

Regional Files 103, Wash. DC
Miyamoto

Letter from Edw. J. Ennis, Dept. of Justice, Wash., to Myer
August 6, 1942

Dear Sir:

I enclose for your kind consideration and whatever action you may wish to take in the matter a letter from a group of internees at the Immigration and Naturalization Service Station in Santa Fe, New Mexico, addressed to the Honorable F. de Amat, Consul of Spain, Special Representative of Spanish Embassy, San Francisco, California, regarding conditions at the Poston, Arizona, Relocation Center.

A copy of this letter was also sent to Mr. Bernard Gufler, Assistant Chief of the Special Division, Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Regional Files 103, Wash. D.C.
Miyamoto

Japanese Detainees
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service Station
Sahita ?Fe, New Mexico
July 9, 1942

Hon. F. De Amat
Consul of Spain
Special Representative of Spanish Embassy
San Francisco, California

Sir:

We hope this letter will find you and your staff in the best of health and spirit, despite ever increasing difficult tasks in representing the Empire of Japan and her subjects, of which we gratefully acknowledge.

The detainees here, whose families being located at the Colorado River Relocation Center, Poston, Arizona, have been receiving many ghastly informations as to the living conditions there, in which a recent date death toll amounted to four, probably caused by an excessive heat rising as high as 125 degree without exaggerating and the typical desert sand storm, which render people helpless and results in a number of illness.

There were reported five hundred evacuees from Salinas districts on June 30th, one half of whom have been attacked and many fainted upon their arrival, partly due to a continuous thirty hour train ride, and the typical desert heat and the sand storm.

Since the arid conditioning or a scientific apparatus to alleviate the heat are, at present, unavailable, some, particularly the weak and the elderly folks, with a hope of making life less unbearable, dig a hole in the ground under the house and place themselves in the excavated spaces during the day time.

We understood there are the cooling system equipped only in the hospital and the administration buildings, but due to insufficient electric power, such cooling facility is now unavailable for the evacuee's quarters.

In this respect, we, the detainees, whose wives, children and kin-folks undergoing such agony and suffering, respectfully and sincerely request and beseech Your Excellency to investigate the prevailing conditions by actually visiting this place, and after confirming aforesaid facts, negotiate with the proper authorities to provide adequate equipment as soon as possible to divert a rising death toll and sickness, and make the life at the center humanly bearable.

What they are in dire need at this time are sufficient supply of ice-cold water to drink, the cooling system, and possibly planting of any fast growing trees to make shades here and there.

Please bear in mind, this request, by no means intended to censure or criticize the administration of the Center because we were informed

the Administration Chief and his Staff have been exercising their full authorities to better conditions and trying their humanly best within their power to comfort our families in the midst of such an unbelievable inferno of the desert, of which we acknowledge.

Your prompt attention to this matter, we are sure, shall be immensely appreciated not only by all Japanese residents of this country but by the people in Japan as well.

Thanking you very much for your courtesy and kindness. We have the honor to be

Respectfully yours,

(1st signature /s/ Tomoji Sonoda

(signed by 74 other detainees at this Station)

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

SA
Consul
(B 960)

Office of the Director

AUG 10 1942

Mr. E. R. Fryer
Regional Director
War Relocation Authority
Whitcomb Hotel Building
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Fryer:

I am enclosing for your information and consideration a copy of a communication from Mr. Edward J. Ennis, Director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit, Department of Justice, together with an enclosure addressed to the Spanish Consul, respecting the Colorado River Relocation Center.

I am sending a copy of these communications to Commissioner Collier for his information and consideration, with the suggestion that we will be glad to have any comments he may care to offer. Quite likely he will request a report from Mr. Head. It would seem in that case no special action is required on our part at the moment, other than to check with the project to see if such a request has been made. If it has not been made after a reasonable period, you may want to initiate an inquiry as to the accuracy of the allegation in the letter to the Spanish Consul.

We understand the Spanish Consul is becoming increasingly anxious to visit Relocation Centers, and expect almost momentarily to have a request from the State Department for arrangements to be made for him to visit all of the Centers where we have evacuees.

