination of Canadian and United States policies.
- (e) The maintenance of a reasonable attitude among the civilian population and the use of the full force of the law to prevent anti-Japanese demonstrations and to protect Japanese Canadian communities.
- (f) Avoidance of actions which will lead to retaliation against Canadians under Japanese control.

4. Report on the activities of the Standing Committee by His Worship Mayor Hume

- (i) Prewar.
- (ii) Since the declaration of war.

5. Report on the existing situation, by Assistant Commissioner F. J. Mead

6. Discussion of general principles set out in 3

7. The application of general principles to specific problems

(a) Fishing boats and fishing licences

- (1) What restrictions are imperative in the interests of national defence?
- (2) If some Canadian Japanese are allowed to fish what supervision is adequate in the interests of national defence?
- (3) What methods can be used to reassure the public as to the adequacy of precaution?
- (4) Should our policy be influenced by the importance of not playing Japan's game which is to excite race hatreds?
- (5) What measures are needed to maintain the efficiency of the fishing industry, - for instance, to enable Canada to carry out arrangements for the sale of vitamins from dogfish liver oil to the United Kingdom at agreed prices?
- (6) How can fishermen of Japanese race who are excluded from fishing best be employed in the interests of Canada's war effort?



- (7) How can fishermen of Japanese race be replaced with least damage to Canada's war effort?
- (8) What measures, if any, should be taken to assure fishermen who are displaced of the just protection of their economic interests which will include compensation for their boats and an assurance of ability to resume their normal occupation after the war?

(b) Gasoline

- (1) Should the sale of gasoline in bulk to Japanese nationals and its storage by them be prohibited or controlled?
- (2) Should such sales to Japanese Canadians be prohibited or controlled?
- (3) If these measures result in putting men out of employment to what activities should they be directed?

(c) Blasting powder

- (1) Somewhat similar questions are raised with reference to blasting powder.

(d) Japanese language newspapers

- (1) Should the suspension of Japanese language newspapers be continued or not?

(e) Should possession of receiving sets, cameras by Japanese, etc., be controlled?

- 8. Should consideration be given now to the position which Canadians of Japanese race should be expected to occupy in Canada during and after the war?
- 9. Should similar consideration be given now to the position of Canadians of Chinese and East Indian race?
- 10. Is the general policy with respect to Japanese nationals satisfactory?
- 11. Censorship problems
- 12. Other problems
- 13. How can any general policy which may be adopted as the result of recommendations made at this meeting, best be made known to the public of Canada in order to insure their intelligent cooperation?

- (a) Declaration by Ministers of the Crown.
- (b) Radio addresses (for instance an account of the deliberations of this meeting).



- 4 -

- (c) The Press.
- (d) Informal approach to local Government officials and others.
- (e) Action with respect to groups promoting race panic for ulterior purposes.



SECRET

January 10, 1942.

CONFERENCE ON THE  
JAPANESE PROBLEM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA  
January 8 - 9, 1942, Ottawa.  
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MINUTES

I. The meetings took place in Room 123 of the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. Three meetings were held: the first meeting from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on January 8; the second from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon on January 9; the third from 3 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. on January 9.

II. The following participated in the Conference:

\* The Honourable Ian Mackenzie,  
Minister of Pensions and National Health. CHAIRMAN

The Honourable J. E. Michaud,  
Minister of Fisheries.

\* The Honourable G. S. Pearson,  
Minister of Labour, and  
Provincial Secretary of British Columbia.

Standing Committee on Orientals in British Columbia

\* F. J. Hume, - Chairman, and Mayor of  
New Westminster, B. C.

\* H. F. Angus, - Special Assistant to  
the Under Secretary of  
State for External  
Affairs.

\* F. J. Mead, - Member of Special  
Committee on Orientals  
in British Columbia  
(1940); and Assistant  
Commissioner, Royal  
Canadian Mounted Police.

\* Lieut.-Col. Macgregor Macintosh,

\* Lieut.-Col. A. W. Sparling, - Chairman, Special  
Committee (1940).

\* Sergeant J. K. Barnes, - R.C.M.P. Secretary.

