

Minutes of the  
War Committee of the Cabinet  
September 22, 1943



CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Wednesday, September 22nd, at 3.00 p.m.

Present:

The Prime Minister (Mr. King), in the Chair,  
The Minister of Mines and Resources  
(Mr. Crerar),  
The Minister of National Defence  
(Mr. Ralston),  
The Minister of National Defence for Air  
(Mr. Power),  
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley),  
The Minister of Transport (Mr. Michaud),  
The Minister of Munitions and Supply  
(Mr. Howe),  
The Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent).

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The Under-Secretary of State for External  
Affairs (Mr. Robertson), Acting Secretary.

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Mr. J.R. Baldwin, Privy Council Office.

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Also present (for discussion recorded in  
paragraphs 6 to 35):

The Chief of the Air Staff  
(Air Marshal Breadner),  
The Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff  
(Rear Admiral Jones),  
The Deputy Chief of the General Staff  
(Major General Murchie),  
The Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee  
(Wing Commander Morrow).

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and (for discussion recorded in paragraphs 39 to 48):

The Director of National Selective Service  
(Mr. MacNamara),  
The Associate Co-ordinator of Controls,  
Department of Munitions and Supply  
(Mr. Fogg).

the fact that this matter had been brought to the attention of Mr. Churchill before the Quebec Conference began, and could have been taken into consideration in the planning of operations.

30. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the Minister of National Defence be authorized to communicate further on this subject with the U.K. authorities if he considered such communication useful in forwarding the project.

#### Canadian Fire Fighter Corps

31. The Minister of National Defence referred to the decision of the War Committee on this subject on September 15th, and submitted proposals made by the Minister of National War Services regarding the employment of the Canadian Fire Fighters Corps in the Canadian Army. These proposals had been circulated.

(Memoranda, Department of National War Services, Sept. 15, 1943 - C.W.C. document 623).

32. The War Committee deferred consideration of this matter.

#### B.C. Security Commission; travel of Japanese in Canada

33. The Minister of National Defence presented a recommendation from Defence Council, approved by the Chiefs of Staff, regarding travel of Japanese in Canada. Copies of this recommendation had been circulated.

(Memorandum, Secretary, Defence Council to the Secretary, Sept. 18, 1943 and attached Order - C.W.C. document 617).

It was recommended that B.C. Security Commission Order No. 1, New Series, be amended to provide that persons of Japanese race in British Columbia must obtain an R.C.M. Police permit prior to travel, for any purpose whatsoever, a distance of more than five miles from their place of residence.



34. The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out that the proposed amendment might affect the conditions of employment of Japanese in British Columbia.

35. The War Committee, after discussion, approved the recommendation of Defence Council, subject to the concurrence of the Department of Labour and the Department of Justice (R.C.M.P.).

Housing congestion at Halifax

36. The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs presented recommendations from the committee appointed by the War Committee on September 8th to report upon housing congestion at Halifax. An explanatory note had been circulated.

The committee had pointed out that accommodation for 3,000 to 4,000 additional workers would be required in Halifax in the near future, and that it would not be practicable to provide accommodation by additional new construction.

Accordingly, it was recommended that an emergency controller be appointed, with power to place restrictions on classes of people going into Halifax, and to establish a permit system for persons remaining in Halifax based on the essential requirements of the Services and the Department of Munitions and Supply.

It was also recommended that the power of the emergency controller extend to the City of Halifax and Dartmouth, and to an area of ten miles from the city limits of Halifax. It was suggested that the person appointed should have similar qualifications to those possessed by the Wartime Administrator of Canadian Atlantic Ports.

(Report of special committee, Sept. 8, 1943; also Secretary's note, Sept. 21, 1943 - C.W.C. document 618).

37. The Minister of Munitions and Supply expressed readiness to release the Wartime Administrator of Canadian Atlantic Ports for the post of emergency controller at Halifax.