Sincerely yours,

D. J. Myer

Director

Enclosures



Regional Files, 103 (Gila), Wash., D.C.
Miyamoto

Ev. Att.

Resolution from Japanese Nationals to F. de Amat, Consul of Spain, San Francisco.
October 1, 1942

WHEREAS, pursuant to the United States Army orders more than fifteen hundred nationals of Japan were evacuated to the Tulare Assembly Center, in Tulare, California in May, 1942, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to more recent United States Army orders the said fifteen hundred Nationals of Japan were ordered removed to the Gila River Relocation Center in Rivers, Arizona, and

4 WHEREAS, a substantial portion of said Nationals of Japan are now in Gila River Relocation Center, in Rivers, Arizona, while others of such Nationals are still on their way to said Relocation Center from the Tulare Assembly Center, and

WHEREAS, normal facilities in said Gila River Relocation Center, in Rivers, Arizona are actually unavailable for the said Nationals of Japan, normal facilities being interpreted to mean proper lavatory and bath systems, proper water system for laundry and for other domestic purposes, proper lighting system in rooms of respective apartment quarters, a dining hall for consumption of food, proper leveling of grounds in neighborhood of living quarters so as to remove excavations and open ditches which form traps for the unwary,

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned representatives of the said Nationals of Japan respectfully request Your Excellency as Consul of the Spanish Government in San Francisco, California, to approach the proper United States authorities on behalf of the said Nationals of Japan urging upon the said authorities to either immediately install all normal and essential facilities for the health and safety of the said Nationals of Japan who are now in said Relocation Center and who are yet to arrive from the Tulare Assembly Center; or in lieu thereof, to suspend further evacuation of said Nationals from the Tulare Assembly Center until such time as normal facilities are actually available in said Relocation Center;

Regional Files, 103, (Gila), Wash., D. C.
Miyamoto

Letter from Rowalt to Myerl
Oct. 2, 1942

Reference is made to your letter of September 29 enclosing a copy of a communication from the Department of State, dated September 22, 1942, together with an inquiry from the Spanish Embassy, dated September 12, concerning sanitary conditions in the Gila River Relocation Project.

Reply is made to your questions, in seriatim:

1 and 2. The movements of evacuees to Gila River was halted on two occasions to permit construction work to proceed to a point where evacuees scheduled for Gila River could be satisfactorily housed. The first scheduled movement ~~to~~ to Gila River was accomplished under transfer order No. 8 from the Turlock Assembly Center. The original schedule was to begin on July 25, to be carried to completion, evacuating some 3600 persons at the rate of approximately 500 per day. The advance party of 529 persons left Turlock on July 18, conforming to the usual procedure wherein an advance party arrives approximately one week before the first main body of evacuees to assist in preparing the camp for their occupation. Moves were then accomplished from Turlock on July 25, 26 and 27.

There were no moves from Turlock from July 28 to August 9, inclusive, ~~to~~ to enable evacuation of persons from Military Area No. 2, under exclusion order No. 106. Moves were made from that area from August 2 to 7, inclusive. The next moves were made from Turlock on August 10, 11 and 12. Thus none of the moves from Turlock were postponed because of lack of facilities at the Gila River Project.

Transfer order No. 12 covered the move from the Tulare Assembly Center from August 20 to the earliest practicable date of completion. Under this order movements were made on August 20 and 21. Moves were postponed from August 22 to 24 inclusive to permit completion of additional construction. The movements were resumed on August 25 and 26 and again were postponed on August 27, 28 and 29 because of reputed lack of facilities at Gila River to take care of the evacuees. Movements were again scheduled on August 30, 31 September 1, 2, 3 and 4, the completion date of the movements from Tulare to Gila River.

3. Construction report on Gila River is appended as an attachment to this letter showing the actual status on October 1, 1942. Although this report does not show the sewage disposal system as complete, water borne sewage system is installed. The uncompleted treatment plant has been bi-passed, the sewage is being chlorinated and spilled into a waste area removed from camp. The water tower is complete and there is an ample supply of potable water in all inhabited areas.

