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CONFIDENTIAL
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE
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MEMORANDUM

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Re: Employment of Japanese Canadians for special duty in Australia

The Government of Australia have been hoping to obtain the services of some Japanese Canadians to act as announcers or monitors in connection with psychological warfare. This is considered a matter of urgency.

As a result of an investigation by the R.C.M. Police, three Japanese Canadians were found in British Columbia who appeared to be suitable for the purpose required by Australia and who were willing to go until informed that no actual guarantee of re-entry could be given. Under these circumstances they were not prepared to accept the offer.

Re-consideration of this matter has been requested by the Australian Government to see if the technical difficulties could not be solved, and it has been suggested that means of assuring re-entry to Canada might be obtained through Canadian Army control of transport to and from Australia and placing of the men under the supervision of the Canadian Military representative in that country.

In this connection Cabinet War Committee on October 11th, 1944, in considering the possible enlistment of Canadian born Japanese in the Canadian Army, although not approving this procedure, agreed that such personnel might be enlisted in Canada for the Armed Forces of other United Nations and that the position of Canadian born Japanese so enlisted in Canada should not be affected in consequence of such enlistment and service.

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A.D.P. Heeney.

Privy Council Office,
January 16th, 1945.