\* N. A. Robertson, (first meeting only) Under Secretary of State  
for External Affairs.

J. E. Read, - Legal Adviser, Department  
of External Affairs.



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| <p>* H. L. Keenleyside,</p> <p>Escott Reid</p> <p>Major-General L. R. LaFleche<br/>(second meeting only)</p> <p>* Brigadier S. T. Wood,<br/>(first meeting only)</p> <p>* T.W.S. Parsons,</p> <p>* Commodore H.E. Reid,</p> <p>* Commander J. McCullough,</p> <p>* Paymaster Lieut.-Commander<br/>R. Pennington,<br/>(first meeting only)</p> <p>* Commander E. Johnstone</p> <p>* Major-General Maurice Pope</p> <p>Lieut.-Col. J. E. Lyon,</p> <p>* A. J. Whitmore,</p> <p>* W. J. Couper,</p> <p>R. W. Baldwin,</p> <p>* Present or past resident of British Columbia.</p> | <p>- Chairman, Board of<br/>Review (1938).<br/>- Member, Special Committee<br/>(1940)<br/>- Assistant Under Secretary<br/>of State for External<br/>Affairs.</p> <p>- Department of External<br/>Affairs.</p> <p>- Associate Deputy Minister<br/>of National War Services.</p> <p>- Commissioner, Royal<br/>Canadian Mounted Police.</p> <p>- Commissioner, British<br/>Columbia Provincial<br/>Police.</p> <p>- Deputy Chief of the Naval<br/>Staff.</p> <p>- Officer in Charge of<br/>Auxiliary Vessels, Pacific<br/>Coast.</p> <p>- Secretary of the Deputy<br/>Chief of the Naval Staff.</p> <p>- Assistant Director of<br/>Naval Personnel.</p> <p>- Vice-Chief of the General<br/>Staff.</p> <p>- Acting Director of Military<br/>Operations and<br/>Intelligence.</p> <p>- Director Western Fisheries,<br/>Department of Fisheries.</p> <p>- Department of Labour.</p> <p>- Office of the Press<br/>Censor.</p> |
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III. Introductory Statements.

1. At the first meeting the Chairman made an opening statement on the purpose of the Conference. He said that the Government had received numerous representations concerning the problem of persons of Japanese racial origin in British Columbia. One particularly important question was whether fishing licences should be issued to persons of Japanese racial origin. The chief purpose of the meeting was to allay apprehension in British Columbia. This must, however, be done in such a way as to minimize the possibility of retaliation by the Japanese against Canadian prisoners of war and against the coast of British Columbia. The Chairman paid a tribute to the work done by the various committees appointed in the past few years and to the work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

2. Mr. Angus outlined in the sense of Section 1B of the Agenda the peculiar position of the Japanese population in Canada which is unlike that of the German and Italian population in several ways.

3. Mr. Keenleyside summarized the steps which had been taken by the Federal Government in recent years to deal with the problem. He went back to the riots in Vancouver in 1907, the subsequent establishment of the Japanese immigration quota which was gradually reduced until by 1930 it was limited to 150 persons of special categories. He pointed out that in recent years the quota had been ~~more than~~ filled so that the problem, even before the outbreak of war with Japan, was not one of immigration but of working out satisfactory relations between the permanent Japanese residents of Canada and other residents of Canada. This had become more difficult ever since 1931 because of the constantly widening area of Japanese aggression. An Interdepartmental Committee under Dr. Skelton had been constituted in 1937 and in the following year a Board of Review had been set up to investigate illegal entries. The Board had found that there were a very large number of illegal entrants in the early 20's, but that by 1933 very few illegal entrants remained in British Columbia, and that since then entry had been carefully controlled. Public opinion, however, in British Columbia remained disturbed, especially after Japan entered into an alliance with Germany and Italy in September, 1940. A Special Committee was therefore appointed on October 1 of that year. Mr. Keenleyside drew attention to its report which had been published in December, 1940, and especially to the summary and the recommendations. The recommendations had been approved of by the Canadian Government and had largely been the basis of the Government's actions since. Under recommendation 7 a registration had been made and under recommendation 8 a small Standing Committee had been set up in British Columbia under Mayor Hume to supervise the carrying out of those recommendations of the Committee which were adopted by the Government.



