(C)

NAR/SR
13.6.44

C249502

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Position of the Japanese in Canada.

1. Colonel Ralston told the House of Commons, on May 5th, that you would make a statement on the position of persons of Japanese race after your return from London.

2. The proposed disfranchisement of natural born British subjects of Japanese race under the new Elections Act, the recent statement by Mr. MacKenzie that he would not remain a member of any Government that authorized the return of ~~any~~ Japanese to British Columbia, and the constant activity of anti-Japanese persons and groups make it almost impossible for the Government to lay down a liberal and realistic policy on this question.

3. President Roosevelt has stated that the United States Government had in mind allowing loyal Japanese to return to their homes in the evacuated areas if they wished to do so. There has, however, been no definite indication as yet of what the final United States policy will be. The United States has enlisted citizens of Japanese race in its armed forces and in general has been more careful of avoiding formal racial discrimination than we have been. The fact that Japanese Americans have been allowed to fight for the United States will undoubtedly make it easier for the President to resist local pressures for the wholesale proscription of persons of Japanese race.

4. I do not know what sort of declaration of policy you think can be made, but I hope it may be possible for you to say something along the following lines:

(a) The Government recognizes that the problem of the disposition of persons of Japanese race in Canada is one that concerns the whole of Canada and not merely British Columbia. (The British Columbia members have constantly claimed that the rest of Canada does not understand the problem involved).

(b) The Government recognizes the concern felt by British Columbia at the possibility of having once again within its borders virtually the entire Japanese population of Canada and that in view of this concern and the feeling aroused by it, it would be unwise and undesirable from every point of view to have all the pre-war Japanese population of British Columbia return to that province.

(c) The Government is also of the view that any persons of

Japanese race, whether Japanese nationals or British subjects by naturalization or birth who showed disloyalty to Canada during the war should not have the privilege of remaining here after the war.

(d) In view of the strong animosity that has been aroused against the Japanese because of the events of the war and in view of the extreme difficulty of assimilating Japanese persons in Canada, no immigration of Japanese into this country should be allowed after the war.

(e) While problems of assimilation exist and while further immigration should not be allowed, the Government is convinced that the principles involved in the stand we are taking in the present war against persecution and intolerance and in the British traditions of justice and fair play, require that unjust persecution should not be visited on innocent individuals who have lived in peace in Canada and most of whom are citizens of Canada merely because they are of a particular race. The interests of Canada must be paramount, but the Government of Canada has noted that there has not been one single case of sabotage by persons of Japanese race in this country during the war and is of the opinion that the presence of a few thousand persons of Japanese race in a country of eleven and a half million cannot possibly constitute a menace to the interests of the country. Subject therefore to the interests of the country and to the strict elimination of all persons who have been in any way disloyal to Canada during the war, the Government is determined to deal justly and fairly with the remaining persons of Japanese race in Canada.

5. If these general principles are approved, a declaration of policy along the following lines might be made:

(a) Measures will be taken immediately to establish a Commission to examine the background, loyalties and attitudes of all persons of Japanese race in Canada to ascertain those who by reason of their conduct during the war or whose loyalties, as indicated by their words or actions, are not fit persons to be allowed to remain in Canada. (This would meet the point of members who have complained that no effort has been made to distinguish between loyal and disloyal Japanese).

(b) To ensure that the Japanese allowed to remain in Canada do not concentrate after the war in British Columbia, an

C 249503a

effort will be made to establish a maximum number who will be allowed to return there within a fixed period of several years following the conclusion of hostilities.

(c) In order to encourage individual Japanese of proved reliability to scatter and settle in other parts of Canada, Federal restrictions will be removed on the acquisition of land and real property in provinces other than British Columbia.

(d) Discussions will be entered into with the provinces in an effort to achieve satisfactory arrangements under which they will not prevent the acquisition of land by loyal Japanese and will not place other types of disabilities on them. (With regard to entry into the various provinces, Section 95 of the British North America Act is as follows:

> "In each Province the Legislature may make laws in relation to Agriculture in the Province, and to Immigration into the Province; and it is hereby declared that the Parliament of Canada may from Time to Time make Laws in relation to Agriculture in all or any of the Provinces, and to Immigration into all or any of the Provinces, and any law of the Legislature of a Province, relative to Agriculture or to Immigration, shall have effect in and for the Province as long and as far only as it is not repugnant to any Act of the Parliament of Canada."

By Federal legislation the Dominion could over-ride any provincial efforts to exclude Japanese, but agreement would clearly be preferable.)

