

recommended that Canada be represented at the third session of the Permanent Migration Committee of the International Labour Organization beginning on January 13, 1949, in Geneva.

The Committee had been established in 1939 to consider and make recommendations on the migration of workers. Canadian participation had been approved by Cabinet on February 19, 1948.

It was now proposed that Canadian representation to the forthcoming meeting consist of two delegates to be nominated jointly by the Departments of Labour and Mines and Resources.

(External Affairs memoranda, Dec. 6 and Nov. 27, 1948).

14. The Cabinet, after discussion, approved the recommendation submitted for Canadian participation in the third session of the I.L.O. Permanent Migration Committee.

Road and rail communications with Alaska;
U.S. proposals for consultation

15. The Minister of National Defence, as Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, reported that the U.S. authorities wished to have discussions in Ottawa at the official level on the question of road and rail communications with Alaska.

According to information received, U.S. proposals would include such matters as the hard-surfacing and year-round maintenance of the Alaska highway and of the road linking the highway at Dawson Creek with the international boundary, the hard-surfacing and year-round maintenance of the Haines cutoff, and a study of the question of constructing a railway to Alaska, possibly from Prince George, B.C. There were indications that the proposals had been formulated by the U.S. Department of Interior.

The matter had been considered in a preliminary way by departmental representatives. They reported that existing facilities in the Canadian Northwest were not now being used to capacity. In the circumstances they recommended that, before any discussions took place, U.S. officials be asked to submit further information as to the military and civilian traffic they expected to move over existing sea and land routes during the next few years.

An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Secretary's note, Dec. 6, 1948 - Cabinet Document 815).

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