

3464-AJ-40

SMS/CC
Sep. 22, 1943.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS		
File No.	3464-AJ-40	
Sub.	Chron.	Filed

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NOTE TO MR. KEENLEYSIDE

ADVISORY BOARD ON JAPANESE MATTERS

Mr. Pammett says this Board has never met, although Labour would rather like it to. I gathered from Mr. Pammett that Mr. Collins was not eager to have it meet. Mr. Collins is to be in Ottawa September 27th and Mr. Pammett thought that they might want a meeting then. He still hopes we will appoint a member. I do not know how far he speaks for Mr. MacNamara.

In Mr. Rive's absence, perhaps you might wish to discuss this with Mr. Read. I could listen in, if desired.

File 3464-AJ-40 and loose papers is attached.

S.M.S.

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DEPARTMENT OF



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANADA

REPLY TO BE ADDRESSED TO:
THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA.

Ottawa, May 7, 1943.

To: The Deputy Minister, Department of Labour, Ottawa.

Subject: Advisory Committee on Japanese Affairs.

I am informed that no answer has been returned to a request sent by you to this Department some weeks ago that a representative from External Affairs be appointed to serve on an Advisory Committee dealing with Japanese matters in Canada. I regret very much our failure to answer your letter which appears to have been mislaid.

It would not, I think, be prudent for the Department of External Affairs formally to appoint a representative to this Committee. From time to time matters will come up for discussion and decision which may subsequently have to be reviewed in consequence of representations made by the Japanese Government. It would be convenient to be able to say that this Department was not completely informed of the circumstances but would make enquiries and give the matter careful consideration. Such a reply would not be possible if this Department had a representative on the Committee.

On the other hand, it is highly desirable that we should have an opportunity of learning the facts about the Japanese situation in Canada and, if occasion offered, giving the Committee in turn any information on the international aspects of the question that might be useful to it.

My suggestion, therefore, is that Mr. Morley Scott be considered as liaison officer between the Committee and this Department. This would enable him to attend the meetings and take part in the conversations without being our formal representative.

Should this policy meet with your approval, I should be grateful to have notification of meetings and other proper papers sent to me marked "Attention Mr. Scott".

Under-Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

DEPUTY MINISTER
OF LABOUR



CANADA

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Ottawa, April 1, 1943

Mr. N. A. Robertson,
Under Secretary of State,
Department of External Affairs,
Ottawa.

3464-AJ-40

I wrote to you on February 15 asking that the Department of the Secretary of State for External Affairs nominate a member on the new Advisory Board constituted by Order in Council P.C. 946 to advise the Minister of Labour and the Commissioner of Japanese Placement.

I would appreciate notification of the name of your nominee within the next few days or a week, as several matters have arisen of considerable importance and urgency, which should be the subject of consultation.

The most important question to be discussed is the extent to which Japanese should be called upon to live upon their own assets when they are employable but refuse to move East of the Rockies to take work. This involves the necessity to examine their bank accounts and safety deposit boxes and other places where liquid assets may be deposited.

I have been in correspondence with your officials on the above matter and would like to discuss the matter further with your nominee so that an equitable solution may be reached at an early date.

A. MacNamara

A. MacNamara.

DEPARTMENT OF



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANADA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
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REPLY TO BE ADDRESSED TO:
THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA.

Ottawa, March 23, 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. MacNamara:

I must apologize for the delay in giving you a decision as to representation of the Department of External Affairs on the Advisory Board which is being organized to counsel your Minister on matters relating to the problems of Japanese nationals and persons of Japanese racial origin now resident in Canada.

We have given a good deal of thought to this matter and have weighed carefully the relative advantages and disadvantages from the Government's point of view of direct representation of this Department on the Board. Although no final decision has been reached I am rather inclined to the view that because of our special relationship present and prospective to the Japanese Government, and presently to the protecting power, it would be inadvisable for this Department to accept membership on the Board.

This does not indicate any lack of interest in the work that the Board may perform or the advice that it may give. The facts are quite the contrary - we are very directly and

A. MacNamara, Esquire,
Associate Deputy Minister,
Department of Labour,
OTTAWA, Canada.

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constantly interested in any matter which, like the treatment of the Japanese in Canada, may, if inadequately or unwisely handled, lead directly to international complications.

All things considered I would suggest for your approval that there should be no member of the Department of External Affairs on the Board but that Mr. H.L. Keenleyside and Mr. Morley Scott be allowed to attend meetings as observers and be furnished with minutes and other Board documents. In this way the Department can keep in close touch with the Board, can perhaps contribute something to its deliberations, but will not complicate its own position vis-a-vis Japan and the protecting power. Such a plan might also, on occasion, be more advantageous from the point of view of the Board itself than any other arrangement.

I shall be glad to learn that this suggestion meets with your approval.

Yours sincerely,

Under Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

March 20th, 1943.

Anty Deputy

3464 AJ.40
Sub. Chron.

NOTE FOR MR. READ

Some weeks ago Labour requested this Department to name a representative to an Advisory Committee on Japanese questions.

Some days ago Mr. Pammet of Labour asked me to hasten this nomination. I learned that the matter is with Mr. Robertson.