(e) As soon as it is possible after the war all Japanese who have shown disloyalty to this country during the war will be removed to Japan and the British status of any who have British status will be revoked.

6. I do not know whether you will think something of this sort is feasible, but it might be worthy of consideration as a possibility.

C249504

NAR/SR
22.6.44

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

I gave you a note, some days ago, outlining the points which I thought might be included in the statement of Government policy on the treatment of Japanese residents in Canada.

I think it would be much easier to make such a statement, asking people to distinguish between loyal and disloyal persons of Japanese origin, if the Armed Services would modify their present policy of discouraging Canadians of Japanese origin from volunteering for active service overseas. As you know, the United States has thousands of American citizens of Japanese origin serving in the Army. Japanese American units have been in action in Italy, and had their share of casualties and honours. Our Department of National Defence is presently considering a request from the Australian Government to send Canadian born Japanese who could be attached to Australian units operating in the Southwest Pacific. We may enlist a number of Japanese Canadians in the Canadian Army for secondment to the Australian forces for this purpose. If they could go a little further than this and take a few, whose record for reliability has been proved, for service with our own forces, I am sure it would have a good effect. There are obvious objections to training them in British Columbia, but I see no serious practical difficulty to training them in company or platoon units at Eastern camps. For that matter, I do not think the odd Japanese Canadian soldier would present a serious problem in an ordinary mixed unit, provided that unit had the right kind of officers, who would try to handle any personnel problem that might arise.

On receiving the attached correspondence, which is addressed to you and which you might return to me for acknowledgement, I had a word on the subject with Colonel Dyde, who is Colonel Ralston's Military Secretary. He did not think the Army's position was absolutely rigid, and planned to have a word with Colonel Ralston on the subject. The latter may speak to you about it.

J in BC.

RGR/LF
3.7.44.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER: C249522

You will recall that the Reverend George Dorey wrote on May 26 requesting an interview with you to present the views of the National Inter-Church Advisory Committee on the Japanese problem. In your letter of June 19 you requested that the views be submitted in the form of a memorandum instead and this has now been done. I attach the original of this memorandum signed on behalf of the five Communions, since you may wish to examine it.

The statement of views seems to be a very fair and reasonable one on the whole. It begins with reference to your statement of June 14, 1942, concerning the treatment of Japanese, approves of the appointment and conduct of the British Columbia Security Commission and notes President Roosevelt's statement of September 14, 1943, that "we shall restore to the loyal evacuees the right to return to the evacuated area as soon as the military situation will make such return possible". The memorandum also points out that there have been no cases of sabotage by the Japanese in Canada during the war and that on the whole their conduct has been tolerant and understanding.

The primary recommendations put forward are as follows:

(1) Agreement between the Federal and Provincial Governments as to treatment and resettlement.

(2) Dispersion of the Japanese in the country to enable assimilation.

(3) Removal of the ban on purchasing real property.

(4) Restitution for property loss in respect of property taken over by the Custodian.

(5) Segregation of loyal from disloyal Japanese.

(6) A plan for "Canadianization of Japanese".

(7) Removal of the disfranchisement provision of the recent Bill.

The proposals are very much along the lines of those suggested in my memorandum of some ten days ago. Points numbers 1,2,3 and 5 (above) were in substance in that memorandum. In addition, I suggested the placing of a maximum on the number of Japanese to be allowed to return to British Columbia, the removal of disloyal Japanese from this country and a ban on post-war immigration of Japanese.

Read

C249524

REV. A. LLOYD SMITH, D.D.
CHAIRMAN

Board of Home Missions

The United Church of Canada

299 QUEEN ST. WEST
TORONTO 2 B, ONTARIO

REV. ROBERT B. COCHRANE, D.D.
SECRETARY

REV. GEORGE DOREY, D.D.
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

REV. MALCOLM C. MACDONALD, B.A.
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

June 27th,
1 9 4 4.

To: The Right Honourable W.L. Mackenzie King, P.C., C.M.G.,
Prime Minister of Canada.

We, the undersigned, representing five Christian Communions in Canada, desire to lay before you our considered opinion on certain fundamental Christian principles, which we think should guide Canadian policy in dealing with the 22,000 or 23,000 persons of the Japanese race who are now in this Dominion.

We read with profound interest the statement issued by the Office of the Prime Minister on January 14th, 1942, noting with particular interest the five main principles therein outlined, as follows:

"A. National defence and victory are the first and over-riding considerations.

"B. Canadians of Japanese racial origin and Japanese nationals resident in Canada will be justly treated.

