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NAC - INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS · RG18 Vol 3568, File C319-1-10

FOLDER NO. 9

Roy Miki fonds
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PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

C O P Y

COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE PLACEMENT

Minutes of a meeting held in Room 453, Justice Building, on Thursday, August 9, 1945. The following were present:

R. Forsyth, Dept. of Justice.
D. W. Mundell, Dept. of Justice
N. A. Robertson, Dept. of External Affairs,
J. P. Glazebrook, Dept. of External Affairs.
Dr. E. H. Coleman, Dept. of the Secretary of State.
Deputy Commissioner F. J. Mead, R.C.M.Police
Supt. Rivett/Carnac, R.C.M.Police
Lt. Com. Tottenham, Dept of National Defence
Brigadier Nolan, Dept of National Defence.
Lt. Col. Collinson, Dept. of National Defence.
Group Captain Barclay McPherson, Dept of National Defence.
Flt. Lt. Easson, Dept. of National Defence.
A. H. Brown, Dept of Labour.

The Committee assembled at 10.00 a.m. with Mr. Forsyth presiding in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Varcoe. The function of the Committee is to deal with the problem of relocation in Canada of persons of the Japanese race deemed to be loyal to Canada and the ultimate deportation of those considered to be disloyal and those who have voluntarily requested repatriation to Japan. Of the latter some are naturalized Canadians and some Canadian born.

Mr. Brown outlined the position with regard to the situation generally and it appears that there are some 24,971 persons affected, distributed by province as follows:

	Japanese Nationals	Naturalized	Canadian born
British Columbia	3,990	2,242	8,758
Alberta	790	432	2.450
Saskatchewan	33	37	83
Manitoba	227	162	742
Ontario	640	321	2,300
Quebec	108	69	443
Maritime Provinces	1		
Yukon & Northwest Territories	4	10	13

The question of the agreements, which were entered into with certain provinces at the time the evacuation first commenced, to receive the Japanese removed from the protected area in British Columbia was discussed at length. Though the various provinces concerned were assured at the time that the measure was only of a temporary nature it was agreed that there was a question of the right of a province to refuse to receive a Canadian citizen, of whatever recial origin, and it was felt that the point should be pursued further, as the matter was not now wholly one of security.

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It was decided that the Committee recommend that regulation 39E of the Defence of Canada Regulations be revoked and its provisions, with any necessary changes, be incorporated into the Order respecting Japanese placement now administered by the Dept. of Labour.

This Committee is of opinion that regulation 21 of the Defence of Canada Regulations should not now be amended to apply only to persons of the Japanese race as this would in effect be a discrimination against persons who might otherwise be loyal to Canada. It was felt however, that a measure of control should be maintained over the movement of persons of the Japanese race and suggestion was made that the regulation be left as it is until arrangements could be worked out whereby machinery could be established under the Immigration Act to provide for the detention of objectionable persons of the Japanese race until their deportation to Japan could be arranged.

It was agreed that a sub-committee be set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Coleman to consider this question. The membership of this sub-committee is as follows:

Mr. M. H. Wershof, Dept. of External Affairs.
Mr. D. W. Mundell, Dept of Justice.
Mr. A. L. Joliffe, Dept. of Mines and Resources.
Mr. A. H. Brown, Dept of Labour.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. to meet again on the call of the Chairman.

Chairman.

August 11, 1945.

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C 3129-1-10. July 24th, 1945.

Re: Japanese Internees and Their Families Desiring to Remain in Canada.

1. I have read the proposed reply to Mr. Pickersgill's letter of the 20th of July last, having to do with grown-up Canadian-born Japanese who are members of families of internees moving out of British Columbia.

2. I consider that your letter states the position clearly. I agree with it.

F. J. Mead,
Deputy Commissioner.

A.H. Brown, Esq., O.B.E.,
Assistant to the Deputy Minister,
Department of M.&C.,
Ottawa, Ontario.

FOLDER NO. 9

ONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM ON FUTURE JAPANESE POLICY AS DECIDED AFTER CONFERENCES BETWEEN MESSRS. MACNAMARA, BROWN, PICKERSGILL, AND PAMMETT OF THIS DEPARTMENT, AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MEAD OF THE R.C.M. POLICE AND MR. RIVE AND STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, APR.30to MAY 4, 1945.

I. Maintenance

(a) Can we refuse maintenance where voluntary repatriates in the settlements have refused employment which we have to offer?

