

Record of Conference-Department of Labour-January 23, 1942.

Re: Japanese and Other Enemy Aliens in the B.C. Protected Area

Present:

Bryce M. Stewart
H. L. Keenleyside

H. F. Angus
A. MacNamara
A. M. Mitchell
F. J. Mead
A. J. Whitmore
W. J. Couper

Deputy Minister of Labour
Asst. Under Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

Department of External Affairs
Unemployment Insurance Commission
" " "

Asst. Comm. R.C.M.P.
Dept. of Fisheries
Dept. of Labour.

It was generally understood or agreed as follows:

1. That the policy of the Government is to differentiate clearly between enemy aliens of Japanese, German or Italian nationalities and Canadian nationals of such foreign origins. Only male enemy aliens of military age, unless specially permitted by the R.C.M.P. are required to move or be moved from the protected area. Canadian nationals are not required so to move but many may wish to do so, in addition to those who may wish to enlist in the Civilian Corps.
2. That the Minister of National Defence and Justice were preparing a recommendation to Council defining the protected area.
3. That Commissioner Mead would arrange for a recommendation to Council setting April 1st as the deadline before which Japanese nationals should be required to move or be moved from the protected area.
4. That the R.C.M.P. would be responsible for the selection of those Japanese nationals and other enemy aliens who would be required to move or be moved from the protected area.
5. That the Unemployment Insurance Commission should be responsible for:
 - (a) the placement of Japanese nationals in private employment or work camps outside of the protected area,
 - (b) the placement of Canadian nationals of Japanese origin in private employment within or without the protected area, and,
 - (c) the organization of the proposed Civilian Labour Corps.
6. That the Unemployment Insurance Commission would therefore:
 - (a) Clarify their instructions to their Regional

Superintendent in B.C. in the following respects:

(i) that he should break down his occupational and other classifications by citizenship, i.e., distinguishing Japanese nationals and Canadian nationals of Japanese origin;

(ii) that he should obtain a complete employment service registration for all Japanese, whether Japanese nationals or Canadian nationals, other than unskilled labourers;

(iii) that he should extend his survey to include enemy aliens of German and Italian nationalities.

(b) Take immediate steps to place as many Japanese as possible in private employment outside of the area.

(c) Prepare a statement of employment policy covering such points as the extent to which travel and other allowances might be made or advanced to those being placed in private employment at a distance, the kind of information which would be required from employers before placements were made, the character and extent of consultation with provincial authorities before placements were made in large numbers.

(d) Arrange with the Department of National Defence to have Colonel Muallaley (?) former British Military Attache in Tokyo, now in Victoria, ordered to fly to Ottawa to serve in an advisory capacity with respect to the establishment of the Civilian Labour Corps and to assist in drafting the requisite orders in Council prescribing among other matters rates of pay and allowances. There seemed to be a consensus, though not unanimous agreement, that the pay and allowances should be substantially similar to though slightly lower than army pay and allowances.

7. That Mr. Harford of Labour and Mr. Gardle of Mines and Resources would continue to explore the extent of available camp facilities and related matters.
8. That the Department of Labour would notify and consult the leaders of organized labour about the policy and, as appropriate, about detailed arrangements.
9. That the Department of Labour would arrange for any necessary relief for the families of enemy aliens.
10. That the Department of Labour would prepare a statement of policy for submission to the special cabinet committee.

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House of Commons
Canada

Ottawa, February 3, 1942.

773-B 400

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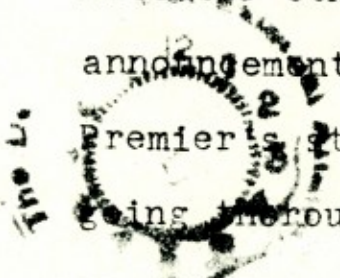
N. A. Robertson, Esq.,
Under-Secretary of State,
for External Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

I have your letter of the 31st ultimo. I reiterate my statement that the Government's policy was not adopted with the full agreement of all parties to the conference. It may have been that they acquiesced finally, but that is a very different thing. Were they all, all the time in a condition to recall what was said or done?

