

have been curtly refused. This presumably means that the Japanese High Command have connived at the conduct of their forces. The Japanese Government stated at the end of February that numbers of prisoners in Hong Kong were British 5,072, Canadian 1,689, Indian 3,829, others 357, total 10,947.

Most of the European residents, including some who are seriously ill, have been interned, and like the military prisoners are being given only a little rice and water and occasionally scraps of other food. There is some reason to believe that conditions have been slightly improved since date on which the eye witnesses whom I have quoted, escaped, but the Japanese Government have refused their consent to visit to Hong Kong of a representative of the Protecting Power and no permission has yet been granted for such a visit by a representative of the International Red Cross Committee. They have in fact announced that they require all foreign Consuls to withdraw from all territories they have invaded since the outbreak of the war. It is clear that their treatment of prisoners and civilians will not bear independent investigation.

I have no information as to condition of our prisoners of war and civilians in Malaya. The only report available is a statement by Japanese official news agency of March 3rd stating that 77,699 Chinese have been arrested and subjected to what is described as "a severe examination". It is not difficult to imagine what that entails.

I am sorry that I have had to make such a statement to the House. Two things will be clear from it, to the House, to the country and to the world. The Japanese claim that their forces are animated by a lofty code of chivalry, bushido is a nauseating hypocrisy. That is the first. The second is that the enemy must be utterly defeated. The House will agree with me that we can best express our sympathy with the victims of these appalling outrages by redoubling our efforts to ensure his utter and overwhelming defeat.

2.

Restrictions on Travel of Women and Children to Countries in the War Zones, Order in Council P.C. 1841 of March 10, 1942.

In view of the increased demands upon available shipping space, the lack of suitable accommodation and facilities for women and children on ships engaged in war service, and in life-boats in case of disaster at sea, the pressure on food supplies and housing in countries in the war zone, the outbreak of war in the Pacific and the difficulty of repatriation at the close of hostilities, Order in Council P.C. 2371 of June 4th, 1940, was revoked by Order in Council P.C. 1841 of March 10th, 1942. Under the new Order, effective April 1st, the travel of women and children to countries in the war zones is restricted to the following groups:-

- (a) Women in the Public Service of Canada, or of any Province thereof, or in the Auxiliary Services of the armed forces of Canada, who are proceeding abroad on mission.