

Minutes of the  
War Committee of the Cabinet  
September 9, 1942.

SECRET

Ottawa, September 9th, 1942.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Wednesday, September the 9th, at 3 p.m.

There were present the following members:

The Prime Minister (Mr. King), in the Chair,  
The Minister of Mines and Resources  
(Mr. Crerar),  
The Minister of National Defence for Air  
(Mr. Power),  
The Minister of Munitions and Supply  
(Mr. Howe),  
The Minister of National Defence for Naval  
Services (Mr. Macdonald).

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

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There were also present, for consideration  
of items dealt with in paragraphs 1 to 22:

The Chief of the Naval Staff (Vice-Admiral  
Nelles),  
The Chief of the General Staff (Lieutenant-  
General Stuart),  
The Chief of the Air Staff (Air Marshal  
Breadner),  
The Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff  
Committee (Captain DeWolf),

and for consideration of items dealt with in paragraphs  
31 et seq.:

The Minister of National War Services  
(Mr. Thorson).

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Prince George - Fairbanks railway

1. The Minister of Munitions and Supply  
reported that he had seen Mr. Delano, in New York,  
the previous day. Mr. Delano's proposal had been

(2) That His Majesty's Government in Canada consider a submission to His Majesty the King, of proposals for the establishment of an Order limited in number but not involving a title, for which His Majesty's subjects domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada shall alone be eligible."

27. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the recommendations of the Special Committee's report, as adopted by the House of Commons, be accepted as government policy on the subject.

It was also agreed that the Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs convene a committee consisting of himself, the Under-Secretary of State and the Dominion Archivist, to consider and report to the War Committee, upon:

(a) the establishment of appropriate machinery for submitting civilian recommendations for award of available honours and decorations, and

(b) the establishment of a Canadian Order in accordance with paragraph (2) of the House of Commons Committee's recommendations.

#### Admission of Japanese to Universities

28. The Secretary reported that certain universities had enquired as to the government's attitude upon the admission to the universities in other parts of Canada of Japanese evacuated from British Columbia. It was recognized that there were certain risks involved, especially in science departments where government work might be going on.

(Memorandum, External Affairs to the Prime Minister, August 27, 1942).

29. The Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out the distinction between the position of Canadians of Japanese race and Japanese nationals. The adoption of any policy of

exclusion would have implications in regard to Germans and Italians. Possibly some restriction might be made in respect of advanced scientific courses so far as Japanese nationals were concerned. It had been ascertained that the U.S. government had adopted no official policy on this subject.

30. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the question was one for the universities themselves to decide, and that the government should adopt no official attitude in the matter.

Canadian fire fighters for the United Kingdom - additional recruiting.

31. The Secretary submitted a recommendation of the Minister of National War Services, requesting approval to recruit up to 450 men for this corps. The original authorization had been for the despatch of from 400 to 500. An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Secretary's note, September 8, 1942 - C.W.C. document 270).

32. The Minister of National War Services said that some 395 men had already been enlisted in the corps, of whom 212 were now overseas. The 50 additional, for whom authorization was requested, would provide a reserve for replacement purposes.

33. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the corps be limited to a total of 400 men.

Extension of National War Services Regulations.

34. The Minister of National War Services submitted a report, of which copies had been circulated, regarding requisitions by the Army and proposed extensions of classes to be called up, to meet these requirements.

Army requisitions from July to October totalled 78,000 men. There were shortages in regard to those reporting to training centres upon the calls made during these months. Almost everyone called applied for postponement. Reserves were running short and the department felt that Army requisitions could not be filled from the classes now subject to call.