4. Mr. Keenleyside outlined in the sense of Part 3 of the Agenda the basic principles on which Canadian policy has been and should be based. He drew particular attention to the fourth principle, "the coordination of Canadian and United States policies". He said that the Permanent Joint Board on Defence had recommended that the two governments should do their utmost to synchronize their policies since their problems were almost identical. He referred also to the statement made by the Prime Minister in his broadcast speech made on the day following the outbreak of war with Japan. A somewhat similar statement had been made by President Roosevelt in which the President had appealed to employers not to discriminate against aliens and foreign born citizens. He also referred to a statement by the Attorney General of the United States on the necessity of showing tolerance to enemy aliens resident in the United States. On the whole the actions taken against persons of Japanese origin, even in Hawaii, had been less rigorous than those taken by Canada.

5. Mayor Hume then reported on the activities of the Standing Committee which had been appointed almost exactly a year ago. He said that the Japanese had been re-registered and that while re-registration was being made a considerable number had left Canada. When war broke out with Japan the Committee recommended:

1. That Japanese newspapers be closed down. As a result of this recommendation the Royal Canadian Mounted Police suggested to the Japanese that this be done and the Japanese agreed.
2. That Japanese language schools be closed. *This also was done by agreement.*
3. That the Royal Canadian Mounted Police pick up disloyal Japanese.
4. That the Japanese fishing fleet be laid up.

The three last recommendations had been made effective. Mayor Hume concluded by saying that the public in British Columbia was demanding that the Japanese be removed from the coastal area.

6. Assistant Commissioner F. J. Mead of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police made a report on the existing situation. He said that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had received excellent cooperation from the leaders of the Japanese population. These leaders had cooperated in the registration and since the outbreak of the war with Japan had pointed out to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Japanese who should be interned as dangerous. As evidence of the excellent attitude of the Japanese population he read three paragraphs from an operative's report of a secret



meeting of Japanese fishermen in Vancouver which had taken place recently. The fishermen at the meeting had stated that they realized that the seizure of the Japanese fishing fleet was inevitable under war conditions. Since the outbreak of the war it had been necessary to intern only one Japanese because of disloyal remarks.

IV. Discussion on general principles set out in Item 3 of the Agenda and discussions of the application of these general principles to specific problems as outlined in the Agenda.

A full and frank discussion took place at all three meetings of the Conference. The result of these discussions is embodied in the report of the Conference. In addition to the matters mentioned in the report the following matters of special interest were brought up in the discussion:

1. Commissioner Wood and Assistant Commissioner Mead of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police reported that they had recently been in touch with Mr. Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who reported that the F.B.I. had received no evidence of disloyalty by the Japanese in the United States, Hawaii or the Philippines; espionage had been committed only by persons attached to the Consulates; there was in the United States no important demand that Japanese residents should be moved from the coast.
2. Mr. Whitmore of the Department of Fisheries stated that if fishing licences were refused to the Japanese he did not expect that there would be an influx of many new fishermen, though a few more Indians would probably take out fishing licences. The explanation of this was that in the past the fisheries had been over-staffed. If not enough fish were being caught the Department could take steps to remedy the situation, as, for example, by reducing the weekly closed period or by permitting the use of a different type of fishing gear. He warned, however, that there would be a temporary local shortage of certain types of fish.
3. Mayor Hume reported that the Fishermen's Union had stated to him that they would guarantee that they could get the required amount of fish even if the Japanese were not issued licences and that the canneries had informed him that they could manage without Japanese in the canneries. The canners had also said that they would be willing to buy up the Japanese rights in the fishing boats. The Conference, however, agreed that it would be undesirable to permit the canneries to monopolize ownership of the fishing boats.



