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Major General L.R. LaFleche,  
Minister of National War Services,  
New Supreme Court Building, Ottawa

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Dear General:

When I was in Winnipeg last week a deputation of the Canadian Unity Council called on me. The deputation consisted of Rev. A.D. Eschambault, Dr. F.V. Bachynski, Messrs. R. Fletcher, J.H. Moaradian, and B.B. Dubiński. They represented English-speaking, French-speaking, Ukrainian, Armenian and Polish groups.

The main intention of the delegation was to draw attention to what they described as a lack of war information for New Canadians. They intimated that a positive policy was wanted, promoting a greater measure of inter-acquaintance between the various ethnic groups in Canada. They cited the need for a program which would emphasize the cooperation of all in securing the future of Canada. They seemed quite certain that the flow of information promoting unity was not sufficient to meet the needs of the situation.

While making this representation, the delegation expressed strong views in the matter of Mr. Tracy Phillips. They said that under his direction the Nationalities Branch of National War Services had been divisive rather than unifying. The notes I took during the conversation run as follows:

"Instead of getting the whole thing together on a healthy basis, Mr. Phillips produced a 'guardianship' over New Canadians whom he regarded as 'helpless and divided'. Mr. Phillips is associated with 'sanitizing' the country. In becoming a political storm centre he has unfortunately put the work of his committee on a political level, and this it should never have been allowed to become".

The delegation intimated that they resented a recent newcomer like Mr. Phillips undertaking to tell New Canadians, who may have been in this country as long as sixty years, where their Canadianism lies. The criticism was also urged that New Canadians, whether they were Danes, Norwegians, Ukrainians or Poles, resented the undisguised suggestion of an "Anglo-Saxon" guardianship.

The interest of the Wartime Information Board is naturally in the provision of information, but you will appreciate that it is also interested in the whole matter of unity, particularly as between the various ethnic groups in the country. I need not say that the strength of the war effort depends upon securing as wise a solution to problems of this kind as can be devised.

During the past year this New Canadian problem has been discussed from time to time by my Board. We took note of the decision of my predecessor, Mr. Vining, not to include the information to New Canadians with the general information service which came under the direction of the Prime Minister's department. We were anxious to operate on a basis of cooperation with National War Services in this matter, but were doubtful of how the facts lay.

If you now see fit, I should like to examine with you the possibility of relating the information service to New Canadians with the general information