Answer: If persons capable of doing work in connection with the operation of segregation camps refuse to take such work, they may be required to use up their own assets before being given maintenance even beyond the minimum repatriation reserve, or in appropriate cases may be given maintenance lower than the scale otherwise applicable. This applies only to the person who refuses the work, and other members of the family will get regular maintenance.

Voluntary repatriates as a general rule will not be allowed to leave B.C. to take work. They will not be required to take private employment in B.C., but will be permitted and encouraged to do so.

(b) Will the earnings of a member of a family who is not the family head be budgetted at two-thirds as heretofore, in the case of repatriate families, all of whom sign applications?

Answer: Employed persons who are not family heads, if working in B.C., should be required to help maintain their families up to two-thirds of their earnings even if not living with the family. If such refuse to assist their families in the settlements, they should be assessed a reasonable part of their wages and maintenance for the family should be cut down accordingly. Non-family heads who have signed for repatriation and who are working East of the Rockies should not be compelled to assist their families in the settlements, but should be encouraged to do so as in the past.

(c) Will all signing applications who are on maintenance or subsequently are placed on maintenance receive the 10% increase?

Answer: It is suggested that the present policy and scale should be continued in respect to the 10% increase for maintenance, but a generous interpretation should be placed on the special need for this increase.

(d) Where a family head is not living at the project, but working in B.C., would he or she be expected to contribute part of their earnings to the maintenance of the family?

Answer: The family head should contribute to the support of the family whether actually residing in the settlement or engaged in private employment in B.C. If the family head is engaged in private employment outside of B.C. when the family continue to reside in the settlement, he should be urged to contribute what he can to the support of the family.

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(e) If Japanese Canadians not signing applications refuse to accept suitable employment, should all of their assets be used before maintenance is provided, or should the minimum rehabilitation reserve be maintained?

Answer: The minimum rehabilitation reserve is not to be disturbed.

(f) Should payment owed for rent be taken from assets of Japanese Canadians not signing voluntary applications but who refuse to accept suitable employment outside of B.C.?

Answer: We cannot draw on the assets of Japanese Canadians for the collection of rents which they owe to us.

(g) Should we continue the policy of requiring a wage earner who has signed for repatriation to pay for his or her own medical care and hospitalization, if engaged in private employment?

Answer: The wage earner should continue to pay from current earnings expenses for medical care and hospitalization.

(h) As relocation East grows in volume the number of maintenance cases may rise considerably. At present we have no arrangements with the provinces, except Manitoba and Alberta, for provision of maintenance. If it is not considered advisable at the present time to negotiate administrative arrangements with the provinces to provide relief, we should have full details of relief rates in all provinces, to assure that maintenance given directly by the Commission will not be out of line with the prevailing provincial rates.

Answer: Mr. Mactavish is checking to see what the Ontario and Quebec relief scales are, and an approach can be made after June to see if the welfare officials of these provinces will handle Japanese relief cases and bill this Department for same. This is the procedure now in effect in Alberta and Manitoba. For other provinces, arrangements can be made when the need arises.

II. Family Allowances:

(a) Discussion of proposed letter to Mr. Brown, outlining thoughts on payment of family allowances.

(b) Check with Family Allowance Administration to determine what is being done in each province in regard to registration of Japanese families to receive family allowances. Check by Japanese administration to ensure that Japanese file applications for family allowances.

(c) It is suggested that payment of family allowances to those actually residing in the settlements operated by the Commission should be made via the Head Office, Vancouver. It will then be possible to make certain adjustments so as to avoid duplication of services in accordance with the Family Allowance Act. It is suggested that payment should be made direct to all families of Japanese origin engaged in self-supporting employment and not residing in settlements operated by the Commission.

Answer: At the suggestion of Mr. Brown this question will be studied further as discussions will have to be held with the Department of Health and Welfare. The Vancouver Office is to furnish to Head Office information on services now supplied Japanese in settlements and what charges are made to employed Japanese for services provided.

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Segregation of Those Signing For Repatriation

(a) Discussion of question of privilege in applying for cancellation of requisitions made on new official form. Refer to letter from Deputy Commissioner R.C.M.P., to O.C. "E" Division, stating that those wishing to cancel applications made on official form are to write this application on the back of the copy of the form which is sent to each Japanese signing.

Answer: Persons seeking to cancel applications for repatriation, whether made previously or on the new official form, will be told to put it in writing and send it to the Commissioner of Japanese Placement at Vancouver, either directly or through the R.C.M.Police. This statement will be held on the individual's file for consideration by the Loyalty Tribunal. In the meantime the individual's application for repatriation will remain valid.