4. It was clear from reports by members of the Conference who had recently come from British Columbia that a serious unemployment situation was being created in British Columbia among the population of Japanese origin. It was not merely a question of unemployed fishermen but persons of Japanese origin in British Columbia were also being dismissed from lumbering, gardening, and domestic service.
5. The members of the Conference who had just arrived from British Columbia found it difficult to accept the assurances of the representatives of the Armed Services and of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that the measures which had already been taken in British Columbia or which were recommended by a majority of the members of the Conference would be sufficient to meet the requirements of national defence and security. Most of them stated that they did not trust persons of Japanese racial origin and that they considered the continued presence of these persons in British Columbia a menace to public safety. They emphasized particularly their fear that virtually all of these residents would commit positive acts of disloyalty if Japan should land forces in British Columbia. Even, however, if the assurances of the Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were accepted a serious situation would still continue to exist in British Columbia since it would be impossible to persuade the majority of the people of British Columbia that the Japanese residents did not constitute a menace. The people of British Columbia were definitely alarmed by the Japanese menace. There is grave danger that anti-Japanese riots may break out and that it will be necessary to call out the troops to defend Japanese residents from attack by other Canadians. The Assistant Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Commissioner of the British Columbia Provincial Police agreed that there was a distinct possibility of anti-Japanese riots in Vancouver and General Pope stated that General Alexander had reported to Defence Headquarters that public security in British Columbia may be endangered by the feeling of the white population against the Japanese.
6. Mr. Couper of the Department of Labour and other members of the Conference from Ottawa emphasized that if Canada was to make the utmost possible contribution to victory in the war it was necessary to make the most effective use of the abilities of all residents of Canada including persons of Japanese racial origin. They based their contention on the impending labour shortage in Canada and argued that racial discrimination was not only unjust but inefficient and thus affected detrimentally Canada's war effort. The members of the Conference from British Columbia found it difficult to believe that there was an impending labour shortage in Canada



since they stated there was considerable unemployment existing at the present time in British Columbia.

7. This difference of opinion over the urgency of the manpower problem in Canada was in part the reason for the difference of opinion between members of the Conference over whether it would be useful and desirable to impress on employers and labour alike throughout Canada the importance, from the point of view of the national war effort, of not discharging or refusing to hire or refusing to work with persons of Japanese origin. Members from British Columbia stated that the public in British Columbia was so convinced that the Japanese were untrustworthy and constituted a menace that white workmen would refuse to work with workmen of Japanese racial origin in spite of any appeal which the Government might make.
8. The possibility of Japan using Canadian treatment of Japanese as an excuse for retaliation against Canadians and other allied nationals under Japanese control was discussed at some length. Mr. J. E. Read, Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs, pointed out that Japan was not bound by the Hague Convention and that Canadian prisoners of war in Japan did not, therefore, have the protection of that Convention. Apart, however, from the Convention, the experience of the war hitherto was that both sides gave to prisoners of the other, treatment which was pretty well equivalent to the treatment which their own nationals were being given. If Japan believed that Canada was mistreating Japanese nationals it would probably retaliate, not only against Canadians but against other British subjects and nationals of others of the United Nations. Mr. Keenleyside pointed out that the Commonwealth Governments had tried to follow a common policy of treatment of enemy nationals and that should the Canadian Government decide in favour of a policy of wholesale internment of Japanese nationals the Government, before taking such action, would probably consult with the Government of the United Kingdom. He felt that it was likely that the Government of the United Kingdom would urge Canada not to take such action. Japanese nationals in Canada constituted the largest group of Japanese nationals in the British Commonwealth and it was in the interests of the whole Commonwealth that Japanese nationals in Canada should be made use of to the greatest possible extent in order to secure good treatment for British nationals who fall into Japanese hands.
9. At the request of Mr. R. W. Baldwin of the Office of the Press Censor it was agreed that a Standing Subcommittee of the Conference should be established with which Press Censorship could consult. This Committee would consist of Mr. Angus and of a member nominated by the Defence Departments.