"C. Every feasible step should be taken to encourage the maintenance of a calm and reasonable attitude among Canadian citizens generally. The full force of the law will be invoked to prevent anti-Japanese demonstrations and to protect Canadian residents of Japanese race.

"D. No action will be taken or permitted which would give any excuse to the Government of Japan for mistreating Canadians under Japanese control. Nor will any action be taken or permitted which would help the Japanese anywhere to arouse Asiatic hostility against the white race.

"E. Canada will continue to collaborate with Great Britain and the United States with a view to the substantial co-ordination of their policies in relation to persons of Japanese racial origin within their respective jurisdictions."

We noted the statement that it was the "intention of the Government to organize a civilian corps of Canadian Japanese to be used on projects of value to the national cause, in order to utilize the services of the various groups of Canadian Japanese who have indicated their desire to serve."

C249525

The Churches represented noted the appointment of The British Columbia Security Commission and gladly bear record that, in their opinion, the action of this Commission has been marked by commendable attention to the application of the ordinary principles of British fair play. We note with appreciation that this Commission has not yielded to the race prejudice of extreme-minded citizens. We also recall that as far as we have been able to ascertain the Japanese people have borne themselves with a patience and forbearance that has been very commendable in these difficult and trying days.

Now, in view of the fact that more than two years have elapsed since the forced removal of the Japanese from the protected areas, we believe the time has come for the Government to declare a definite policy with regard to the future of the Japanese in Canada , - particularly in view of the statement before quoted that "Canada will continue to collaborate with Great Britain and the United States with a view to the substantial co-ordination of their policies in relation to persons of Japanese racial origin within their respective jurisdictions," and in the light of President Roosevelt's message to Congress of September 14, 1945, which may be regarded as an official statement of United States policy on the relocation programme:

> "With the segregation of the disloyal evacuees in a separate center, the War Relocation Authority proposes now to redouble its efforts to accomplish the relocation into normal homes and jobs in communities throughout the United States, but outside the evacuated area, of those Americans of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty to this country has remained unshaken through the hardships of the evacuation which military necessity made unavoidable. We shall restore to the loyal evacuees the right to return to the evacuated area as soon as the military situation will make such restoration feasible. Americans of Japanese ancestry, like those of many other ancestries, have shown that they can, and want to, accept our institutions and work loyally with the rest of us, making their own valuable contribution to the national wealth and well-being. In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war, it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate, and equal treatment for the people of this minority, as of all other minorities."

This is not merely a statement of policy but appeals to us as a solemn pledge spoken by the President in the name of the American people.

We are not of necessity suggesting that Canada should follow the policy of the United States, but we are reminding you that at the very beginning of the war with Japan your Office stated that Canada would continue to collaborate with the United States, with a view to substantial co-ordination of policy.

We believe, therefore, that as a first step:

(a) Every effort should be made to encourage the Japanese evacuees to adopt voluntarily a policy of geographical and economic dispersal.

(b) Placement as far as possible should be on the family basis: where families are now scattered, every effort should be made to bring them together.

(c) The formation of colonies in any community, either rural or urban, and again in any one section of a given community, should be discouraged.

C249526

To further this, we believe the Government should reconsider what seems to be its policy on the following points:

(a) It should at once declare that all persons of Japanese racial origin, other than those already interned or guilty of disloyalty, will receive the same treatment in all respect as all other persons whose racial origin is that of a country at war with Canada.

(b) We believe that, while pursuing a policy, looking to a minimum of group or block settlement, the Government should make it clear that this is undertaken in the interests of Canada and the Japanese people themselves, and is not fundamentally based on any assumption that the Japanese people who have made Canada their home are either racially inferior or more disloyal than any other racial group within the country.

To further this end, we believe that -

1. The relationship of the Federal Government to the Provinces in the matter of Japanese re-settlement should be redefined. It is suggested that negotiations should be immediately begun with the Provinces in an attempt to secure their assent to the abrogation of the agreement made by the Federal Government to remove, after the war, if requested, these Japanese placed in the Provinces during the period of re-settlement.

2. The ban should be lifted on the purchasing of property for residential or business purposes, so that normal business opportunities might again be put in the hands of the loyal evacuees. To this end, the transfer of Japanese monies and investments now in British Columbia to Provinces east of the Rockies should be facilitated.