(b) In view of apparent large proportion signing for voluntary repatriation the whole question of allocation and disposition should be discussed. It appears as if at least three settlements will be required to accommodate those signing for repatriation. In view of the assurance already given that those signing for voluntary repatriation will be permitted to continue in self-supporting employment, poses a problem concerning concentration in particular settlements of those signing for repatriation.

Answer: It is proposed that Tashme, Lemon Creek and Slocan area with accommodation for about 6,900, will be used to house voluntary repatriates. We will endeavour as quickly as possible to shift the Japanese population so that this may be accomplished. The New Denver area will be used as a settlement for Japanese Nationals not signing applications and for Japanese Canadians whom we are unable for various reasons to relocate.

With respect to transfer between settlements this should be voluntary if at all possible, and completed by the latter part of August at the latest. Those who refuse to move may be cut off if on maintenance, and Commissioner's Orders should be used only if absolutely necessary to transfer these people.

(c) Discussion of citizenship status of those signing for repatriation.

Answer: In view of the statements made to Japanese Committees with respect to interpretation of P.C. 10773, applications for renunciation of citizenship by naturalized and Canadian-born Japanese will not be for the present forwarded for action by the Secretary of State, and will be held at Vancouver pending further advice from Ottawa.

(d) Discussion of future educational policy in settlements containing none but who have signed for voluntary repatriation.

Answer: In the settlements housing exclusively those who have signed for voluntary repatriation, we should still continue the same provincial curriculum and teach in English, with a proviso that a portion of the day (say one hour at the close of the day) could be used for the teaching of Japanese under the direction of the Japanese Committee with their own teachers. This would

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C.3129-1-10
CONFIDENTIAL.

September 5th, 1944.

The Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

1. Replying to your memorandum of the 28th ultimo, to which was attached a revised draft of a Recommendation to Council regarding the appointment of a Commission to investigate the loyalty or otherwise of persons of the Japanese race in Canada.

2. I think your suggestion that a Commission be appointed instead of one Commissioner, as previously proposed is a good one.

3. I would suggest that the instructions to the Commission include cooperation as well as reliability and loyalty, as from the commencement of the evacuation up to the present time there has been a considerable number of these people who have consistenly refused to cooperate with the authorities and have attempted to prevent others from doing so, and while the files of these people may not show disloyalty, they have shown an attitude bordering on same.

4. Regarding the composition of the Commission, I would suggest that a Judge of a County or District Court should be appointed Chairman with two members, and I would recommend that if Judge McFee's services are available, his would be a most desirable appointment. You will recollect that his name was mentioned previously. To assist him, I would suggest the name of Lt.Colonel C. H. Hill, M.C., ex-Assistant Commissioner of this Force, who was Officer Commanding the R.C.M.Police in Vancouver at the time of the evacuation, and is now acting as Liaison Officer between the Commissioner of Japanese Placement and this Force in the Slocan, B.C., area, where the largest settlements of Japanese are located. Lt.Colonel Hill is a Veteran of the 1914-18 War and served as A.P.M. of the Canadian Corps in England during the present war. His services, I think, would be available, as he has recently been pensioned from this Force after completing thirty-five years' service.

5. I also recommend the appointment of Captain R. L. Haig-Brown, a member of the Directorate

of Personnel Services, Canadian Army (Active). This Officer is attached to the Pacific Command and during the past four months has been loaned to this Force for the purpose of making a report on personnel and post-war recruiting, and has now returned to the Army. I have been much impressed with the capabilities of this Officer in interviews, and the reports he has submitted, and I am convinced that if his services could be obtained, and he would accept the appointment, his keen understanding of human nature would be of great value to the Commission. He is a resident of British Columbia and in civilian life held the position of Stipendiary Magistrate and Judge of the Juvenile Court at Campbell River, B.C. He is the author of eight books, most of them having to do with nature studies. He is considered by the Officer in charge of the Directorate of Personnel Services as being one of his best Officers, and as I say, my own observations confirm this.

S. T. Wood,
Commissioner.

FJW/L

FOLDER NO. 9

MEMORANDUM
Privy Council Office

Ottawa February 5th, 1945.

Mr. Wood

For your information.

A.D.P. Heeney.

A.D.P. Heeney.

SECRET

Ottawa, February 5th, 1945.

The Honourable H. Mitchell,
Minister of Labour,
O T T A W A.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

The following decision taken by the Cabinet at the meeting of February 2nd, 1945, at which you were present, is of direct interest to your Department.

Consideration was given to the memorandum of December 15th, 1944 concerning repatriation and re-settlement of persons of Japanese race, sent me by your Deputy Minister on that date and referred to subsequently in your letter to me of January 17th. This memorandum on proposed policy and procedure had been prepared by your Department after consultation with External Affairs, the R.C.M. Police and the Department of Justice.

