

For your comments

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THE NATIONAL INTERCHURCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REV. GEO. DOREY, D.D.
Chairman

REV. E. H. JOHNSON,
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on

RESETTLEMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

100 Adelaide St. West, Room 801
Toronto 1, Ontario

REV. W. W. JUDD, D.C.L.

REV. FR. A. E. MCQUILLEN

REV. C. H. SCHUTT, D.D.

January 31, 1946.

On Behalf of Justice and Fair Play to all Japanese Canadians

Dear Fellow Worker:

Recent pronouncements made by high Government officials at Ottawa indicate that unless the tolerant, liberal thinking people of the country lodge vigorous protests, several hundred Japanese Canadians, many of them Canadian citizens, will be deported to Japan against their will. This would establish a vicious precedent, bringing dishonour to Canada and causing unnecessary suffering to a number of innocent people, in that, families would be broken up and the returnees landed in Japan where adequate food is lacking and housing practically non-existent. In the hope of arousing more individual and group protests against this wholly uncalled for and un-Christian action we send you this letter.

The present Government policy concerning those of Japanese origin now in Canada is as follows:

- (a) All Canadian Born of proved loyalty, including those who have asked to go to Japan but have requested cancellation of their signatures before orders for their deportation are given, may stay in Canada.
- (b) Nationals and Naturalized Canadians who have requested repatriation but who asked for cancellation of such requests after September 2nd, 1945, are to be deported—along with all minors in their families.
- (c) Nationals and Naturalized citizens of proved loyalty who did not sign for repatriation or those who did but requested cancellation before September 2nd, 1945, will be allowed to stay in Canada.

A crescendo of disapproval is being expressed all over Canada regarding Section B above. Many questions are being asked. Why should the Japanese be treated differently from the Italians or Germans? If what Prime Minister King stated in the House on August 4, 1944, is true, namely, that none of them have been guilty of sabotage or other offence against the Government, on what basis other than that of pure racial discrimination are they to be so treated? If they are to be deported on that basis in what respect is such action different from what the Nazis in Europe did to the Jews? It has now come to the place where, not the Japanese, but Canada and Canada's honour are being put on trial.

It is the opinion of the members of our Committee that the only Christian way to handle the question is to give every person of Japanese origin in Canada against whom no evidence of disloyalty has been found, a chance to have his case considered by a properly constituted tribunal. To do less, in our view, would be to violate the United Nations Charter which expressly states its purpose as "The realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

If on reading the above you feel at all as we do, you can have a part in working for Christian justice in Canada, by sending a letter or telegram of protest to the Prime Minister either as an individual or as a member of your own church group or of any other group with which you have contacts. *Public opinion must be mobilized if a grave injustice is to be avoided.* Whatever is done should be done speedily before the Government policy hardens into action. Any communication should be addressed to The Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, Ottawa.

If more information is required, please do not hesitate to write. Our services are at your disposal.

Sincerely yours,

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