3. While protesting strongly against the action of the Government in authorizing the Custodian's sale of Japanese property, since such authorization has been made and the sale is proceeding, we strongly urge, if it is to continue, that the property be expropriated in a dignified way and that normal prices be paid. We also urge that restitution be made for damage or loss incurred to any property while in the hands of the Custodian.

4. Instead of waiting until the war is over, a chance should be given immediately to all of the Japanese race in Canada to make clear their loyalty; those who are considered as thoroughly loyal to Canada should be given the rights of all loyal citizens; those who wish to link up their interests with Japan should be treated as enemy aliens, with their return to Japan facilitated as soon as the war is over.

5. A far-reaching Canadianization plan, embracing all Canadian-born Japanese as well as other Japanese Canadians who have not yet had a fair chance to learn the Canadian way of life, should be initiated. Such a plan should be applied to the Japanese only as part of a plan embracing all Canadians of foreign descent.

6. The recent passage through the House of Commons of Section 5 of Bill 135, which disenfranchised the Japanese who would, in the absence of such leg-

C249527

islation, have been entitled to vote in Provinces other than British Columbia, has profoundly disturbed the Japanese and greatly retarded re-settlement. They see in this discrimination, based on race, not extended to other persons whose racial origin is that of a country at war with Canada.

We wish to register our protest against this legislation; to express the hope that this denial of franchise on the basis of race will not be allowed to become law.

In conclusion, we should like to draw your attention and that of the Government to the fact that, apart from a small group who were interned due to the vigilance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, so far as we know, the Japanese in Canada have, since the outbreak of hostilities with their mother country, been guilty of no act of sabotage or anything which has a taint of disloyalty. On the other hand, they have, in spite of many trials incidental to relocation, displayed much patience. We would not claim for them perfection, and, putting ourselves in their place, we marvel at their self-restraint. There may be no need of our emphasizing that, not only is our present treatment of the Japanese the hallmark of our devotion to the democratic ideals for which we are fighting, but that, in addition, the effect of the actions of our Government will be felt in the post-war world.

We should like to point out to you and to the Government that the relation between races - white and coloured - in the Orient will, after the war, be a matter of careful and even delicate balance. Not only are the Japanese in Canada involved in this relation, but Chinese, Indians and many other races, who now are in contact with the outside world, will look more to the actions of our Government in such a matter as the treatment of the Japanese in Canada than to any fine words or fair promises which may issue from high national scurces.

We should like to express our appreciation of the opportunity of placing before you the judgment of the five Communions in these matters and to assure you that we have confidence, based on your record, that these matters will receive careful and sympathetic consideration. We would also assure you that, in these difficult days, you are constantly the subject of the prayers of the Christian Churches in Canada.

W. W. Judd
Department of Social Service,
The Church of England in Canada

H. H. Bingham
Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec

E. H. Johnson
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Jno. E. McGuigan
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Ernest Long
The United Church of Canada

Squib - July 17, 1944 (Copy)

C249543

Mr. Prime Minister:

There were two Orientals taking notes in the Opposition Members' Gallery this morning. I had that stopped because nobody can take notes in that gallery. One of them is there now. Are there any Japs running loose in Ottawa?

A.B.

COLLATERAL
WWII -
Japanese
Canadians

SECRET

RGR/SR
21.12.44

WW II - Japanese Canadians
WW II - Gen. Amer. Expulsion

C249561

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

On November 4th I sent to you a memorandum on the Commission to investigate Japanese persons in Canada, together with a draft Recommendation to Council, which would establish and define the terms of reference of the Commission. I think you were of the view that action should be taken on this matter at an early date, and a development in United States policy with regard to the Japanese which was announced on Sunday makes this especially important.

General Pratt, Commander of the United States West Coast Area, announced on Sunday that the ban on Japanese returning to the West Coast is being lifted "because existing military necessity does not justify control over American citizens who have been determined not to be potentially dangerous." He stated that the return would be controlled and, in any case, officials of the War Relocation Authority have estimated that possibly not more than ten percent of the evacuated Japanese will wish to return to the Coast in view of the antipathy there is toward them on the part of many people and organizations in that area. General Pratt stated that no evacuees will be allowed to return until they have been "screened thoroughly" by a panel of about thirty officers, who will visit all W.R.A. centres, examine records and talk with the evacuees. He estimated that by January 2nd an exclusion list would have been established and that after that date all other Japanese persons would "resume their normal duties as citizens of the United States". He stated that "the information now available has led to the conclusion that the great majority of Japanese have severed all connections with Japan and are prepared to assume the responsibilities of their situation as Americans". For purposes of resettlement, Japanese persons receive transportation to their places of destination, plus $25.00 cash. Those returning to the Coast will be similarly treated.