During the various stages of occupation at Gila River essential requirements were available. This did not always include complete facilities, such as are contemplated for all relocation centers. Delays were experienced in construction, due to the non-availability of skilled labor and materials which were without the control of this office or of the constructing agency, the United States Army Engineers. However, suitable alternate facilities, such as pit latrines, in lieu of flush toilets, were available in adequate number to meet requisite needs of evacuees. The evacuee protest regarding conditions was undoubtedly made at a period when there was some overcrowding prior to the postponement of scheduled moves. These conditions were only temporary and were rectified at the earliest possible moment.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

TULE LAKE PROJECT
Newell, California

Confidential

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

There are enclosed the report and attachment just furnished Captain Martin.

He spent his entire first day in connection with stockade matters. His spokesmen presented him a request for all releases from the stockade. A copy of this request and my answer together with his transmittal letter, are enclosed for your information.

His total requests as a result of his visit were the following:

1. Early release of all stockade residents.
2. Reorganization and establishment of an Evacuee Police Department.

We were able to convince him that both points would soon be taken care of to his complete satisfaction. I made no actual commitments as to the date of stockade releases but I assured him they must return to complete order in ~~in~~ this area and then at that time I would again consider each and every case for return to residential area. The evacuee police force is now being reorganized.

He stated that no specific demands were made regarding food. He stated they advised him there was a material change in mess management for the better. They could use more beef and eggs but did not enter any actual demand to him.

After his visit to the Hospital, and a conference with Dr. Sleath, he stated Hospital conditions were ~~xx~~ excellent and told Dr. Sleath he had confidence in him and that he knew he was doing a fine job.

After I advised him that I refused to permit him to visit the stockade he never mentioned a visit again.

We enjoyed working with Mr. Eberhardt and hope that he will be able to return at some later date.

Sincerely
R. R. Best
Project Director

Enclosures

TULE LAKE, CALIFORNIA
July 29, 1944

PETITION FROM THE INTERNEES
OF THE
TULE LAKE CENTER

Your Honor, Captain A. Martin, Spanish Delegate:

Although the Center Authority seems to assume that the releasement of those Nisei interned in the stockade and who are now trying to kill themselves by undergoing a hunger strike will endanger the security and order of the Center, we really do not think so. Setting that aside for the present, whether representative qualification was legal or not, we greatly sympathize with them for their great suffering, simply because they had been appointed as our spokesmen.

We hereby petition that you request to the Project Director, R. R. Best, and the Commanding Officer, Colonel Verne Austin, upon consultation with them to release the interned Nisei from the area of the stockade as soon as possible through your good offices.

Respectfully submitted,

SPOKESMEN FOR JAP. NAT'L

The Internees of the Tule
Lake Center

s/ K. Fukumote

s/ Kazuma Chogyoji

s/ J. Fujino

s/ Shuyo Tamamoto

s/ S. Yoshiumi

s/ Zenshiro Okubu

s/ S. Yoshida

s/ Yaichio Miyamoto

s/ Hitoshi Yomohira

s/ Asamichi Okutake

s/ Takuzo Kato

s/ Tauzo Tayofuku

s/ S. Kawamura

s/ Sadao Miyake

s. Kasau Nishizawa

s/ Keiji Arataka

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Tule Lake Segregation Center
Newell, California

July 29, 1944

Captain Antonio R. Martin
Spanish Delegate
56 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Captain Martin:

In answer to your request of this date, that the War Relocation Authority return as soon as possible to the evacuee residential area all of those men being detained in area "B", you are advised that upon restoration of order withinxx this area, their individual cases will ~~again~~ again be considered in connection with their transfer to the evacuee residential area.

Sincerely,

R. R. Best
Project Director

NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

Kameichi Fukumoto and other spokesmen
for Japanese Nationals of the Tule Lake
Segretation Center at Newell, California

Gentlemen~~xx~~:

Immediately on receipt of your petition
of even date, I referred the petition as requested to
Project Director R. R. Best advising him at the same
time of my impression of the situation which you describe.

