



Monday, December 8, 1941

Canada Declares War In Emergency Session

The Canadian Cabinet, in an emergency session in Ottawa at 6:30 last night, declared war on Japan.

This was the first declaration of war on Japan by a member of the British Commonwealth. Prime Minister Mackenzie King called the session after hearing reports of the Japanese attacks on Hawaii.

At the same time, the United Press said, a general order was issued to the Dominion armed forces "to engage the enemy wherever they may be found."

Royal Canadian Mounted Police began arresting Japanese nationals on "a very selective basis." Most Japanese in Canada live in British Columbia. There are about 26,000 in that province. A special registration of them was made last winter.

From Victoria, British Columbia, came a report that the Western Air Command had canceled the leaves of all officers and men in the RCAF in the district and ordered them to return to their posts immediately.

The declaration of war on Japan was transmitted by cable to the King of England for his signature on behalf of the people of Canada, but the state of war was effective from the moment of the announcement.

Costa Rica and Nicaragua Declare War

Costa Rica and Nicaragua last night led what may become a parade of Latin American nations into war with Japan.

The only note of dissent came from Argentinian's acting president, Ramon S. Castillo, who said that the country "will maintain absolute neutrality."

The Havana radio station RHC said last night that President Fulgencio Batista would ask a Cuban declaration of war against Japan "as soon as the United States declares war."

And in Mexico City the Foreign Office issued a statement condemning Japan and promising full aid to the U. S. A. under the Havana Treaty. A foreign office source said a declaration of war on Japan, demanded by the pro-Administration newspaper, *La Prensa*, was "not impossible." The Government ordered the Army and Navy to maintain "extraordinary vigilance" against "suspicious activity" by the Japanese.

John Adams, CBS correspondent in Rio de Janeiro, said last night in a short-wave broadcast that Brazil, where there are some 200,000 Japanese colonists, might align itself in the war on the side of the U. S. A. within the next 24 hours.

Adams said that Valentin Boses, friend of President Vargas and a leader in pro-U. S. A. circles in Brazil, considers Japan's action calls for all the Americas to support the U. S. A. in line with the official policy of the Brazilian Government.

Jefferson Caffrey, U. S. Ambassador to Brazil, has been in conference with Foreign Minister Oswald Aranha, Adams said.