I stated in my letter referred to that it was not mentioned in the Premier's statement that the Japanese naturalized since 1922 would be treated as a National. Your answer to that is that there was an announcement made on December 8th to that effect. I know nothing about such an announcement. I never heard of it. What I went by was the Premier's statement officially put forward on January 14th going thoroughly into the matter.

You haven't answered my objection that, according to the Premier's statement, the restrictions on going into defence



areas apparently applied only to Japanese Nationals, and I maintain the naturalized Japanese is very often the more dangerous. *Umu*

It is also a part of the Premier's statement, item No. 8, that Japanese Nationals will be forbidden to possess or use radio sets, transmitters and cameras. If that means anything, it means that it applies only to Japanese Nationals and all naturalized Japanese can use radio sets and cameras all they like. Well, if the naturalized Japanese are to be allowed to go where they like and photograph what they like and transmit by radio what they like, we might as well apply the same liberty to the Nationals as well, because the naturalized man will do all the harm required.

As regards Professor Angus, I don't think that his service in the last war has any bearing on the matter whatever and need not have been introduced. You say that as a Canadian citizen he is exercising the rights to which he is entitled. These rights would undoubtedly enable him legally to be as pro-Japanese as he desired up until the 7th of December but after Japan declared war, I think it would have been wise and tactful for him to have taken a less prominent part in handling the Japanese situation on that committee or in any other way that is well known. If the Government want to stir up feeling in British Columbia against the local Japanese, and certainly there is no need to do that, they couldn't have taken a better way

about it than allowing the committee to be organized and conducted by a gentleman whose sentiments were well-known to be so strongly imbued with Japanese sentiment and view-point.

It is now almost two months since Japan began war and the Government promptly deprived them of their fishing boats - a very wise action and promptly done, but since then just what has been done to curtail their activities and two months is a long time in wartime?


Had the Japanese decided to take British Columbia instead of Pearl Harbour, they had a very large number of Nationals and naturalized friends here ready to help them and they are still here and they are still loose and still unchecked except for the taking of their boats from them.

Does Professor Angus not agree, if it is only in the interests of his Japanese friends, that it is desirable to get them away from the Coast as soon as possible? Some drunken white man is going to smash a Japanese store window and the feeling is so inflamed that a tifle like that might start a large sized riot with disastrous consequences.

I have put some questions on the Order Paper to try and find out if any of these cameras or radio sets have been surrendered or seized as should have been done within a week of the declaration of war and, if not, why it wasn't done.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. Neill.



HLK/ML, February 5, 1942. *File*

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERTSON

PUBLICITY WITH REFERENCE TO ACTION TAKEN
BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO
JAPANESE SUBJECTS IN CANADA.

773-B-400

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In connection with Mr. Rive's memorandum of February 5 on this subject, may I say that I did get in touch with the Canadian Press who assured me that they had not issued any statement which would indicate that Canada was treating Japanese nationals in any way that was different from the treatment being accorded to other enemy aliens. They stated further that they would communicate with their Head Office in Toronto and make sure that no statement disclosing a distinction in the treatment of the two classes would be made in the future.

The situation is complicated, of course, by the clear and practical fact that we are not treating Japanese nationals in precisely the same way we are treating German and Italian nationals. The theory is the same in the two cases but the practice is different. In addition, we are taking steps in regard to Canadian nationals of Japanese racial origin which are wholly different from any steps being taken in regard to German and Italian nationals of Canadian origin. In view of these facts, I am afraid that we will have a good many cases in the future of the kind that Mr. Rive deprecates, in spite of anything we may do about it. *mmmm*

H.S.

HLE/ML, February 5, 1942. *File*

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H.S.

Mr. Keenleyside
AVR/ff
February 5, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE :

773-6-*flex*
+ *LA*

Publicity with Reference to Action Taken by the Canadian Government with regard to Japanese Subjects in Canada

