

1941
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Ottawa, 2nd of December, 1940.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The Tenth Recommendation of the Special Committee on Orientals in British Columbia reads as follows:

"That a small standing Committee should be set up in British Columbia to supervise the carrying out of such of the foregoing recommendations as are adopted by the Government, and for the purpose of keeping the Government constantly informed as to the oriental situation in that Province."

May I take the liberty of suggesting that, if the Government should approve this Recommendation, Colonel Sparling and Assistant Commissioner Mead be appointed as the nucleus of the proposed Standing Committee? Assistant Commissioner Mead should also, in my opinion, be asked to supervise the registration of Japanese in British Columbia (which the Special Committee recommended should be carried out under the

The Rt. Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
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auspices of the R.C.M.P.) as he knows the situation intimately and is liked and respected by the Japanese, as well as by the Provincial and Municipal Police authorities. Colonel Sparling is stationed in British Columbia and is competent, careful and judicious in his attitude and temperament.

Consideration might also be given to asking Professor H.F. Angus, Lieutenant-Colonel McGregor McIntosh, M.L.A., and possibly Fred. J. Hume, Mayor of New Westminster, to complete the Committee. Angus is known as the outstanding advocate of fair treatment for the Orientals in British Columbia; McIntosh is one of the leaders of the anti-Oriental movement (but is fundamentally a decent and honest man); and Mayor Hume is sensible, level-headed, and highly respected. He would make an admirable Chairman for the Committee.

Such a combination of appointments would, in my opinion, ensure that the Government will be well advised, it will indicate to the Japanese that they

are going to get a fair deal, it will disarm the "White Canada" crusaders (and possibly end in the conversion of one of their two most prominent leaders), and it will satisfy public opinion.

These suggestions are made entirely on my own responsibility but I am confident that they would be endorsed by the other members of the Special Committee.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) H. L. Keenleyside