The general screening procedure now under way in the United States seems to be similar to, though less formal than, that contemplated here through the Commission. There have been organizations in the United States, just as there have been here, that have attempted to have a policy of total exclusion applied after the war, but the United States authorities are proceeding on the assumption that the elimination of those proven disloyal will be sufficient to enable a general settlement of the remainder.

By coincidence, the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision on Monday (December 18th) on the same general subject of Japanese. Deciding a case before them, they ruled unanimously that Japanese-Americans of unquestioned loyalty to the United States could not be detained in war relocation centres. The judgment stated that "Loyalty is a matter of the heart and mind, not of race, creed, or colour".

Secretary Ickes, under whom the W.R.A. comes, has announced that they hope to have all W.R.A. centres closed within a year. At present, out of 110,000 evacuees, 35,000 have been relocated in other parts of the United States.

18,700 Japanese are at present held in a special camp in the United States as disloyal or having expressed a desire to return to Japan. This camp is expected to be transferred to the Department of Justice. No indication is given of plans for deportation or other disposition.

The Minister of Labour is anxious to proceed with further disposition of the Japanese problem here and, under date of December 15th, he wrote to Mr. Heeney, enclosing a memorandum asking approval by Council on the following points:

(a) continuation by External Affairs of attempts to negotiate exchanges of nationals with Japan;

(b) authorization to the Minister of Labour to give assurances to persons of Japanese race making voluntary application for repatriation to Japan that they will be allowed to take the value of their property with them;

(c) authorization for the Custodian to give receipts for property left in Canada to Japanese repatriated as a result of exchanges negotiated during the war;

(d) authorization for the Minister of Labour to segregate Japanese who are to be repatriated from those who are to remain here;

(e) approval in principle of the transfer of authority over land purchases by Japanese from the Minister of Justice to the Minister of Labour; and

(f) authorization for the Minister of Labour to give

assurances to Provincial Governments of Federal responsibility for indigence of Japanese moved into any Province, the assurance to cover a period of ten years.

A suggestion for a Government statement on point (b) was included in my memorandum to you of November 4th. The approval sought here would be compatible with it. Points (e) and (f) are desirable, I think, if the resettlement policy is to succeed. Points (a), (c) and (d) are largely administrative and I think there is no objection to them.

I have told Mr. Heeney that I think it would be desirable to have the Minister of Labour's memorandum held up until you are ready to proceed with the Recommendation covering the Commission, but the United States action has made the Department of Labour especially anxious to proceed and they would clearly like to have their recommendations considered as soon as possible, whether the Commission is delayed or not.

Mak

Confidential

re Japanese

RGR/LF
23.3.45.

C249586

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

Attached is a copy of a memorandum from the National Executive of the League of Nations Society of Canada with regard to the Japanese problem in this country. The memorandum urges that publicity be given to the wartime loyalty of Japanese Canadians and suggests the desirability of voluntary dispersal of the Japanese throughout all provinces as a measure toward the diminution of the racial prejudice against them. It calls attention to the permission being given in the United States for a number of the Japanese to return to the west coast and urges that the same be given here. It also stresses the importance of granting equality of ~~freedom~~ treatment to all Canadian citizens whatever their race.

I am acknowledging the memorandum and informing the Secretary that it has been sent on to you.

Mack

COPY

The League of Nations Society in Canada. C249587

National Office
124 Wellington Street
Ottawa

RESOLUTION RE JAPANESE CANADIANS.

Passed by the National Executive, League of Nations Society in Canada
Meeting at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto
March 17, 1945

The National Executive of the League of Nations Society in Canada endorses certain resolutions relative to the treatment of Canadian Citizens of Japanese origin which have been forwarded to it for consideration by the Vancouver Branch, as follows:

"The Vancouver Branch of the League of Nations Society having in mind the principals of international justice and freedom from racial prejudice, wish to emphasize certain points in connection with the question of Canadians of Japanese origin:

1. That the continued manifestation towards them of racial prejudice must intensify the difficulty of any solution which the Government decides upon.

Wherefore, we urge that the facts be made public concerning their loyalties and economic values, since the racial prejudice against them is due largely to ignorance of these facts.

2. That the dispersal of Canadian Japanese throughout the Provinces would seem desirable if carried out in a voluntary way by the Japanese themselves.

C249589

To facilitate such a solution, therefore, we would urge that disqualifications against them be removed: disenfranchisement, limitations regarding property, entering the professions, securing higher education, etc."

