

Minutes of the
War Committee of the Cabinet
September 23rd, 1944

TOP SECRET

Ottawa, September 23rd, 1944.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Saturday, September 23rd, 1944, at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King),
in the Chair,
The Minister of National Defence
(Mr. Ralston),
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley),
The Minister of Transport (Mr. Michaud),
The Minister of National Defence for
Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald).

The Under-Secretary of State for External
Affairs (Mr. Robertson), (Paras. 1-3),
The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Heeney),
Assistant Secretary (Mr. Baldwin).

Repatriation and demobilization; Armed Services

1. The Prime Minister, referring to discussion at the two previous meetings, emphasized the importance of following policies aimed at the maximum expansion of the national income. The government felt that in such policies lay the best assurance of full and profitable employment for demobilized ex-Servicemen.

The urgent processes of industrial reconstruction required the introduction of substantial manpower into productive employment, without delay. No Minister of Reconstruction could succeed in the heavy task committed to him under the new legislation unless personnel were available for the immediate necessities of a programme of reconversion.

Men serving with the forces overseas should be told that demobilization would be carried out as soon as possible. There would

existing law or their prompt employment as and when discharged;

(c) that the above would not, of course, interfere with the granting of leave to General Service personnel to take civilian employment pending discharge.

Enlistment of Canadian-born Japanese

4. The Minister of National Defence submitted a recommendation to provide for the enlistment of up to 300 Canadian-born citizens of Japanese racial origin in the Canadian Army.

Such personnel would be of considerable value in the Pacific war. Requests had already been received from the U.K. and Australian governments for their use as translators and in other special capacities. Training would be carried out in a special centre and all volunteers would be investigated prior to enlistment.

Funds were available in the Army estimates to meet the approximate cost of \$353,058, of which \$78,309 was non-recurring.

An explanatory document had been circulated.

(National Defence memorandum, Sept. 19, 1944 - C.W.C. document 859).

5. The War Committee, after discussion, deferred decision upon the Minister's recommendation.

Canada-U.S. joint defence projects;
acquisition of Jesuit College, Edmonton

6. The Secretary submitted a recommendation from the Special Commissioner for Defence Projects in Northwest Canada, regarding disposition of the Jesuit College, Edmonton, which was to be vacated by U.S. forces on September 30th. An explanatory document had been circulated.

This property had been acquired by the Canadian government at a cost of \$110,000, and had been reconstructed and added to substantially by