1. Last night the eleven o'clock news from CBC gave two parallel news statements, one from Washington and one from Ottawa. The statement from Washington said that the United States authorities had taken measures to control enemy aliens in defence areas on the Pacific coast, and after some details said that in California these measures chiefly affected Japanese. The Ottawa statement as quoted said that the Canadian Government had taken measures against Japanese in defence areas, and made no reference to enemy aliens of other nationalities.
2. From the point of view of the interests of my section in the protection of Canadian nationals in Japan, I consider this news statement as given out by the CBC, purporting to come from Ottawa, likely to have repercussions unfavourable to the position of Canadian nationals in Japan and Japanese controlled areas. If a written statement was given out by the Department, I am sorry that I did not see it in draft form.
3. The Spanish Consul General in two formal interviews with Mr. Beaudry (at one of which I was present and a report on the other having reached me from Mr. Beaudry) was assured definitely that no action was being taken against Japanese subjects as such, but that any action taken would affect all enemy aliens alike. Further, last week I had two telephone conversations with the Spanish Consul General about the internment of Japanese subjects, and each time he asked to be assured that the treatment being accorded them was the same as that accorded to other enemy nationals.
4. In view of the importance which I attach to making it clear in all press and radio announcements that no action is being taken against Japanese subjects which does not apply to Germans and Italians, I got into touch with Mr. Keenleyside of this Department and drew the nature of the broadcast to his attention. He assured me that he would get into touch with the Canadian press and try to have it rectified.
5. I think that in all future statements to the press, whether press releases or oral statements made in press conference or to correspondents singly, the importance should be impressed upon them of avoiding giving the impression that any action taken by the Canadian Government is directed solely against the Japanese, pointing out to them that we have large numbers of Canadians in Japan and in territories under Japanese control, and that press statements which suggest discrimination against the Japanese in Canada open the door to retaliatory action against Canadians in Japan.

*The points made in
this memo have been stressed
by Legal & American Division
in all statements of Govt Policy*
S

AVR

River

April 23/4

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS

File No. 3464-B-46

Sub. Chron. Filed

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

2966-B-46
 Mr. Schwartz, the Consul General of Spain representing Japanese interests called at this Department this morning. I had a brief conversation with him in the course of which the following matters were discussed.

1. Mr. Schwartz stated that the Japanese Minister was closing his house and that he had a number of books and periodicals which he wished to supply for the Japanese internees in Canada. Mr. Schwartz asked whether these could be collected from the Japanese Minister's residence or what arrangements might be made. I called Colonel Streight, Commissioner of Internment Operations, who said that he would be glad to undertake to make arrangements if we could let him know the amount which was to be collected and the time at which it should be called for. Mr. Schwartz promised to telephone this information to drop us a note after he had seen the Minister.
2. Mr. Schwartz said that he proposed to visit Petawawa on the 4th of May and asked if this would be convenient. I told him that so far as I know the date was entirely satisfactory but that I would confirm it later by letter. Mr. Schwartz proposed to leave from Ottawa by car and would be glad to have a member of this Department accompany him on his first trip to Petawawa. I promised to obtain information for him about the condition of the roads and probable driving time. It was arranged that a member of this Department would get in touch with Mr. Schwartz at the Chateau on Sunday evening, May 3rd.
3. Mr. Schwartz left with me two urgent letters addressed to this Department and requested that the necessary action be taken to deal with them as soon as possible, in particular, with regard to the letter addressed to the Camp Spokesman of the Japanese at Petawawa.
4. Mr. Schwartz referred to previous correspondence which I had with him about the possibility of providing a licensed assistant for his Hon. Vice Consul at Vancouver. He said that the Hon. Vice Consul had enquired whether Punji Hisaoka President of the Japanese-Canadian Association might act. He pointed out that as Hisaoka was a naturalized Canadian we might have some objections. I told him that my understanding had been that this Department would have preferred a Japanese subject as we had felt that a Canadian national of Japanese race might find himself in an embarrassing position if asked to assist a representative of the protecting power for Japanese interests. I told him I would consult the Under Secretary and let him know later whether was satisfactory to us. I stressed that of course the appointment is not an official appointment and that the responsibility of the nominee would be entirely to the Spanish Hon. Vice Consul. With regard to the possibility of securing a Canadian national who might be of service to the representative of the protecting power for Japanese interests in a similar capacity I told him that the name of Rev. W.R. McWilliams, 1716 West 29th Street, Vancouver, had been suggested. I said that I thought that the Canadian authorities would have no objection to Dr. McWilliams being asked to serve in this capacity but that I would inform him later. Should it be decided that Dr. McWilliams might be asked to undertake this, this Department would write to Dr. McWilliams informing him of our views in order that he might feel free to accept when an approach was made to him by the representative for Japanese interests.