In endorsing these resolutions, the National Executive asks the Government of Canada not to abandon the paramount authority of Parliament respecting immigration (B. N. A. Act, section 95) and naturalization and aliens in any part of Canada (B.N.A. Act, section 91, sub-section 25).

It would also call attention to three important considerations which Canadians should remember:

1. The Government of the United States has recently reversed its policy regarding the Japanese formerly resident in California, and is now facilitating their return to that State. It should not be said that Canada is unwilling to do as much.

2. The rights and prerogatives of Canadian citizenship must be jealously protected, especially within the confines of the Dominion. When our Dominion has recognized persons of any racial origin as its citizens, it should never deprive them of such status nor of the liberties and prerogatives inherent in such citizenship except in cases of proven disloyalty and conduct unbecoming a citizen of our country. To act otherwise is to betray our best British traditions, to weaken the fabric of Canadian citizenship and naturalization, to cast doubt concerning the value of such citizenship in the minds and hearts of all our "New Canadians", and to imperil

C249589

the hope for Canadian unity.

3. A Bill of Rights has been proposed as basic to any world organization which might be formed. This Bill of Rights would safeguard the inalienable liberties of the individual components of a nation and guard such liberties against the encroachments of blind prejudice and hatred. It would also require any citizen to be treated as innocent until he has been definitely found guilty of treasonable misdemeanors. We in Canada could not honestly support such an International Bill of Rights unless we were ourselves prepared to guarantee such fundamental immunities to our own citizens.

R

J/BC

RGR/LF
16.7.45.

C249592

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER: W.W.II - Japanese Canadians

From the large number of letters and resolutions that have recently been received from various members and organizations of the United Church of Canada throughout the country, it is clear that an organized effort is being made within that Church to have its members urge upon the Government a policy of tolerance with regard to the Japanese population. A number of the letters have praised your statement of policy of last year and the principal effort seems to be directed toward offsetting the vociferous groups within this country who have been urging extreme policies and particularly deportation. It is clear that the writers and organizations in most cases have some doubt about the applications that are being taken from Japanese for voluntary repatriation at the end of the war. They are inclined to feel that these applications reflect a feeling of discouragement and defeat rather than a voluntary preference for movement to Japan.

Somewhere around one hundred copies have been received of a mimeographed resolution which has apparently been circulated to the Church congregations. These resolutions express doubt concerning the applications for voluntary repatriation and then urge:

"1. THAT the Dominion Government be asked to seek at once ways and means of encouraging and aiding Canadians of Japanese origin to locate in the various provinces of the Dominion and to assure the provinces and municipalities that it is in the interest of this Dominion that permanent settlement should be encouraged by them, not only as a method of dispersal, but also as an implementation of the rights of Canadian citizenship.

2. THAT the restrictions with respect to the purchase of property by Canadians of Japanese origin be lifted.

3. THAT those desirous of settling east of the Rockies be assisted in re-establishing themselves in those lines of work for which by experience and training they are equipped.

C249593

4. THAT all who have suffered financial loss with respect to property and the instruments of their livelihood as a result of relocation be indemnified.

5. THAT those who for any reason may have signed the application to go to Japan be informed that they are free to reverse their decision and to register their change of mind accordingly."

In conclusion the signatories urge that "in the interest of justice, Japanese nationals with a clear record be given opportunity to remain in Canada and take out Canadian citizenship after the war, and that in the meantime as many disabilities as possible be removed".

Typical of other resolutions that have been adopted by by Church organizations is the following extract from one passed on June 20 by the Presbytery of Perth of the United Church of Canada:

> "That this Presbytery of Perth of the United Church of Canada has learned with deep concern and regret of the recent legislation of the Federal Government of Canada by which loyal Canadian-born citizens of Japanese descent have been disfranchised and deprived of their fundamental rights as citizens for no other reason than that their racial descent is Japanese.
>
> "And furthermore, while making our convictions known on this particular action of our Government, we commend their action in distributing the Japanese throughout the different Provinces and express our hope that nothing will be done after the war to compel the removal of any of these Japanese-Canadian citizens from the bounds of our Presbytery merely on the grounds of their racial descent."

Many Church organizations have also adopted the following portion of a resolution passed by the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church:

1. "We urge that all persons born in Canada be admitted to citizenship on the same basis regardless of race or the national origin of parents and that all British citizens should be admitted to Canadian citizenship on the same basis.