Approval was given by the Cabinet to the memorandum as submitted on the understanding that appropriate reservation be made for Canadian rights to reimbursement by Japan of any repatriation expenses involved. It was also agreed that, for the present, appointment of the proposed Commission be deferred.

It was noted that the suggestion made in sub-para 5 of para 2 of the memorandum regarding transfer to Labour of licensing authority for the holding of land etc. was for consideration of the Minister of Justice.

INTELLIGENCE BRANCH
FEB 8 19[illegible]
R.C.M.P.

FOLDER NO.

I am sending a copy of this letter and of the memorandum as approved to the Ministers of Justice and National Defence, the Secretary of State (Custodian), the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Commissioner, R.C.M. Police.

Yours sincerely,

A.D.P. Heeney,
Secretary to the Cabinet.

FOLDER NO. 9

SECRET

APPROVED BY THE CABINET FEBRUARY 2nd, 1945

TO THE CLERK OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL

Re: Repatriation and re-settlement of persons of the Japanese race now resident in Canada.

In order to achieve the following objectives and in view of the following considerations --

1. To obtain voluntary applications for repatriation to Japan, either by way of exchange during the war or repatriation at the close of the war, of as many persons of the Japanese race in Canada as possible and to proceed with the immediate segregation of such applicants, and

2. To facilitate re-settlement in Canada of loyal Japanese Canadians and Japanese Nationals, who are subsequently designated by the proposed Japanese Loyalty Commission as eligible to remain in Canada;

The approval by Council of the following policies and procedure is desired:

(1) The Secretary of State for External Affairs to continue to negotiate with the Japanese Government for exchanges of Nationals and in consultation with other departments of the Canadian Government concerned, to make agreements with the Protecting Power for Japanese interests, on the lists of the persons of the Japanese race to be included in such exchanges.

(2) On behalf of the Government of Canada, the Minister of Labour to give assurance to persons of the Japanese race, who make voluntary application to be repatriated to Japan either by way of exchange during the war or following the termination of war, that the net proceeds realized from their property in Canada will be secured to them and may be transferred by them to Japan following the close of the war upon repatriation, and that free passage will be guaranteed by the Canadian Government for repatriated persons.

(3) In the case of persons repatriated under any agreement for the exchange of Nationals between Canada and Japan under which the amount of personal property and funds which may be carried by the repatriates is limited, the Custodian may be authorized, on the advice of the Department of External Affairs, to provide Japanese repatriates with receipts showing the property left behind in Canada with a view to their being permitted to secure possession of the property or the proceeds thereof after the end of hostilities.

(4) The Minister of Labour may take such measures as he considers necessary for the segregation and settlement of persons of the Japanese race who have been accepted or designated for repatriation to Japan, apart from loyal Japanese.

(5) The attention of the Minister of Justice should be directed to the desirability of amending Section 39E of the Defence of Canada Regulations with a view to vesting in the Minister of Labour the authority presently vested in the Minister of Justice, under this section, for the issue of licences to persons of the Japanese race to hold or acquire land or growing crops in Canada or an interest therein.

(6) On behalf of the Government of Canada, the Minister of Labour be authorized to give assurances to a government of any province that the Government of Canada will be prepared to protect or reimburse the province (including the municipalities therein) for the costs of necessary maintenance, hospitalization or medical services furnished to indigent persons of the Japanese race and their dependents who have left the protected areas of British Columbia since the outbreak of the war with Japan and have re-settled or may hereafter re-settle within the province, provided that such assurance shall not extend beyond a date ten years after January 1st, 1945.

In the view of this Department, early approval of the foregoing is necessary and advisable before substantial progress in the matter of segregation for repatriation purposes and re-settlement of loyal Japanese Canadians can be made.

In considering the above matters, it should be borne in mind that the courses of action proposed are closely related to those which, I am advised, have been dealt with in a memorandum from the Prime Minister dated November 4th, 1944, to which was annexed a submission to Council to provide for the establishment of a Commission to investigate the reliability and loyalty of persons of the Japanese race in Canada.

(Sgd.) HUMPHREY MITCHELL
Minister of Labour

Original on C314-1-6 COPY

SECRET

Ottawa, May 22, 1944.

TO: The Deputy Minister of Labour, Ottawa.