A. V. P.

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting held in the Raymond Town Hall, May 24, 1942. Those present were representatives of Citizen's Committee, Town Council, Lion's Club, Raymond Branch of the Canadian Legion and the Raymond Board of Trade. The Beet Grower's Association and Raymond School Board were also represented.

The minutes of the Citizen's meeting held March 19, 1942 were read and approved. This was followed by a general discussion on the Japanese influx. Edward Wagstaffe, President of the Veterans Association reported that he had interviewed the Mayor and was told to investigate the Germans at the Sugar Factory.

The actual placement of the Japanese was under the supervision of the B. C. Security Commission, but under direction of the Sugar Company officials as explained by Louis Brandley and J. W. Evans, who said that the B. C. Commission was sending in unemployables, both young and old.

Moved by Lloyd MacPhee and seconded by D. M. Powelson that the resolutions and actions of the School Board be supported 100% in not letting the Japanese children enter school; that if a school is needed, let it be paid for by the B. C. Commission separately and taught by English teachers. Passed.

Moved by Louis Brandley of the Beet Grower's Association, seconded by Wilford Meldrum of the Raymond School Board, that this committee, representative of the body of citizens, address a communication to the Hon. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister, and to the Council of Canada enclosing a copy of the Order in Council setting up the B. C. Security Commission; also a copy of the Commitments of the B. C. Security Commission to the representatives from Alberta; ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ regarding the movement of Japanese to Alberta; and also a letter to Mr. J. H. Walker M. L. A. from Premier Aberhart of Alberta containing the following extract from Prime Minister Mackenzie King: "That the Federal Government will not fulfill the promises made by the B. C. Security Commission regarding the Japanese moved to Alberta; also that the people in Alberta took the Commitments of the B. C. Commission in good faith; and also the appointment of the B. C. Commission in good faith; and also the and expect the Federal Government and the B. C. Commission to fulfill their promises. Also a copy be sent to Premier Aberhart, John Blackmore M. P., Senator Buchanan and Austin Taylor of the B. C. Commission. This resolution was endorsed by the Raymond Citizen's League, Raymond Branch of the Canadian Legion, Raymond Board of Trade, Raymond School Board, Beet Grower's Association and the Raymond Town Council.

Moved by Ed. Wagstaffe, seconded by Rulon Dahl that the Town Council be asked to work out a curfew law regarding Japanese here at Raymond, and request that the Buddhist temple be closed. Mr. Wagstaffe was appointed to interview the Council regarding this motion.

The present committee, consisting of Rulon Dahl, chairman; Lloyd MacPhee, Vice Chairman; and D. M. Powelson, Secretary were to hold

March 14, 1942.

To the Delegation:

Mr. A. E. Palmer, Dominion Dept. Agriculture, Lethbridge,
 Mr. F. R. Taylor, Canadian Sugar Factories Ltd., Raymond,
 Mr. Philip Baker, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, Lethbridge,
 Mr. J. A. Jardine, Alderman, City of Lethbridge, Alberta.

Gentlemen:

1. As a war emergency measure, it is essential that all Japanese must be removed from the national defence area restricted to Japanese, to other areas of Canada where they can best be taken care of.
2. The Security Commission has full power to control all such movement of Japanese and will assume responsibility for their movement to the district and will move them out of the district as soon as the emergency ceases to exist or they require to be moved in the best interests of the district concerned.
3. The Security Commission will provide supervision at the destination to see that the Japanese are properly placed and housed in houses provided by the employer.
4. It is understood that such Japanese shall be selected from experienced agricultural workers and are approved by the R. C. M. P.
5. The Commission will be responsible for keeping strict supervision over Japanese families so moved from the restricted area during the entire period of their domicile in Alberta and if necessary will provide more Police protection for the Districts in which they are located.
6. The Commission will undertake to make a thorough check on all Japanese who have moved into Southern Alberta. In future, any Japanese moved from the restricted area will be on the authority of this Commission and by permit from this Commission and you can be assured of complete supervision of all Japanese moved.
7. The responsibility for the education of any or all such Japanese rests with the Security Commission.
8. Families to be moved only at such time and in such numbers required.
9. This Commission will guarantee to the City of Lethbridge that no Japanese so moved will become a charge on them for Relief, Medical Services, Medicine or Hospitalization. Should Hospitalization and Medical care be required, same will be paid for by the Japanese and if not, by this commission.
10. The Commission further agrees to see that any Japanese so moved, remain domiciled on the farms to which they are allocated and the Commission further agrees that they will not allow them to move and reside in the City of Lethbridge or become a charge on any Municipality in the Province of Alberta.
11. It will become an obligation of the employer who employs Japanese to be supplied by the Commission, to pay the regular contract price

