

LESSON 3 SOURCE 3.7(A) MEMO: MACNAMARA TO COLLINS

Ottawa, March 26, 1943

Commissioner George Collins,
B.C. Security Commission
Marine Building, Vancouver, B.C.

I have received your letter of March 20, re Japanese property and effects.

I am suggesting to the Under Secretary of State for consideration that Japanese be not asked to pay for location of their effects by the Custodian's Agent.

The matter of selling household and personal Chattels of the Japanese is a delicate one, and if approached in the wrong way it may arouse a storm of protest. I am informing External Affairs of this proposal and believe they may object to any forced sale of these Chattels without reference to the wishes of the owners.

The Internal Departmental Committee is taking up this matter, and the question of compelling Japanese to live on their assets above a certain minimum, very shortly, so that you might suggest to the custodian that sale of Chattels be delayed.

In the meantime, I would advise asking each head of a Japanese family to draw up a list of articles of a sentimental or religious nature which he wishes to keep either with him or in storage, on the understanding that he thereby gives consent for the sale of the rest of his Chattels by the Custodian at a high a price as can be obtained.

A. MacNamara

Letter from MacNamara to Collins,
26 March 1943, file 23-1-11-1, pt. 1,
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