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SECRET
CABINET WAR COMMITTEE
Document No 756

MEMORANDUM.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

Re: Policy with Regard to Japanese in Canada.

1. Two interdepartmental meetings have been held in the past week to give consideration to recommendations which might be brought before War Committee with regard to steps to be taken toward the settlement of the problem of Japanese in Canada. The meetings were attended by the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Under Secretary of State, the Deputy Ministers of Justice and Labour, the Director of Immigration, and the Deputy Commissioner of the R.C.M.P., and other representatives of the Departments indicated.

2. The meetings agreed that the following appeared to be desirable basic principles for the formulation of recommendations on policy:

(a) Steps should be taken to achieve as soon as possible a segregation of undesirable and disloyal Japanese from those whose sympathies for this country are beyond doubt.

(b) The segregation should be on the following basis:

(i) All persons of Japanese race whose internment has proved necessary during the war should automatically be considered to come within the segregated group unless they can show cause why they should not.

(ii) All persons of Japanese race who have declared

External Affairs, the [illegible]
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(a) Steps should be taken to achieve as soon as possible a segregation of undesirable and disloyal Japanese from those whose sympathies for this country are beyond doubt.

(b) The segregation should be on the following basis:

(i) All persons of Japanese race whose internment has proved necessary during the war should automatically be considered to come within the segregated group unless they can show cause why they should not.

(ii) All persons of Japanese race who have declared their loyalty to Japan or who have sought repatriation to Japan during the war should automatically be segregated unless they can show cause why they should not.

(iii) Other persons of Japanese race should be subject to investigation for failure to abide by the laws of Canada for non-compliance with Selective Service Regulations, or for other indications that their sympathies are with Japan in the war and, if adequate cause is shown, should be segregated.

It was felt that those adjudged to fall within the segregated category should be subject to deportation after the war. In the case of those who were British subjects, a preliminary step would be necessary in the revocation of such status.

The meetings also agreed that any persons of Japanese race who expressed a desire to return to Japan should be given all possible assistance to do so as soon as practicable.

It was the view of the meetings that, in following the policy of segregation and deportation, regard should be had for the policy followed in the United States. The problem there is essentially the same, and it was felt that it would be preferable if the measures taken could be kept in line with one another.

3. The underlying assumption in reaching the above conclusions was that it would be desirable at the end of the war to achieve a reduction in the Japanese population of Canada by removing all those who had shown in the war that their closest connection or loyalty was to Japan. It was felt that only by such selection and removal would it be possible to enable an elimination of the restrictions which at present apply on a purely racial basis to a section of persons of British status, as well as to aliens of the same race. It was also felt that if such selection could be made, it would be much easier to approach the provincial governments, which will have to be consulted at some stage, with a policy for re-settlement which would be just to the Japanese remaining in Canada, defensible in the interests

policy of segregation and deportation, regard should be had for the policy followed in the United States. The problem there is essentially the same, and it was felt that it would be preferable if the measures taken could be kept in line with one another.

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4. Consideration was also given to the fact that it would be desirable to encourage, as far as possible, a re-settlement of loyal Japanese during the war on a basis which might achieve permanency. The wartime restrictions on entry into the protected area of British Columbia would ensure that such settlement would be outside the area of greatest controversy. If approved, Japanese would be allowed to purchase land in other

parts of Canada. It was felt that this might encourage their dispersal throughout the country and thus reduce the problem arising out of their concentration in British Columbia. Any decision on this matter, however, would have to have regard for the fact that, thus far, undertakings have been given to provinces in which Japanese have been resettled to remove them at the end of the war.

5. The meetings agreed that, if the principles outlined in paragraph (2) are approved, it would be desirable to begin at once with an examination of individual cases in order to have ready, at the conclusion of hostilities, a list of persons whose deportation or voluntary removal could be instituted. This would require examination and preparation of the files in all doubtful cases by the officials of the Department of Labour and R.C.M.P., and decision on the cases, on the basis of such files and any additional evidence that appeared desirable, by a commissioner to be appointed for the purpose. Such a commissioner should preferably be drawn from the bench, and the magnitude of the problem would require that he give his full time to it.

6. The meetings agreed that the following recommendations be placed before War Committee:

(a) That the general principles outlined in paragraph (2)(above) be approved as the basis for initiating consideration of the problem.

(b) That a commissioner be appointed to review all cases

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6. The meetings agreed that the following recommendations be placed before War Committee:

(a) That the general principles outlined in paragraph (2)(above) be approved as the basis for initiating consideration of the problem.

(b) That a commissioner be appointed to review all cases of persons of Japanese race whose loyalty is doubtful in order to determine those who should be deported in accordance with such principles, and with power to render final decisions in all cases.

(c) That consideration be given to the desirability of framing the powers of the commissioner in such a way as to enable him to review cases of enemy aliens other

than Japanese, and persons of enemy origin or descent other than Japanese, on the same principles.

A.D.P. Heeney
Secretary.

Privy Council Office
April 18th, 1944.