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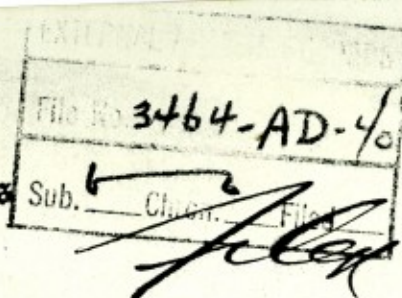
Japanese to occupy throughout the year a house so provided for him. The Japanese laborer is also to be allowed to improve his house for winter use. It is not expected that the employer will be responsible for the Japanese family or laborer during the period that they are not employed.

Sgd. Austin C. TAYLOR,
Chairman,
B. C. Security Commission.



REPLY TO BE ADDRESSED TO:
THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA.

Department of External Affairs



OTTAWA, September 24th, 1942.

Robert

Dear Mr. Vining,-

This morning I had a meeting in my office which was attended by Mr. Smart, Dr. Parsons, late of Shanghai; Lieutenant-Colonel Clark of Colonel Ralston's office, and Mr. Keenleyside of this Department. The purpose of the meeting was to hear Dr. Parsons' report on conditions in Shanghai and the Far East generally.

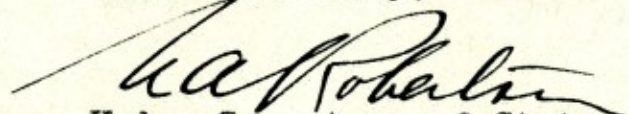
Mr. Smart will probably have informed you that Dr. Parsons is very anxious that we should take advantage of every propaganda device at our command, in order to impress upon the Japanese that their nationals in Canada have been, and are being, well treated. Dr. Parsons was convinced that a campaign of this sort might have beneficial results, as the Japanese authorities apparently believe that their people on this continent have been badly mistreated. He feels that if this belief can be corrected, and particularly if information to this effect can be routed to Japan through neutral channels, the Japanese authorities may be more careful in their adherence to the recognized rules of international law in their dealings with Canadians and other Occidentals now in their hands.

C. A. Vining, Esq.,
Chairman,
Wartime Information Board,
Supreme Court Building,
O t t a w a.

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While we entertain some doubts as to the likelihood of a campaign of this sort producing any material change for the better, we agree that this and every other available means should be employed in the hope that benefits may accrue therefrom. Under the circumstances we hope that the Wartime Information Board will examine the possibilities of Dr. Parsons' proposal and do whatever may be possible to bring about the desired result. This will presumably involve a discussion with representatives of the interested departments here, and probably with the officials of the office of War Information and other interested bodies in Washington, in order that some concurrence may be obtained in the policies to be pursued by the United States and ourselves.

Yours sincerely,


Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

EXTERNAL Sept. 25/42

File No. 3464-AD-459

Sub. Chron. Filed

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY:Telling Japan how well we treat Japanese
in Canada.

3464 AD 400
3464 B 400

I am not sure that I grasp the point of the attached letter or what part the Wartime Information Board is to play in telling the Japanese Government how well its nationals are treated in Canada. To take this line in the Canadian Press would probably be to defeat this end by raising a public demand for harsher measures. I am not aware that the Wartime Information Board issues releases in Japan. M!

The best bit of work which has been done so far along the lines suggested by Dr. Parsons was the trip of inspection made in July by the Consul General of Spain and the Delegate in Canada of the International Red Cross to Japanese camps and settlements in the West. Both these gentlemen returned what were on the whole very satisfactory reports. The photographs which have been supplied them since should reinforce their favourable reports.

