

Employment of Japanese-Canadians for  
special duty in Australia

14. The Secretary, referring to the decision taken at the meeting of October 11th last, reported that, as a result of investigation, three Japanese-Canadians had been found whom the Australian government wished to employ for special duty in connection with psychological warfare. A barrier to their so doing, however, was the unwillingness of such personnel to accept this employment unless the government guaranteed their re-entry into Canada after the war.

An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Secretary's note, Jan.16, 1945 - C.W.C. document 921).

15. The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs explained the position.

It would clearly be impossible to include, in any postwar deportations to Japan, any Canadians of Japanese race who accepted war employment under the Australian government. On the other hand, under the decision of October 11th, it was not possible to give any guarantee for their re-entry into Canada without which they were unwilling to accept this employment. The Australian government was very anxious to obtain their services.

16. The Minister of National Defence felt that the original Army recommendation, namely, that such persons be taken into the Canadian Army and then loaned to Australia, offered the best solution. If this procedure were adopted, there need be no publicity involved and it could be arranged that personnel so enlisted serve without uniform. Such men were capable of making a valuable contribution to the war.

17. The War Committee, after further discussion, agreed that suitable Canadians of Japanese race, to a maximum, for the present, of one hundred, might be accepted for enlistment in the Canadian Army and for subsequent loan to the Australian government for special duty.

It was also agreed that no publicity should be given to this decision and that the Minister of National Defence would consult the Minister of Veterans Affairs before action was taken.

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