With reference to our previous correspondence concerning the policy to be adopted with regard to Japanese in Canada, I think you will be interested in the enclosed copy of hearings held before the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization of the House of Representatives in the United States on five bills designed to handle certain aspects of the Japanese problem there. All these bills are, of course, the equivalent of our private member bills and for that reason cannot be taken as reflecting the intentions of the United States Government, but they are none the less interesting as indications of opinion in the Legislature and also as showing what are considered to be possible formulas for solution.

In view of the proposal that we are at present considering for the establishment of a Commissioner to investigate the loyalties of Japanese in this country, I think you will be particularly interested in H.R. 3012 on Page 11. You will note that what this Bill would do would be to create a "Japanese Deportation Commission" consisting of three members which would have the power to investigate the activities and loyalties of persons of Japanese descent who are nationals of the United States. Except in scope in being limited to Nationals of the United States, this is essentially what we had in mind. You will also note that provision is made for appeal to the United States courts. Mr. Biddles comment on the approach embodied in this bill is interesting on Page 36 where he says:

"One general legal objection to the pending bills is the lack of, and the impossibility of providing, a definite standard of conduct which shall establish disloyalty to the United States and loyalty to a foreign sovereign.

further interesting comment is that of Mr. Flournoy of the State Department on Page 59 where he suggests that it is constitutionally impossible to deport a citizen of the United States no matter what his offence and behaviour may be.

Mr. Biddle's suggestion on Page 43 for an alternative type of measure is one which would mean that very little action would be taken against the Japanese in general. You will note that his suggestion is simply to allow renunciation of United States citizenship on a voluntary basis.

I was very interested to note that all through the evidence and comments of the Committee men as reported in the enclosed document there is a very decided tendency to emphasize the rights of Japanese persons who are United States citizens as United States citizens. I was rather impressed with the absence of any tendency to regard their rights as being inferior or non-existant because of the fact that they are Japanese by race.

I still have not received comments from all departments on the draft recommendation to council which I circulated at the end of April. I hope that this may be available soon and that we can proceed further with consideration of our problem here.

Sgd. N.A. Robertson

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

C.3129-1-10 April 29th, 1944.

SECRET.

The Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

1. Replying to your memorandum of the 25th instant, to which was attached copy of the proposed draft regarding the appointment of a Commissioner for the purpose of ascertaining with greater certainty the reliability and loyalty of particular persons of Japanese race whose cases have come under consideration.

2. I am of the opinion that the powers of the Special Commissioner to be appointed would be too broad, because he has the power to examine and report on the reliability and loyalty of persons who are Enemy Aliens or of persons of enemy alien origin and descent in Canada. I think the words "or descent" should be modified, as if these instructions are taken literally it would mean that the Commissioner would have the power to investigate Canadians whose ancestors have been in Canada many generations. I feel that the wording, if left as it is, might be the cause of considerable criticism being directed at the Government.

3. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Brown of the Labour Department, and he has submitted an alternative phrase which I think more suitable.

F. J. Mead,
Deputy Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANADA

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

Ottawa, April 25, 1944.

SECRET

TO: Deputy Commissioner Mead, Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

With reference to my letter of April 18 concerning the post-war treatment of Japanese in Canada, I wish to inform you that the matter was discussed at the War Committee meeting of April 19. In general the War Committee was in favour of the proposals that had been generally agreed on in our meetings and it was decided that a draft Recommendation to Council should be prepared to provide for the appointment of a commissioner who could undertake the sort of investigation we had in mind. The view of the War Committee was that it would be best at this stage to have any Order in Council phrased in broad terms so that specific directions to the commissioner with regard to the exact nature of his investigations could be made from time to time.

In order to get consideration of this matter under way, a draft Recommendation to Council has been prepared in this Department and I enclose a copy herewith. I should appreciate it if you could look over this and allow me to have your comments and any suggestions for modification or change which you think would be desirable. You will note that as it stands at present the recommendation would be by the Secretary of State with the concurrence of the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Justice. There are, of course, a number of departments interested in the matter to an almost equal degree and any decision as to the principal responsibility for the work of the commissioner will be in a sense arbitrary. However, in view of the fact that the principal aim of the commissioner's investigations will be to affect the national status in Canada of the persons in question, it seems that it would be better to have the matter primarily under the Secretary of State rather than under either the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Justice. You will note, however, that by paragraph 2 each of these Ministers would have the power to direct the commissioner to undertake certain investigations and any reports arising out of these would be made to the Ministers concerned under paragraph 3.

When a revised text of the Recommendation to Council has been agreed on, perhaps a suitable procedure would be to have Mr. Wrong who will be acting in myabsence, bring it before War Committee for approval, after which action could be taken on it by Council.

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

DRAFT

RGR/LF
24.4.44.