10. The members of the Conference agreed that no publicity should be given to the proceedings or recommendations of the Conference until the Government had dealt with the Conference's recommendations. Mr. Ian Mackenzie stated that he would arrange that they should be dealt with by Cabinet on Monday or Tuesday, January 12 or 13.
11. During the course of the discussions telegrams and letters were read to the Conference from various associations and individuals in British Columbia. Some of these communications were addressed to the Prime Minister, others to individual members of the Conference.
12. While the proposal to remove all persons of Japanese racial origin from the Pacific coast was dropped by general agreement, the British Columbia representatives demanded that able bodied adult male Japanese nationals should be removed. They appeared to be willing to make an exception for those whose applications for naturalization under section 8 of the Naturalization Act were outstanding. In making this demand they emphasized that in their opinion it was the minimum necessary to satisfy the people of British Columbia and prevent riots and it was pointed out that the assurances of the Armed Forces and of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police did not extend to denying the dangers of anti-Japanese rioting.
13. At the conclusion of the Conference, when it was clear that the Conference could not agree unanimously on measures which should be taken to control Japanese nationals in British Columbia, Mr. Pearson, as representative of the Government of British Columbia, stated that he wished to make it clear that if the Government of Canada ignores the views of the representatives of British Columbia they could not expect the Government of British Columbia to be enthusiastic or very effective in trying to "sell" the ideas supported by the Dominion Government to the people of British Columbia. In that event it would be necessary for the Government of Canada to try to sell their ideas to the people of British Columbia. The Government of Canada, however, could be assured that whatever decision it made, the Government of British Columbia would do their best to see that things go along peacefully in British Columbia.
14. At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman, the Honourable Ian Mackenzie, thanked all the members of the Conference for their participation in its discussions. He thanked especially members of the Conference who had come all the way from British Columbia to attend. In reply Mayor Hume expressed the thanks of the British Columbia members to the other members of the Conference, especially to the Chairman and to Mr. Keenleyside and Mr. Angus.



January 7th 1942.

#### Tosh of This Kind

Sir: As a resident of Ewings Landing it was with surprise and regret that I read in your paper a letter signed "Fair-play" and addressed from this district.

The only excuse for tosh of this kind is that the writer is suffering from senile decay or has been in a somnolent condition for the last two years.

Ewings Landing.

WAKE UP.

#### Would Close Jap Stores

Sir: One has only to look at the yellow faces of the Japanese to see the cocky smirk.

In San Francisco they have closed up the Japanese stores. Why don't we do it here and give a white man a chance to earn a living in his own country? Especially after they (the Japanese) have bombed a declared open city.

JUSTITIA.

#### Public Meeting On Japanese Planned

The Japanese situation in B. C. will be discussed by representatives of more than 30 different organizations at a public meeting to be held next week.

Resolutions to be submitted to the meeting were drawn up in outline at a committee meeting held in camera Tuesday.

Ald. Halford D. Wilson, who recently demanded action by civic and federal authorities against the Japanese, says the meeting has already aroused



*Placed on  
file*

Subject .....

Date *Dec 9/1941* Publication *The New Canadian*

A NEW YEAR EDITORIAL . . .

Pte. Joe Aida Lights Up For Pte. Si Lee



Shoulder To Shoulder

IN this, our choice of "the picture of the year" is told the editorial message The New Canadian would convey to its readers for the New Year.

It was in the recruiting station in Prince Rupert that Fujio Aida, 25-year old Canadian of Japanese parentage, met Si Lee, 22-year old Canadian of Chinese parentage. They enlisted in the Canadian army together, they reported to military headquarters in Vancouver together, they went to military camp at Vernon together, both wearing the artilleryman's white cord. They drilled and trained together, and came to Vancouver for Christmas leave—buddies in the same khaki, a "CANADA" in gold letters on each shoulder.

If there is a wish for the New Year that dawns upon us, it is simply this. That each one of us may strive to establish the meaning of this picture as a real and vital and accepted thing among all Canadians. That we may bring due courage and due strength to the stern task of proving that Canada is not great merely because its people speak the English language . . . But that our country is worth fighting for because its men and women of whatever race are Canadians, who battle today in Europe or in Asia, for ideals of individual dignity and human tolerance, of justice and goodwill among men.

These are the convictions with which these two Canadians face the New Year, shoulder to shoulder, "CAN-ADA" to "CANADA" in a common cause.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS

File No. *773-B-40*

Sub. *2 Chron. 7* Filed



AIR MAIL

"E" Division

900-24

Vancouver, B.C.,  
December 11th, 1941.

SECRET

The Commissioner,  
R.C.M. Police,  
OTTAWA, Ont.

