

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, issued the following statement on January 14, 1942:

In the last few weeks the Canadian Government has been giving detailed and careful thought to the problems created by the presence in British Columbia of a large number of persons of Japanese racial origin. On the 8th of January a Conference was called in Ottawa to study and report on these problems. At this Conference the Government had the benefit of the advice and assistance of representatives of the Government of British Columbia and of the members of the Standing Committee on Oriental Affairs of which Mr. J. H. Ross is the Chairman. The aid thus given the Government is most grateful.

Firstly the Government has received suggestions of the situation on the Pacific Coast from the representatives of the Defence Service. It has also been advised upon international considerations to which certain measures of action might give rise.

As a consequence of these various considerations so far as the Government believes it is in possession of all relevant facts and that it is in the best position to judge as to the policy which should be adopted.

In considering the program the Government accordingly believes that it is justified in asking for and in expecting to receive the firm support of all