TO: HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL

The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Justice has the honour to report that

Whereas by Order in Council P.C. 946 of February 5, 1943, provision was made for the administration and control of persons of the Japanese race in Canada through the agency of the Minister of Labour in accordance with the needs indicated by the existing state of war;

And whereas experience in the course of such administration and control has shown the desirability of having a thorough examination made by a commissioner appointed for the purpose in order to ascertain with greater certainty the reliability and loyalty of particular persons of Japanese race whose cases have come under consideration,

And whereas such examination is also desirable with a view to settlement of particular aspects of individual cases when the present methods of housing and relocation based on the war emergency are no longer applicable;

And whereas it is desirable that a commissioner empowered to examine the cases of persons of Japanese race should also be empowered to investigate related aspects of the cases of enemy aliens other than Japanese, or of persons of enemy alien origin or descent other than Japanese, whose cases may come under consideration with regard to their reliability and loyalty after present provisions for internment or restriction under the Defence of Canada Regulations and other measures are removed;

Therefore the undersigned, with the concurrence aforesaid, has the honour to recommend that, under the authority of the War Measures Act, Chapter 206 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, it be provided as follows:

(1) .....is hereby appointed a special commissioner with power to examine and report on the reliability and loyalty of persons who are enemy aliens or of persons of enemy alien origin or descent in Canada, concerning whom there may be doubt as to their loyalty or reliability, with a view to making recommendations for the disposition of their cases.

(2) The commissioner shall also undertake such related investigations concerning enemy aliens or persons of enemy alien origin or descent as he may be directed to undertake by the Cabinet War Committee or by the Secretary of State, the Minister of Labour, or the Minister of Justice and shall have all powers necessary for the conduct of such investigations and to make such recommendations as he thinks fit.

(3) The commissioner shall report to the Secretary of State in general, and to the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Justice, as the case may be, in connection with such cases as he may investigate on their instructions.

(4) The commissioner shall be given access to such records and files of the departments of government concerning enemy aliens and persons of enemy alien origin or descent in Canada and shall be assisted by such departmental staff as may be necessary for the purposes of his investigations.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Secretary of State
~~for External Affairs~~.

Ottawa, ..., 1944.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANADA

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

Ottawa, April 18, 1944.

SECRET

TO: DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MEAD, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

With reference to my letter of April 12 concerning the discussion of policy for the post-war treatment of Japanese in Canada, I am now enclosing herewith a copy of notes made concerning our second meeting of April 15 on this subject.

A memorandum is being circulated to-day to all the members of the War Committee setting forth the conclusions of our discussions in order that the matter may be brought forward tomorrow. The memorandum seeks general approval of the policy outlined and to have consideration given to the appointment of a Commissioner to consider individual cases of Japanese who may be eligible for deportation at the end of the war. I shall communicate with you again when I have any information as to the views of the War Committee.

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

SECRET

RGR/LF
17.444.

POLICY WITH REGARD TO JAPANESE IN CANADA:-

(1) A second Interdepartmental meeting to consider the formulation of policy with regard to Japanese in Canada was held at 3 o'clock on April 15th in Room 123 of the East Block. The following were present:

Mr. A. MacNamara Mr. A.H. Brown	) -	Labour
Dr. E.H. Coleman	-	Under-Secretary of State
Mr. A.L. Jolliffe	-	Director of Immigration
Deputy Commissioner Mead	-	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Mr. N.A. Robertson Mr. J.E. Read Mr. H.F. Feaver Mr. R.G. Robertson	) -	External Affairs

(2) The meeting agreed in general with the approach set forth in the Department of External Affairs memorandum dated April 11th which had been circulated to all Departments. In implementing the policy Mr. MacNamara suggested that the first steps might be to go through the records of all Japanese who had declared a desire to return to Japan and of all Japanese who had been interned during the war. To this might also be added the records of Japanese who had placed themselves under the protection of the Protecting Power. These records might in themselves contain sufficient evidence to determine whether there had in fact been disloyalty and a list might be prepared on the basis of them. A further step might be to give any who had not already declared a desire to return to Japan an opportunity to elect so to return on the assurance that t eir transportation would be paid and that they would be enabled to take out their property. Mr. MacNamara suggested that in cases in which it was impossible to remove property or where the person involved had very little in the way of resources, it might even be worthwhile for the Government to consider the desirability of giving a small amount of cash assistance to enable the person to re-establish himself. With regard to the disloyal ones, physical segregation would at some stage become desirable and the camp at Tashmi might be used for this purpose.

