Minutes of the

War Committee of the Cabinet

April 19, 1944

TOP SECRET

Ottawa, April 19th, 1944.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Cabinet War Committee was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Wednesday, April 19th at 3 p.m.

Present:

The Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar), in the Chair,
The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston),
The Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power),
The Minister of Transport (Mr. Michaud),
The Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe),
The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald),
The Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent).

The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Robertson),
The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Heeney).

Mr. J. R. Baldwin, Privy Council Office.

Also present (for consideration of the items discussed in paragraphs 1 to 18):

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

and (for consideration of the item discussed in paragraphs 21 to 25):

The Special Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Finance (Mr. Mackintosh).

Chiefs of Staff Operational Report for March

Canada-U.S. Financial Relations; Hyde Park Agreement

23. The Secretary read a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons regarding suspension, alteration or revocation of the Hyde Park Agreement.

(Unrevised Hansard, April 17, 1944, p. 2142).

24. The Special Assistant to the Minister of Finance read a draft statement prepared for the Minister of Finance including extended reference to the termination of the exchange agreement between the Department of Finance and the U.S. Treasury.

25. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the draft statement submitted be revised so as to reply generally in the negative to the question of the Leader of the Opposition, as to suspension, alteration or revocation of the Hyde Park Agreement.

It was also agreed, with respect to financial relations between the two countries that any statement made by the Minister of Finance should be brief and be kept separate, so far as possible, from references to the status of the Hyde Park Agreement.

Repatriation of Japanese in Canada

26. The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs submitted a report, copies of which had been circulated.

The proposal for an order to govern the travel of Japanese in Canada had, for the time being, been dropped and, with the approval of the Prime Minister, the question of the basic policy to be followed after the war had been taken up with the departments concerned.

The report proposed that steps should be taken, as soon as possible, to segregate all undesirable and disloyal citizens of Japanese race from those whose

sympathies for Canada were beyond doubt. It was recommended that investigation of individual cases be conducted by a commissioner, with a view to deportation of those whose internment had proven necessary, those who had declared loyalty to Japan or who sought repatriation to Japan or had failed to comply with Selective Service regulations, or had otherwise indicated their sympathies with Japan.

(Secretary's memorandum, April 18, 1944 - C.W.C. document 756).

27. The War Committee, after discussion, approved in principle the recommendations contained in the report submitted, on the understanding that a submission to Council would be prepared providing for the appointment of a commissioner, in general terms, his functions to be further defined, if necessary, by special confidential instructions.

Proposed visit of Labour leaders to overseas forces

28. The Secretary reported that a proposal had been received, through Wartime Information Board, that the leaders of the four major Labour organizations be invited to visit Canadian troops on the fighting fronts and in Britain. The Minister of Labour concurred in the proposal. An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Secretary's note, April 18, 1944 - C.W.C. document 757).

29. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the proposal be not proceeded with in present circumstances.

Canada-U.S. joint defence projects; transfer of U.S. leases (Special Commissioner's 31st Recommendation

30. The Secretary referred to the decision of July 7th, 1943, regarding acquisition by the government of leases to property occupied by the United States.