If the matter is being held up for cause or for further consideration, it is alright. But I suggest it would be a mistake to let Labour think that External was not sufficiently interested in Japanese problems to give this nomination reasonably prompt attention.

Special Section would welcome information when a nomination is made.

S. M. S.

The difficulty in this case is the lack of a decision. Should we have a representative on the committee? If so, should it be H.L.K. or A.R.? If not should we have an observer or liaison officer (SMS) on the committee? At any rate the real question is determination of our relations with Labn. by reason of duty. J.M.

Department of External Affairs

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
3464-AJ-40
Cb.) Chron.) Filed

REPLY TO BE ADDRESSED TO:
THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, February 19, 1943.

Please refer to our
File No. 3464-AJ-40

To: The Deputy Minister of Labour, Ottawa.

Subject: Advisory Board - P.C.946, Feb.5,1943.

I observe that you are taking action to organize the Advisory Board under P.C.946, and that you think that this Department should be represented on the Board.

I am inclined to think that it would be undesirable for this Department to be represented by a member of this Board with full voting rights. On the other hand, it would be convenient if we could have a representative on the Board in a liaison capacity, with the right to attend the meetings and receive Minutes, but not to take an active part in the deliberation. We should like to have Mr. Morley Scott sit on the Board in that capacity.

I should be grateful if you would let me know whether such an arrangement would suit you.

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

DEPUTY MINISTER
OF LABOUR



CANADA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
FILE NO. 3464-AJ-40
SUB. 7 18

Ottawa, February 15, 1943.

Mr. N. A. Robertson,
Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
East Block,
O t t a w a.

Under the provisions of the Order in Council P.C. 946, February 5, 1943, Section 11 provides for the constitution of an Advisory Board to advise the Minister under the regulations. The Board consists of the Deputy Minister of Labour as Chairman of the Board, Mr. Collins, Commissioner of Japanese Placement, as Vice Chairman, and former members of the British Columbia Security Commission have also been named as members of the Board, that is to say, A. C. Taylor of Vancouver, John Shirras, Assistant Commissioner of British Columbia Provincial Police Force and F. J. Mead, Assistant Commissioner, R.C.M.P. Provision is also made for the appointment of such other persons to the Board as the Minister of Labour may nominate. It is considered that the Department of External Affairs should be represented on this Board, and if you agree, I would appreciate it if you would submit the name of a representative of your Department for such appointment.

A. MacNamara
A. MacNamara.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS		
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NOTE FOR THE DEPUTY

Advisory Board on Treatment of
Japanese in British Columbia.

1. I am attaching the following:

(a) Letter from MacNamara, Feb. 15,
with regard to External Affairs
representation on the Board.

(b) Letter prepared for signature,
to MacNamara.

2. You will observe that I have
based this draft reply upon the
discussion which you had with Mr. Wrong
and myself some time ago. It is
possible that you may have discussed
this letter with H.L.K. and come to
different conclusions.

Ottawa, Feb. 19/43

J.R.

DEPUTY MINISTER
OF LABOUR



CANADA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AJ-40
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Ottawa, January 4, 1943.

Dr. H. L. Keenleyside,
Assistant Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
O T T A W A.

*not in Keenleyside
5/1/43
GPM*

I beg to acknowledge your letter of December 29, 1942, concerning the re-organization of the British Columbia Security Commission and establishment of a new Advisory Board.

This matter was discussed ^{with} ~~by~~ your Chief some little time ago and it was agreed by him that a representative of your department would act on the newly constituted Advisory Board. I would be glad if you yourself would consent to act on such Board, but in any event, I would appreciate it if you would 'phone me and advise whose name we may put in the recommendation to Council now being prepared.

It is intended to make the change-over in administration effective January 1, 1943, and Mr. George Collins of Winnipeg has been appointed General Supervisor of Japanese Re-Allocation, under the supervision of the Deputy Minister of Labour. Copy of the Order in Council appointing Mr. Collins is attached.

It is planned to organize the new standing Advisory Board consisting of the following:

1. Chairman - Mr. A. MacNamara
2. Vice-Chairman - Mr. George Collins
3. Mr. Austin C. Taylor
4. Asst. Commissioner Mead of R.C.M.P.

(over)

Certified to be a true copy of a Minute of a Meeting of the
Treasury Board, approved by His Excellency the Governor
General in Council, on the 3rd December, 1942.

PRIVY COUNCIL
SEAL
CANADA

LABOUR

The Board had under consideration the following
memorandum from the Honourable the Minister of Labour:

173-B-40C
"The undersigned has the honour to refer to
Orders in Council P.C. 1665 and 1666, dated March 4, 1942,
setting forth regulations for the evacuation of persons
of the Japanese race from the protected areas of British
Columbia and appointing the British Columbia Security
Commission.

The undersigned begs to recommend that Mr. George
Collins, Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Works for
the Province of Manitoba, be appointed General Supervisor
of Japanese Evacuation and Maintenance and that he be paid
a salary of \$5,800.00 per annum, effective from November
1, 1942, together with necessary moving expenses from
Winnipeg to Vancouver.