Mr. Best replied at once in the sense indi-
cated by a copy of his letter enclosed.

I sincerely hope that some solution of this
matter will soon be reached and entirely satisfactory to
all concerned.

Thanking you again for your courtesies and
attentions during my visit here, I remain with best wishes
to all members of the colony.

Sincerely yours,

Captain Antonio R. Martin
Spanish Delegate

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

TULE LAKE PROJECT
Newell, California

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s/ Keiji Arataka

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Captain Antonio R. Martin
Spanish Delegate

C
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P
Y

CONFIDENTIAL

JUL 7 1944

MEMORANDUM to the Under Secretary

I have your memorandum of June 13, regarding the action taken by Assistant Project Director at Tule Lake in allowing certain of the evacuee to make a survey within the center.

The issue regarding further segregation had been in the air since before November 1. It seemed that the only way to dispose of this issue, which was a major one in the center, was to give its propoments an opportunity to try to work it out. The decision to allow this group to make the survey did lead to some difficulties, but I am fairly certain there would have been difficulties had the decision been otherwise. Consequently, I frankly do not feel as you do about the action.

I have, however, taken the matter up with Mr. Best and indicated to him that actions similar to this are not to be taken in the future.

Sincerely,

D. S. Myer

Director

CC. Mr. Best

D. S. Myer::lh
July 6, 1944

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
Washington

JUN 28 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of May 2 transmitting a copy of memorandum No. 85 from the Spanish Embassy forwarding a petition for the re-segregation of Japanese nationals at Tule Lake, has been received.

The content of this petition is substantially similar to that of another petition sent to the Secretary of the Interior, dated March 10, and signed by Sanae Akashi and 29 others, in response to which we wrote to the Director of the Tule Lake segregation center on April 18. A copy of our letter is attached. The representatives of the petitioners were interviewed by members of the administrative staff at Tule Lake and as a result the representatives of the petitioners were authorized to conduct a study to determine the wishes of the residents with respect to further segregation within the Center, but they were specifically enjoined that "the survey is to be made merely on a factual basis with the entire liberty of choice resting with the subject interviewed," and that "the survey committee is to make no attempt to influence the decisions of the residents." We are advised that, in spite of these restrictions, numerous ~~x~~ reports have been received to the effect that the members of the ~~x~~ committee used threats and intimidations to obtain signatures on their list, and that they reported to interviewed subjects that unless they signed the list they would have no opportunity to return to Japan on the earliest exchange vessel.

The activities of this committee created so much unrest within the Center as a whole that it was necessary to publish a memorandum for general circulation officially denying certain unauthorized reports. A copy of this memorandum, dated April 10, is also enclosed.

The proposal that a re-segregation of Japanese loyal to Japan should be made is an appealing suggestion until an attempt is made to determine the basis upon which such a segregation could be made without creating further confusion, dissatisfaction, and complaint. The original segregation to Tule Lake was made on the basis of (1) those who had asked for the opportunity to return to Japan and whose applications had not been cancelled; (2) those who had definitely indicated that they were not loyal to the United States of America; and (3) family members of the above groups who desired to accompany their families rather than to be separated. The latter group was permitted to go to Tule Lake with the members of their families in order that we might avoid separation of families, such as has occurred as a result of the internment of certain aliens. It is our understanding that the Spanish Embassy has on many occasions requested the reuniting of families that had been separated through the internment of a member. We know of no way by which a segregation

such as is suggested by Mr. Akashi could be accomplished without separating hundreds of families. Such separation, we are confident, would result in additional dissatisfaction, heartbreak, and complaint to the Spanish Embassy.

It is noted that the petition shows evidence of annoyance about the fact that the military guard is conspicuous. We regret that the presence of a military detachment should cause distress; however, the United States, as well as the Japanese Government and other belligerents, has found it necessary to impose certain restrictions on enemy aliens during war time. At Tule Lake this necessity was emphasized by the riot and disorder which certain of the resident~~x~~ evacuees initiated in November. We believe that the War Relocation Authority is complying with the agreements the United States has entered into with the Japanese Government concerning the care of Japanese nationals whose movement is restricted.