Sir:

Re: Enemy Aliens - Japanese.

Further to correspondence in connection with the above and particularly my last communication which was dated December 10th, this will advise that the following have been apprehended and are being held in Vancouver:-

Kiyota UYENISHI - B.C.Ref. 41E-269-91.  
Kintaro RIKIMATSU - B.C.Ref. 41E-269-842.

This brings the number of Japanese Nationals now held in custody at Vancouver to 25. There are 6 others to be brought to Vancouver which have been apprehended by the B.C. Provincial Police at our request. After their arrival here, they will be the subject of a further report under this file heading, and separate reports will be, of course, forwarded under their own file headings as is being done in each case.

2. On November 10th, Mr. McPherson from the office of the Custodian of Alien Enemy Property in Ottawa presented his credentials to me and informed me that P.S. Ross & Sons, Royal Bank Building, Vancouver had been appointed Agents for the Custodian of Enemy Alien Property for this district and arranged that Mr. Field of that firm would deal with us on matters affecting the assets of those Japanese who were interned. Arrangements were made to give him every assistance he might required in that connection.

3. I would draw attention here to paragraph 4 of my Air Mail communication to you under this file heading of December 9th, in which it was stated that the Standing Committee decided to give some publicity to the general situation in order to keep the Occidental community informed that the situation was well in hand by the authorities and thus avoid demonstrations which might be expected against the Japanese.

4. Clippings from the local newspapers as listed hereunder are attached hereto in duplicate for your information.



Re: Enemy Aliens - Japanese.

Dec. 8th, 1941. "Vancouver News Herald".  
Dec. 8th, 1941. "Vancouver Daily Province".  
Dec. 8th, 1941. "Vancouver Sun".  
Dec. 10th, 1941. "Vancouver Daily Province".

5. While public reaction to the general situation has not, as yet, crystallized, we have endeavoured to ascertain reaction to the various precautionary measures which have been instituted here. With this in view, Sergt. Barnes has spoken to various people in New Westminster area, and the Steveston area and the Vancouver district.

6. There is, of course, a great deal of concern being expressed by the Occidentals, but the feeling appears to be that the authorities have the matter well in hand. The Japanese themselves are quite alarmed. They fear that irresponsible Occidentals may make demonstrations against them. However, they have been assured that the authorities have taken every precaution to see that demonstrations against them will be avoided.

7. The Sub-Committee which was appointed to assist us in the Japanese Registration under P.C. 117 has offered its services in connection with the Registration of Japanese as Alien Enemies. This registration commenced this date.

8. Generally speaking, the situation appears to be quite well in hand here and I will keep you fully advised of developments.

SGD

JKB/ES  
Encl.

(C.H.Hill) A/Com'r.,  
Commanding "E" Division.



"E" Division

AIR MAIL

M-106

Vancouver, B.C.,  
December 11th, 1941.

SECRET.

The Commissioner,  
R.C.M. Police,  
OTTAWA, Ont.

Sir:

Re: JAPANESE FISHERMEN - Action  
to be taken.

This morning I received a Naval message relayed from the Naval Officer in charge, referring to the action being taken in connection with the detention of the Japanese fishing fleet.

2. It is understood from the Naval Authorities here that boats are being assembled at Steveston, but as soon as they are all assembled, they will be moved to Bidwell Bay, which is a small land-locked harbour at the Eastern end of Burrard Inlet. This is considered very desirable as it will remove the Japanese fleet from its usual waters which, in this area of course, is the Fraser River.

3. Particular reference is made to para. 5 of the Naval message referred to.

"Naval Responsibility for Japanese crews would cease after landing at Steveston where it is considered arrangements should be under control of R.C.M.P. Boats crews would not be landed until Police were ready for them."

It has been ascertained that every Japanese boat owner and fisherman has a shore home to which he can and desires to go when his boat is detained. No fisherman will experience financial distress from the detention of his boat at least until the Spring fishing season which is some two or three months hence. Should any isolated cases of distress arise through the detention of these boats, such cases will be cared for by the Japanese community.

SGD

JKB/ES

(C.H.Hill) A/Com'r.,  
Commanding "E" Division.