

Memorandum of a Meeting on persons of Japanese origin, held in the Board Room of the Labour Department, on Friday, January 23, 1942.

Present:

Dr. Bryce Stewart, in the Chair,
Dr. Keenleyside and Professor Angus, from
the Department of External Affairs,
Mr. Whitmore, from the Department of
Fisheries,
Assistant Commissioner Mead, from the
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Dr. Cooper, of the Labour Department,
Mr. MacNamara and Mr. Mitchell, of
the Unemployment Insurance Commission,

Professor Angus explained, in connection with the announcement of Government policy on the Japanese, paragraph 11, last sentence, that this was intended to make clear that those Japanese Nationals who are without means, will be provided for by the Government, but that those with means will be expected to move out of the prohibited area at their own expense. He stressed the point that German and Italian Nationals are free to move about the country and work in a similar manner to Canadians, provided they keep out of certain prohibited areas and report regularly to the R.C.M.P. It is the Government's intention that no discrimination be exercised in the handling of the Japanese problem.

After much discussion, it was decided that the following steps should be taken:

(1) The prohibited area in British Columbia must be defined. Dr. Keenleyside ascertained that the National Defence Department had already prepared an Order-in-Council and sent it over to the Minister of Justice for approval.

(2) It was agreed that all Japanese Nationals, except those holding police permits, would be compelled to vacate the prohibited area by April 1, 1942, and that Assistant Commissioner Mead would initiate steps to have the Justice Department prepare an Order-in-Council to this effect. The R.C.M.P. will advise each Japanese National of the time limit and will then issue to certain ones on application, permits to stay in the area.

(3) The Unemployment Insurance Commission are free to offer work to Japanese Nationals or other persons of Japanese racial origin, immediately. In this matter the following points were to be

observed:

- (a) The Commission will not act without first receiving the approval of the National Employment Advisory Committee;
 - (b) The Commission will consult with the Provincial Governments concerned;
 - (c) Current wage rates paid to Canadians for similar work, must be paid by the employers; transportation costs may either be paid by the Commission or the money loaned to the Japanese.
 - (d) The actual movement of these Japanese will be conducted by the R.C.M.P.
 - (e) The Commission will not move any Japanese to places of employment, without first having personal interviews with the employers concerned, to discuss the segregation of white and Japanese workers, in so far as bunking and meals are concerned.
- (4) As enemy aliens of other Nationalities will also be barred from the prohibited area, Mr. McVety will be asked to ascertain the same data on occupations, from the police records in Vancouver, for the Germans and Italians resident in British Columbia.
- (5) A Civilian Labour Corps is to be organized, under the jurisdiction of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. This Corps will be a Civilian Organization, but will have a uniform and will have many features similar to that of an Army Unit. In order to facilitate its rapid organization, it is proposed to ask National Defence Headquarters to have Col. Mullaley, a Japanese speaking Officer of Vancouver, to return immediately to Ottawa. Mr. Mitchell agreed to see National Defence Headquarters on this point.

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

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

Present:

Revised

Bryce M. Stewart	Deputy Minister of Labour
H.L. Keenleyside	Asst. Under Secretary of State for External Affairs.
H.F. Angus	Department of External Affairs.
A. MacNamara	Unemployment Insurance Commission
A. M. Mitchell	" "
F. J. Mead	Asst. Comm. R.C.M.P.
A. J. Whitmore	Dept. of Fisheries
W. J. Couper	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.
2. That the Ministers 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.

.....

No decision was reached as to the method of publicizing these or subsequent decisions.

Subsequent meetings, if any, were to be at the call of the Chairman.