2. We oppose the principle that the defining of Canadian citizenship shall be delegated to the Provinces.

3. We oppose any wholesale or indiscriminate deportation of people from Canada unless legal proof of disloyal acts is forthcoming.

4. We urge the United Church Community to bear witness to human brotherhood as taught by Christ and the Church's teaching against racial discrimination of any kind and to stand courageously against unfair and unchristian attitudes to any minority group."

I think the Church organizations are perfectly correct in their belief that many of the Japanese who have signed applications for voluntary repatriation have done so out of a sense of discouragement and frustration and also out of a desire to keep families together rather than because of any feeling of preference for Japan. In connection with this, however, you may be interested in the following extract from a report that is being submitted by the Delegate in Canada of the International Red Cross to his principals in Geneva:

"It was charged by some Japanese Spokesmen that the demand for the signing of this declaration for repatriation must be called an 'act of intimidation'.

I have been particularly careful in the investigation of this complaint on the part of the Japanese population in Canada, and my finding is that there can be no question whatsoever of intimidation and that that word is used entirely wrongly. The proper reason for discontent amongst the Japanese and particularly so amongst the Canadian born, of Japanese race, lies, undoubtedly, in the fact that these people were confronted with two alternatives, both of which unpalatable to them, namely the alternatives of either returning to Japan or relocation east of the Rockies.

It is quite obvious that the decision between going back to Japan and re-settling in Eastern Canada was a most momentous one for these people because in either case they are facing uncertainties, difficulties and risks which

for some of these people, appear too great. While for the young folk, it is very easy to re-adjust themselves and to pick up their bearings in new surroundings. The same cannot be said in the case of the middle-aged and older people, who cannot re-adjust themselves readily and who, moreover, have the responsibilities for making this vital decision on behalf of their children.

From my inquiries amongst the various Committees, I would judge that a little over 50% of the total population of Japanese race have signed the application for repatriation, and it is claimed that a large proportion of these signed the declaration in order to remain in Canada as a family unit for the duration, rather than re-locate east of the Rockies, under uncertain conditions.

In all fairness, it must be stated that the R.C.M.P. Detachment which took the census amongst every person of Japanese origin, 16 years of age or over, required of all those who cannot speak English fluently, to bring along an interpreter of their own choice, in order to ensure that nobody would sign this declaration without being fully aware of its purport and significance. Wide use was made of this privilege and I am assured that no pressure of any sort was exercised by the Police to obtain the signatures from those who put their names on the applications."

The Delegate's report (which is the result of a tour of the camps made at the end of June) is favourable almost without exception. It seems clear that the camps are well and efficiently handled.

N. A. ROBERTSON

WWII - Japanese Canadians

July

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER: C249596

P-20-9
v.4(B)

The Co-operative Committee on Japanese-Canadians (Toronto) are asking if you could receive a small delegation on any day between July 23 and 27, preferably on either Wednesday, July 25, or Thursday, July 26, or Friday, July 27. This delegation would consist of

R-10-d
1945

R-10-b
1945

B. K. Sandwell, Editor of Saturday Night
Rev. J. M. Findlay, Minister of Carlton Street United Church, Toronto.
Donald Franco, Humanist Club, University of Toronto
Mrs. Hugh MacMillan, Secretary, Co-operative Committee on Japanese-Canadians
J. H. Fowler, World Service Secretary for Canada of the Y.M.C.A.

R-10-b
1945

R-10-b
1945

R-10-m
1945

R-10-b
1945

The last-named states that they are particularly interested in discussing repatriation of Japanese-Canadians, and that they would like to come to Ottawa before the Dominion-Provincial Conference opens.

They mention wishing to see Hon. Humphrey Mitchell and Mr. N. A. Robertson if they cannot see you.

Would you please direct what answer may be returned?

J. A. G.

July 16, 1945

This request has been made known to Mr. Pickersgill

I spoke to the delegation

R

Sept. 3: Mr. Pickersgill thinks this is still a live question but this would not be a good week to bring it up.

M. M. K.

C249597

FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

TO Mr. N. A. Robertson:

Will you please advise me in this connection.

My own feeling is, if we can avoid having the Japanese question brought up at this time, it would be all to the good.

20/1/45

WWII - Japanese - Canadians ✓ P-30-1

V-9 (11)

Dec. 15, 1945

C249636

The Anglican Church

and

The United Church of Canada

TASHME, B.C.

November 18, 1945.

Dear Fellow-Christians:

We, the Christians of Tashme, are taking the liberty of sending to you, copies of the petitions (one on behalf of themselves, and the other of their parents) sent to the Prime Minister of Canada by the Canadians of Japanese ancestry, living in Tashme, B.C.