If the policy of placating the Japanese is to be pursued some of the things to be done are to tell the Custodian of Enemy Property to be a little more liberal in the application of his regulations affecting Japanese, to tell the Commissioner of Internment Operations that the internment camp at Angler is to be a model camp and to allow the more reliable Japanese, subject to security considerations, to settle in and take work in eastern communities away from the defence area. The more quietly these measures can be effected the better, but I think you first have to sell the policy to Mr. McLarty, Mr. Mitchell and Colonel Ralston and then to other members of the War Committee. In short the more I think about this letter the less I see the reason for it.

A.V.R

3464-AD-40
X
AVR/ENCopy 6 P. J. with
C. G.
Rome, Oct. 28/42

Ottawa, October 27th, 1942.

No. J. 95

3464-AD-40c

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Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your telegram of October 29th transmitting the text of a telegram from your Government relating to the treatment of Japanese subjects in Canada, and stating that the Japanese Government have received a report concerning the compulsory removal of the Japanese residents from the protected areas of the Pacific Coast. The Canadian Government have received the text of this report with some surprise and would be interested to learn the source from which it was obtained as it is clear from it that the Japanese Government have been misinformed. The Canadian Government would not deny that there have been some individual cases of hardship, but I believe that you will concur in the statement that the authorities have done everything reasonably possible to adjust the legitimate grievances of any Japanese subjects. In particular, I feel sure that you will be able out of your own knowledge to assure the Japanese Government that far from desiring to deprive Japanese subjects in Canada of their means of livelihood, the Canadian Government have made every effort to provide them with suitable and congenial employment, and where necessary, have provided financial assistance out of Canadian Government funds.

[sic] You are also aware that although for reasons of security and because whole families could not be transferred at once, it was necessary to move some Japanese males of military age out of the protected areas in advance of their families; the families have now been transferred to the

The Consul General of Spain in charge of Japanese Interests,
Montreal, P.Q.

various settlements and have been joined by their husbands and fathers.

Further, I hope you will also endeavour to make clear to the Japanese Government that the families of Japanese subjects transferred from the protected areas have not been sent "to live in wild desolate places" but that the settlements in which they have been established are in small communities in some of the most fertile and beautiful districts of Western Canada where ample opportunities exist for local employment and where rich, fertile soil will enable them to grow all the fruits and vegetables to which they have been accustomed.

I trust also that you will endeavour to correct the impression which the Japanese Government appear to have received of conditions at the road construction camps. You will remember that at only one camp were the workers housed in tents and even at this camp the tents were provided with wooden floors and side walls. As for the food supply, the meal which you were provided with at the construction camp on the Hope Princeton highway was the ordinary standard fare of the camps.

It is noted that the report states that some Japanese subjects were forced at the point of a revolver to sign contracts to accept work in road construction. Any such action by a police officer or other person to secure the signature of a Japanese subject against his will would be contrary to policy and instructions of the Canadian authorities. I should be grateful, therefore, if you would supply me with specific information of any cases in which this is alleged to have occurred. On receipt of this information from you an immediate investigation will be ordered.

It is true that it has been found necessary to intern a number of Japanese male subjects but it is not correct to state that this was done because they refused compulsory labour. On the contrary their internment was made necessary because of their refusal to obey the evacuation order and their general hostile attitude. The small number interned in relation to the total number of Japanese in Canada should be sufficient evidence to the Japanese Government that the internment of Japanese is contrary to the policy of the Canadian

Government and has only been resorted to in exceptional cases. In fact the Canadian Government endeavours to treat all Japanese in Canada with consideration and to impose on them only such restrictions of their freedom as are made necessary by the state of war now existing between Canada and Japan.

May I assure you again that the Canadian Government are desirous of cooperating with you in your work on behalf of Japanese subjects in Canada. You or your representative are at liberty at any time to communicate with or to visit any Japanese subjects in Canada wherever they may be and transmit full reports for the information of the Japanese Government. We shall continue to give earnest attention to any representations which you may feel called upon to make and to adjust as quickly as possible any legitimate grievances or complaints.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

N. A. Robertson

Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs.