Minutes of the

Cabinet War Committee

April 11th, 1945

TOP SECRET

Ottawa, April 11th, 1945.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Wednesday, April 11th, 1945, at 11.30 a.m.

Present

The Prime Minister (Mr. King), in the Chair,
The Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar),
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley),
The Minister of Transport (Mr. Michaud),
The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe),
The Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Gibson),
The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald),
The Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent),
The Minister of National Defence (General McNaughton).

The Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Abbott).

The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Robertson),
The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Heeney),
The Military Secretary (Major General Pope),
The Assistant Secretary (Mr. Baldwin).

Also present (for items recorded in paragraphs 1 to 27):

The Chief of the Air Staff and Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (Air Marshal Leckie),
The Chief of the General Staff (Lieutenant-General Murchie),
The Chief of the Naval Staff (Vice Admiral Jones),
The Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee (Lieutenant-Colonel Gill),

Army; enlistment of personnel of Japanese race; censorship directive

28. The Secretary reported that he had received from the Director of Censorship an enquiry as to amendment of the censorship directive issued after the War Committee's decision of January 17th concerning enlistment for special duty of Japanese Canadians and the understanding that this decision should remain secret.

The Censors of Publications felt that, in view of the statement on this subject by the Prime Minister on April 9th, in reply to a question, an amended directive should now be issued.

(Letter, Director of Censorship to the Secretary and attached memorandum from Chief Censor of Publications, April 10, 1945).

29. The War Committee agreed that, in the circumstances, the Censors be authorized to issue an amended directive.

R.C.A.F.; proposed purchase of property, Toronto, for War Staff College

30. The Secretary reported that a submission was now before Council from the Minister of National Defence for Air for authorization to purchase property in Toronto for a permanent Staff College for the R.C.A.F. An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Secretary's memorandum, April 10, 1945 - C.W.C. document 976).

31. The Prime Minister observed that this proposal related directly to policy concerning the nature and composition of permanent forces after the war; as such it was not an appropriate matter for decision, at this time, by the present government.

32. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the proposal be not authorized and the submission not proceeded with at present.

Defence of Canada; Pacific Coast

33. The Minister of National Defence for Air said that a telegram had been received from the Air Officer Commanding, Western Air Command, to the effect that information had been received from reliable U.S. sources that track had been lost of four Japanese aircraft carriers. It was thought