You will see that the enclosed petitions ask for the cancellation of the forms signed by them earlier in the year. You will also see some of the reasons why they signed.

We are appealing to you, Fellow-Christians, children of the same Heavenly Father, for sympathy and understanding.

We feel strongly that it would materially help our cause, if as large a number of Church Organizations and Members as is possible were to send letters to the Prime Minister, supporting these petitions. Our whole future may depend upon it. Will you not help us in this matter? Time is very important and therefore we would appreciate it greatly if you could act immediately.

Yours in Christian fellowship,

FILE → THE CHRISTIANS OF TASHME.

C249637

To the Prime Minister of Canada,
And to Whom it May Concern:

We, the undersigned, born in Canada and naturalized Canadians of Japanese origin, having already appealed to the Prime Minister and those in authority to have "repatriation forms" obtained from us cancelled, do voluntarily attach our signatures to the following statement for the purpose of making clear the basis of our appeal and with the urgent request that our plea shall receive careful consideration.

We would point out the following facts in support of our appeal:

Compliance with the government regulations at the time of being required to make the declaration of application would have resulted in an immediate upheaval of our families, in many cases leaving old and sick folk on their own; and further an immediate loss of any economic security which we possessed.

Reports of pressure being placed upon individuals to sign and limited time to consider the matter carefully restricted our freedom of choice.

Certain persons were given reason by the authorities to believe that they could apply to have their "application" cancelled and it was generally believed by reason thereof by the undersigned that this course of action would be open to them.

It was in these circumstances and under these pressures that we signed the "repatriation" forms and not with any desire or intention of renouncing our Canadian citizenship and assuming the status of citizens of Japan. Had the choice been put to us in this way and the hope of cancellation been clearly absent, we would never have signed such declarations.

We whose names appear below have already asked for the cancellation of our declaration of intention to revoke our Canadian citizenship; we declare herewith our sincerity of purpose in requesting such cancellation together with our strong desire to enjoy the full privilege of Canadian citizenship, and at the same time declare our intention and readiness to fulfill all the duties and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

We beg to remain, Sirs,

YOUR PETITIONERS.

To the Prime Minister of Canada, C249638
And to Whom it May Concern:

We, the undersigned, your recent petitioners requesting cancellation of "repatriation forms" made earlier this year, do hereby extend a joint petition on behalf of our parents and some others who have also asked for cancellation of repatriation forms signed by them, and we do this on the following considerations:

Whereas our parents as a group have shown characteristics common to immigrant groups of other races, clannishness, lack of facility in the use of the English language, failure to appreciate the customs and habits of the Canadian people and an anxiety to succeed in an economic sense, yet they have also sought consistently and continuously to have their children well educated after Canadian standards, they have appreciated highly the democratic way of life and have urged upon their children the full assumption of the obligations of citizenship.

And whereas many of them applying for cancellation have given most of their lives (many of them have been in Canada upwards of forty years and have never been in Japan since their first coming to Canada) in assisting in the building of the basic industries in B.C. (lumbering, fishing, and farming).

And whereas a number of them have signed repatriation forms, not because of any desire to go back to Japan, but because of their failure to understand the manner in which they have been treated and the insecurity and fear which they have suffered as instanced by the following incidents:

(a) The sale of their property.

(b) The declaration of the Government in P.C. 3213, Sec. 7, April 21, 1942, that all persons of Japanese race moved to other provinces from B.C. would be moved again at the close of the war.

(c) Government and municipal restrictions on property ownership and business enterprise.

(d) Family obligations and the responsibility for the maintenance of young children and infirm persons.

(e) The failure of negotiations for work and residence in eastern Canada.

(f) Their own unfitness to do many forms of work offered to them in the east.

(g) The lack at the time of being required to move east or sign for Japan of any economic security for their families.

And whereas, we their children, being as we are their main hope of support for the future, and feeling strongly the natural ties of blood and affection, are faced with separation from them or exile from our native land, do hereby earnestly plead with you the Prime Minister of Canada and the people of Canada that these our parents be permitted to remain with us if they so desire, that we all may become useful citizens and residents of this our country.

We beg to remain, Sirs,

YOUR FAITHFUL PETITIONERS.

The members of
The Woman's Missionary
Society
Wilberton, Ont.
Pres. Mrs W. Huddleston.

BROADWAY PRINTERS LTD.
VANCOUVER, B.C.

DEC 1 5 1945