C-10-3-D

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MEMORANDUM

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CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Document No 816

Copy No. 12

ENLISTMENT OF CANADIAN BORN JAPANESE

1. D.M.I., Australia, requested D.M.I., Canada, to consider the enlistment of Canadian Born Japanese in the Canadian Army for attachment to Australian forces for use with Allied Translator and Interpreter Section.

2. C.G.S. recommends that we do not enlist Canadian born Japanese in the Canadian Army but suggested alternatively that Australia enlist such personnel themselves.

3. The letter to the High Commissioner for Australia makes no commitment as to enlistment in Canadian forces but does make a definite proposal that Australia enlist such personnel direct, thus conforming with recommendation of C.G.S.

4. During the course of discussion it became apparent that graduates of our Japanese Language School, white personnel, could be made available for attachment to the Australian forces and that the facilities of our School could be made available for the training of a limited number of white Australian personnel. D.M.I. recommends that these proposals be put forward to Australia. The letter was drafted accordingly and after drafting was submitted to C.G.S., who concurs.

5.(a) The disadvantage of enlisting Nisei in the Canadian Army is that their number is limited and it would thus not be possible to segregate them during the training period.

(b) The advantage is that we would thereby accept the services of Canadian born personnel, many of whom have expressed their desire to serve and many of whom would be useful personnel, especially in translation and interpreter work. U.S.A. enlists Nisei.

6.(a) The advantage of enlisting them directly into the Australian forces is that any difficulty as to training would be avoided.

(b) The disadvantage is that the response will probably not be great because the Nisei themselves wish to remain identified with Canada.

7. The advantages of the proposal with regard to white personnel are that we now possess an efficient staff at our Japanese Language School which will continue to be usefully employed. Graduates of the school, instead of returning to units in Canada, will maintain their efficiency in the Jap-

make a definite proposal that Australia should send personnel direct, thus conforming with recommendation of C.C.S.

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(b) The disadvantage is that the response will probably not be great because the Nisei themselves wish to remain identified with Canada.

7. The advantages of the proposal with regard to white personnel are that we now possess an efficient staff at our Japanese Language School which will continue to be usefully employed. Graduates of the school, instead of returning to units in Canada, will maintain their efficiency in the Japanese language. The facilities of the school will be made use of in the training of Australian personnel. Canada will be making another contribution to the Pacific war. Canadian personnel attached to the Australian forces will be subject to recall.

8. British Security Coordination have written requesting Canadian born Japanese for front line programme work with the Indian Army. B.S.C. proposes to enlist these men directly into the Indian Army or alternatively enlist them in the Canadian Army to be automatically discharged on arrival in India and re-enlisted in the Indian Army. Otherwise B.S.C. proposes to send the men to England as civilians for enlistment in the Indian Army on arrival in England.

3 July 44.