

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

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| 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. Kead

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?

V.C.B.

- (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? *None*

(c) Blasting powder

- (1) Somewhat similar questions are raised with reference to blasting powder. *Amel Drc Reg.*

(d) Japanese language newspapers

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

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

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).

- (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

I

The Conference endorses the following principles which underlie Canadian policy in relation to the Japanese problem and by which, in its opinion, all proposals in relation to this matter should be judged:-

- A - National defence and victory are the first and overriding considerations.
- B - In so far as it may be compatible with the requirements of national defence, Canadians of Japanese racial origin and Japanese nationals resident in Canada shall be treated with justice and consideration and ~~shall be allowed to remain in their normal occupations.~~
- C - Every feasible step shall be taken to encourage the maintenance of a calm and reasonable attitude among Canadian citizens generally, and it shall again be made known that the full force of the law will be invoked to prevent anti-Japanese demonstrations and to protect Canadian residents of Japanese race.
- D - No action shall be taken or allowed which would give any possible excuse to the Japanese Government for mistreating Canadians under Japanese control, or which

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would help the Japanese in their present efforts to arouse Asiatic hostility against the white race.

- E - The Canadian and United States authorities should continue to coordinate their policies in relation to persons of Japanese racial origin within their respective jurisdictions.

II

In accordance with the foregoing principles the Conference recommends that, during the period of the war, for reasons of national defence and security, the Canadian Government should take the following steps:-

- A - Prohibit all persons of Japanese racial origin from fishing or serving on ~~steaming~~ ~~vessels~~ ^{vessels} off the coast of British Columbia.
- B - Strictly control the sale of gasoline and of blasting powder to persons of Japanese racial origin, under conditions to be prescribed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- C - Prohibit the ^{possession of} use by Japanese nationals of short-wave radio receiving sets, radio transmitters and cameras.
- D - Continue intensive surveillance of Japanese nationals.

or other vessels operated by Japanese

(3296 in no.)

III

The Conference recommends that, for the furtherance of the Canadian war effort, the Canadian Government should take the following steps:-

- A - Accept at once the offers of various groups of Canadians of Japanese race to perform wartime service for Canada.
- B - Organize for the foregoing purpose a ^{Civilian} ~~Service~~ Corps of Canadian Japanese to be used ~~in~~ ~~Central or Eastern Canada~~ on projects of value to the national cause.
- ~~C~~ - Endeavour to find other suitable employment for Canadian residents of Japanese race who are deprived of their present occupation and are not enlisted in the Corps.
- D - 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 racial origin.
- E - Encourage the enlistment in the Canadian ~~Army Forces~~, for service outside British Columbia, of vol^{unteer} ^{Canadian national}unteers of Japanese racial

origin; and call up under the terms of the National Resources Mobilization Act, for service outside British Columbia, all *Canadian natural* persons of Japanese racial origin properly subject to the provisions of the said Act.

F - Arrange through the ^{immediate} establishment of a special office in British Columbia for the sale, lease, requisition or charter, on equitable terms and to suitable persons, of ~~all~~ fishing vessels and fishing equipment *of other* heretofore ^{of owned} used by Canadians of Japanese racial origin and now immobilized on the Pacific Coast.

G - Emphasize to the white fishermen and cannerymen on the Pacific Coast that they must accept responsibility for seeing that the removal of the Japanese fishermen does not reduce the total of fish caught or increase the prices at which the catch is made available to Canada, the United Kingdom and the Allied nations.

V

Finally the Conference recommends that the Canadian Government should endeavour to secure the full cooperation of the Government of British Columbia, and should make known to the public the details of its policy in relation to the Japanese problem by the following means:-

- A - A statement by radio to the people of British Columbia by the Prime Minister of Canada.
- B - One or two explanatory statements over the radio by participants in this Conference in which the various considerations presented and the reasons for the recommendations made, will be clearly discussed.
- C - Full and complete "off-the-record" discussions with representatives of the press to be held in Victoria, Vancouver and Ottawa, and to be participated in by Members of the Standing Committee, representatives of the Armed Services, and of the Department of External Affairs.

January 8, 1942.

JAPANESE IN CANADA

The following figures are taken from the latest report furnished by the office of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in charge of the Japanese registration (December 3, 1941).

| | |
|--|--------|
| Total registered in Canada to date | 24,348 |
| Total of children now in Japan but listed on their parent's Record of Registration | 1,478 |
| Total Japanese population in Canada | 22,870 |

| | Male | Female | Children under 16 | Tot. Pop. in Can. | Chil. now in Jpn. | Total Reg. |
|---------------|------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| B.C. | 8751 | 5868 | 7465 | 22084 | 1453 | 23537 |
| Alberta | 175 | 114 | 232 | 521 | 13 | 534 |
| Sask. | 56 | 19 | 25 | 100 | 8 | 108 |
| Manitoba | 13 | 8 | 8 | 29 | - | 29 |
| Ontario | 71 | 14 | 31 | 116 | 4 | 120 |
| Quebec | 13 | 2 | 3* | 18 | - | 18 |
| Nova Scotia | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| New Brunswick | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P.E.I. | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 9081 | 6025 | 7764 | 22870 | 1478 | 24348 |

Japanese in Canada and their legal status

| | Can. born | Nat. Can. | Jap. Nat. | U.S. Cit. of Jap. Origin | Tot. Pop. in Can. | Child. listed New in Japan | Total Reg. |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| B.C. | (a) 6067 | (b) 6529 | (c) 9476 | 12 | 22084 | 1453 | 23537 |
| Alberta | 26 | 257 | 167 | 1 | 521 | 13 | 534 |
| Sask. | 24 | 40 | 36 | 1 | 100 | 8 | 108 |
| Manitoba | 3 | 5 | 21 | - | 29 | - | 29 |
| Ontario | 24 | 46 | 46 | - | 116 | 4 | 120 |
| Quebec | 4 | 12 | 1 | - | 18 | - | 18 |
| Nova Scotia | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| N.B. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P.E.I. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 6219 | 6889 | 9746 | 14 | 22870 | 1478 | 24348 |

N.F.

- (a) Not included 44 children listed on their parent's Record of Registration but now in Japan.
- (b) Not included 525 children listed on their parent's Record of Registration but now in Japan.
- (c) Not included 6 children listed etc.
- (d) Not included 8 children listed etc.
- (e) Not included 4 children listed etc.
- (f) Not included 884 children listed etc.
- (g) Not included 7 children listed etc.

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.

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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.
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- N. A. Robertson, - Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.
 - J. E. Read, - Legal Adviser, Department
of External Affairs.
 - H. L. Keenleyside, - Chairman, Board of Review
(1928)
Member, Special Committee
(1940)
Assistant Under Secretary
of State for External
Affairs.
- Escott Reid, - Department of External
Affairs.
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- ⌘ Brigadier S. T. Wood, - Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
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- ⌘ T.W.S. Parsons, - Commissioner, British Columbia Provincial Police.
-
- ⌘ 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, -
-
- ⌘ Major-General Maurice Pope, - Vice-Chief of the General Staff.
- Lieut.-Col. J. E. Lyon, - Acting Director of Military Operations and Intelligence.
-
- ⌘ Dr. D.B. Finn, - Deputy Minister of Fisheries.
- ⌘ A. J. Whitmore, - Director Western Fisheries, Department of Fisheries.
-
- ⌘ W.J. Couper, - Department of Labour.
-
- R. W. Baldwin, - Office of the Press Censor.
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⌘ Indicates present or past resident of British Columbia.