The undersigned further recommends that the
duties and functions of the British Columbia Security
Commission, as set forth in Order in Council P.C. 1665
of March 4, 1942, be assumed by the General Supervisor
of Japanese Evacuation and Maintenance and that the
services of the Commissioners appointed by Order in
Council P.C. 1666 of March 4, 1942, be terminated on a
date to be agreed upon by the Minister of Labour and
the Commissioners."

The Board concur in the above report and re-
commendation, and submit the same for favourable con-
sideration.

Sgd. A. D. P. Heeney

Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Honourable
The Minister of Labour

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B.F.
4 Jan. 1943
15.
Noted

OTTAWA, December 29, 1942.

We have been reading in the press reports of the dissolution of the British Columbia Security Commission and the handing over of its work to the Department of Labour. These reports usually refer to the proposed creation of an advisory body to assist your Department in its future activities in this field.

In order that I may keep the Prime Minister and the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs informed as to developments in connection with the handling of the Japanese problem in British Columbia, I shall be grateful if I may have these press reports officially confirmed or corrected. It will be of particular interest to us to learn of the basis on which the proposed advisory body is to be organized, including an indication of the suggested membership therein.

Wishing you the compliments of the season, I am

Hugh Ll. Keenleyside

Assistant Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

Mr. A. MacNamara,
Deputy Minister of Labour,
Ottawa.

SMS/DEK

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AJ-40
Sub. 19 Chron. 19 Filed

November 26th, 1942.

Original on
Our File #3464-B-40C.

Dear Mr. MacNamara,

Thank you for your letter of November 17th containing your tentative views on policy towards the Japanese in Canada. It seems to me a carefully constructed and well balanced plan. I have looked at it of course chiefly from the point of view of this Department and have only a few comments to make.

The passage on page 2 concerning compulsory assignment of pay by single men to their families is obscure. It might cause difficulties if adult Japanese nationals were compelled to do more towards the support of their parents or of relatives not legally dependent upon them than is required of ordinary persons. Doubtless this point will be noted when the plan comes to be elaborated.

In general, the policy proposed for those who refuse to accept work seems reasonable. I do not think that the statement should appear anywhere in writing that these men will be given only enough relief to supply two meals a day. Could some such phrase as "subsistence necessary for health" or "basic rations" or "rations and medical care only" be devised. I am concerned here not so much with what we do as with what we say. I feel strongly, however, that medical care should be given to all who need it.

The policy of your Department respecting those who refuse to work should be co-ordinated closely with that of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We are now fully committed to the proposition that refusal to work is not ground for internment and it must be made clear to the R.C.M.P. that in their reports they should avoid giving a contrary impression.

I can see no objection to the proposed new administrative machinery. I do feel, however, that it would be impossible to have a Japanese national on the new Commission. This view is
/consistent

3464-AJ-40
A. MacNamara, Esq.,
Associate Deputy Minister,
Dept. of Labour,
Ottawa.

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ALPHABETICALLY
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Sub. 19 Oct 17

Ottawa, November 17, 1942.

consistent with the one which we have always expressed to the Protecting Power, that the Japanese nationals who have sometimes talked with the British Columbia Security Commission are responsible solely to the Consul General and are in no sense employees or representatives of any branch of this Government.

The Consul General has been pressing us for a statement about relief. As soon as any definite schedule or plan has been arrived at I should be grateful if you would let me have the requisite information for transmission to the Protecting Power.

I am sure you will find it quite faulty in some respects.

Yours sincerely,

In any case, I shall appreciate having the benefit of your advice at as early a date as possible as I feel we have to straighten out matters.

Yours very truly,

A. MacNAMARA (SIGNED)
Alfred Rive,

Associate Deputy Minister
First Secretary.

Dr. A. Rive,
Department of External Affairs,
O t t a w a.

LABOUR

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-AJ-40
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C
O
P
Y.....

Ottawa, November 17, 1942.

*Original in
3464-B-40C*

Dear Dr. Rive:

I enclose herewith a rough draft of the proposed policy with regard to the Japanese. This is simply a "thinking out loud" attempt. I am sure you will find it quite faulty in some respects.

In any case, I shall appreciate having the benefit of your advice at as early a date as possible as I feel we have to straighten out matters.

Yours very truly,

A. MacNAMARA (SIGNED)

Associate Deputy Minister

Dr. A. Rive,
Department of External Affairs,
O t t a w a.

Ottawa, November 16, 1942.

Extract from Memorandum on
Proposed Policy - Japanese

Administration

The good work of the British Columbia Security Commission will be recognized by an individual letter to each member from the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the members of the Commission are pressing for release, the present Commission will be dissolved as recommended by Commissioner Shirras. The Advisory Committee will also be dissolved by the existing Commission.

The further administration will be carried on as a function of the Labour Department. There shall be appointed a General Supervisor who will be in full charge of the staff and operation of the evacuation and reallocation program. The present staff of the Commission shall be retained insofar as satisfactory and necessary.

There shall be a Commission established to develop and control policy, consisting of:

Chairman - A. MacNamara, Associate Deputy
Minister
Vice-Chairman - The General Supervisor.

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