(3) With regard to revocation of nationality, Dr. Coleman agreed that this should be done before deportation was instituted in any case and added that as far as possible he thought it would be preferable to use the ordinary statutory provisions rather than extraordinary measures under an Order-in-Council.

See C-11-13-3-
Consideration of Status of Persons of Japanese Race in Canada.

The Naturalization Branch was going through the list of Japanese who had corresponded with them in connection with repudiation of British nationality and revocation would be instituted wherever possible.

(4) A category of Japanese who were clearly subject to deportation were those illegally in Canada, but Deputy Commissioner Mead was of the opinion that there would be very few of these. At the time of registration a very careful watch had been kept for cases of this type and there were very few.

(5) Mr. Jolliffe suggested that another group to which attention might be paid were those who had been born in Canada, but who returned to Japan to take military training. The Immigration Department would have record of the name, age and length of absence of any person who had left the country and starting with this it might be possible to determine those who had gone back for military training.

(6) It was agreed by the meeting that it would be desirable to recommend to Council that appointment should be made of a commissioner or council to review cases of Japanese in order to determine those who fall within the group for segregation preliminary to deportation. It was agreed that it would be desirable to have a man with legal training and preferably someone serving on the Bench. Mr. MacNamara stated that the Department of Labour would be able to provide the staff necessary to review individual files and prepare all cases for consideration by the Commissioner. In addition to examining such files it would probably be necessary for him to interview Japanese persons and also authorities in various parts of the country to get additional evidence. The work would have to be done very thoroughly and carefully, but at the same time it was desirable that it should be completed at an early date in order that deportations and settlement of the Japanese problem in Canada could be concluded within a period of six months or a year after the end of hostilities.

It was agreed by the Committee that it would be best if the decision of the Commissioner could be final. The provision of an ~~daily~~ appeal procedure would delay matters.

As to revocation proceedings, once the Commissioner had decided that any individual Japanese should be deported Mr. Coleman said that it would be possible to delegate to County Courts the power to review the evidence and ~~cause~~ in cases where revocation was to take place. Such delegation would probably be necessary in order to handle the large number of cases there would be.

(7) Mr. Robertson stated that he would bring the conclusions of the meeting to the attention of the Prime Minister with the hope of having the decision from Council during the following week.

F. 39

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Ref. No. C 3129-1-10

MEMORANDUM TO	ANSWER TO
Insp Purdon – Have you seen this most recent piece of mail? May I have this file to take home over the week end? I should like to read it more thoroughly M.H. James Sgt. 22-4-44	Sgt. James Attached will be the file you asked for. 24/4/44

C.3129-1-10 April 17th,1944.
SECRET.

F. P. Varcoe, Esq., K.C.,
Deputy Minister,
Department of Justice,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Japanese in Canada.

1. At the meeting held on Saturday, over which Mr.Robertson presided, much of the ground that had been discussed at the previous meeting was gone over. There did, however, appear to be unanimity of opinion on the following:-

(a) Steps should be taken in the near future to begin examination of the files in the possession of the police and the B.C. Security Commission of those groups of Japanese Nationals, Naturalized and Canadian born Japanese who, by their actions since the war might be considered fit subjects for return to Japan.

(b) They fall into the following groups:-

(1) Those who have applied for repatriation.

(2) Those who have been interned and are still in internment for their refusal to cooperate with the Canadian Authorities, (the members of this group, as you know, have been given every opportunity to be released).

(3) The group of naturalized Japanese who have applied for revocation of their citizenship.

(4) Canadian born Japanese who have expressed themselves as having no longer the status of Canadians.

(5) The group whose loyalty was suspected, and were interned at the beginning of the war.

(6) That group, which by their correspondence with one another, have shown disloyalty.

2. I believe the opinion was unanimous, at the meeting, that it would be a wise procedure to appoint, if possible, a County Court Judge to review cases coming under these categories. The name of Judge McFee of Saskatchewan was mentioned as being the type of Judge who would be most suitable. It was felt that the work would take many months to complete. That if a Judge were appointed public reaction would be more favourable than should some official of a Department of the Government be appointed a Commissioner. It was considered that if such an appointment were made that the terms of reference should be fairly wide, and that most of the assistance that he would require could be furnished by the B.C. Security Commission and the R.C.M.Police. The files of the Japanese themselves are complete and have been kept up-to-date.

3. Dr.Coleman expressed the opinion that any cases for revocation could be handled by such a Judge acting as Commissioner.

4. This is really as far as the discussions went. The minutes, of course, may be in more detail.

5. As of possible interest, I am attaching a copy of an article that appeared in the Montreal Daily Star of Wednesday, February 16th,1944, being the result of a poll of the Canadian Institute of Public Opinion on Japanese in Canada.

F. J. Mead,
Deputy Commissioner

Clipping from The Montreal Daily Star,
Wednesday, February 16,1944.

THE GALLUP POLL.

CITIZENSHIP SHOULD BE CRITERION
IN HANDLING JAPANESE AFTER WAR.

By Canadian Institute of Public Opinion.

While eight in every 10 Canadians would send Japanese who are not Canadian citizens packing after the war, in every province of the Dominion, majority opinion would allow those Japanese who are citizens to remain in this country.

The sharp distinction which the average Canadian draws between citizenship and non-citizenship is strikingly shown in the results of a cross-country opinion survey conducted by the Canadian Institute, in which, unlike an earlier survey, the two separate aspects of the problem were delineated. Canadians representative of all types within the population were asked, first:

"DO YOU THINK THAT JAPANESE WHO ARE NOT CANADIAN CITIZENS SHOULD BE SENT BACK TO JAPAN AFTER THE WAR IS OVER OR SHOULD THEY BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THIS COUNTRY?"

Canadian opinion on this side of the problem is fairly definite:

Send back.....80%
Allowed to stay.....14
Undecided..... 6

Respondents were then asked:

"DO YOU THINK THAT JAPANESE WHO ARE CANADIAN CITIZENS SHOULD BE SENT BACK TO JAPAN AFTER THE WAR IS OVER, OR SHOULD THEY BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THIS COUNTRY?"

Send back.....33%
Allowed to stay.....59%
Undecided..... 8%

While relative to the whole Canadian population, the number of Japanese looks small (23,149 according to the 1941 census) the fact that most of these are normally concentrated in one Pacific Coast area has stirred considerable discussion. Of those Japanese in Canada, estimates place the number who are not naturalized citizens or who were not born in the country, at about one-quarter of the total.

One of the interesting things found in these surveys is that demand for repatriation of the Japanese alien or not, is in effect no stronger or weaker in British Columbia than in other parts of Canada. When asked about non-citizens, nearly eight in every 10 persons in British Columbia favour such a move. In the case of Canadian citizens of Japanese origin, only about four persons in every 10 in British Columbia would send them back to Japan after the war. Thus, British Columbian opinion is not out of line with national opinion shown in the tables above.

However thorny the problem of Canada's Japanese minority may be, authorities can take some consolation from the fact that it is one issue in which public opinion in all parts of the Dominion divides in the same ratio. And to most Canadians in every area, the test as to whether a Japanese should be allowed to remain in the country or not is citizenship.

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SPECIAL MESSENGER EHP/SMMD

C 3129-1-10

April 14, 1944.

S E C R E T

This will acknowledge receipt of your communication, with enclosures, under date of the 12th instant, relative to the policy to be adopted with regard to the treatment of Japanese in Canada. Deputy Commissioner Mead will be our representative at the meeting on the 15-4-44.

(S. T. Wood),
Commissioner.

The Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

C 3129 - 1 - 10

Secret

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

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANADA

Ottawa, April 12, 1944.

TO: Deputy Commissioner Mead, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ottawa.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of notes which were taken on the meeting which you attended yesterday in this Department to give consideration to the policy to be adopted with regard to the treatment of Japanese in Canada.

In accordance with the wish that was expressed at the meeting, I am also enclosing a copy of the Departmental memorandum which was drawn up some weeks ago in preparation for the consideration of this matter which we have now begun. The memorandum was, as you will understand, intended for departmental use and was drawn up without the opportunity of consulting the various departments and persons who have had particularly close association with the administration of Japanese affairs during the war. As a result, it may be that the memorandum is not as exact in all places as it might be, but I think you may find it helpful in considering the general problem.

I think the meeting which we held yesterday was of some value in initiating the consideration that will be necessary in great detail before this matter can be completely thrashed out. It seems to me that what we should do now is hold a further meeting at which, perhaps, agreement can be achieved on the general approach which seems to be most desirable and at which also consideration might be given to the means by which examination should be begun of the measures that will have to be taken before the related problems of deportation and revocation of nationality can be dealt with. I think it is desirable that we should get this matter under way as soon as possible. After the end of this week I am afraid that it will be virtually impossible for me to arrange any meeting for some time to come and consequently I was wondering whether it might be possible to hold a second meeting

on the coming Saturday afternoon (April 15th) at 3 o'clock in Room 123 of the East Block. I should appreciate it if you would inform me whether this is a suitable time and if so we can carry the matter one step further without any great delay.

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.