The petitioners refer to the fact that many of their number desire to be exchanged to Japan. We have on file applications from about half the population at the Tule Lake Center indicating that they desire to be exchanged. This number is considerably in excess of the number that the proposal that a series of exchanges be arranged between the United States and Japan looking to the exchange of all, or at least a majority, ~~by the exchange of~~ ~~of the nationals of these two countries.~~ We reiterate the request made by the Director of the War Relocation Authority in his letter of November 20, 1943, that every effort be made to promote further exchanges with Japan, with the objective of securing the return to the United States of American ~~xxxx~~ nationals in Japan, and the transfer to Japan of those persons at Tule Lake segregation center who have indicated that they desire such exchange.

Pending the time that such an exchange can be arranged, it is the policy of the War Relocation Authority to cooperate with representatives of the segregees toward working out local problems in a constructive manner.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HAROLD L. ICKES

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Cordell Hull

Secretary of State

Enclosure 131

BRS:ti

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Washington

Confidential

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Dillon Myer.

June 13, 1944

I have read your draft letter to the Secretary of State for the signature of Secretary Ickes. I am startled to learn that the Assistant Project Director of the Tule Lake Center agreed to permit a group of evauees who are professedly loyal to Japan to make a survey within the Center. This discloses an alarming naivete which is merely emphasized by the admonition that the "survey committee is to make no attempt ~~xx~~ to influence the decisions of the residents." This incident certainly demonstrates bad judgment, and I hope that you will do your best to see that similar mistakes are not made.

ABE Fortas

Under Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

In reply refer to
SWP

May 2, 1944

The Secretary of State present his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of the Interior and transmits herewith for the attention of the Director of the War Relocation Authority a copy of memorandum no. 85 dated April 24, 1944 from the Spanish Embassy in charge of Japanese interests in the continental United States, forwarding a petition for the re-segregation of Japanese nationals at Tule Lake, California.

It would be appreciated if the Secretary of the Interior would inform the Secretary of State of the nature of the reply to be made to the communication from the Spanish Embassy.

Enclosure:

From Spanish Embassy,
no. 85, April 24, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

RE: Petition for re-segregation at Tule Lake

No. 85

Ex. 113.00 T

The Spanish Embassy presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to remit herewith copy of a petition that has been received in this Embassy from the Japanese national, Mr. Sanae Akashi, in name of thirty internees at the Tule Lake Segregation Center, requesting that the possibility of making a re-segregation of Japanese loyal to Japan from the disloyal to Japan in the Tule Lake Center be presented to the consideration of the corresponding American authorities.

WASHINGTON, April 24th, 1944.

-3- Enclosures

Department of State

Washington, D. C.

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
March 29, 1944

Mr. Sanse Akashi
7406-A
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
~~DX~~

Dear Mr. Akashi:

This is to confirm my statement to you and your committee during our conference yesterday to the effect that there is no objection on the part of the administration to the proposal that you and your committee ~~xxxx~~ make a survey to determine the wishes of residents with respect to further segregation within the Center.

The ~~ix~~ information to be derived from the survey would be as follows:

1. Persons and families who have applied for repatriation or expatriation, who wish to return to Japan at the earliest opportunity, and who wish to live in a designated section of the Center among others of like inclination.
2. Persons and families who have not applied for repatriation or for expatriation, who have reached no conclusion with respect to an early return to Japan, and who wish to live in a section of the Center not specifically designated for persons and families of the first group above.

It is understood that the survey is to be made merely on a factual basis with the entire liberty of choice resting with the subject interviewed. The survey committee is to make no attempt to influence the decisions of the residents. It is pointed out that no sound speculation can be made as to any prospect of return to Japan because at present the Japanese government is entertaining no consideration of further exchanges.

It is further understood that the survey may be made without commitment on the part of the administration, either stated or implied, that the results of the survey will be made the basis of administrative action beyond that which is already established for housing adjustments through the Housing Office.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Harry L. Black

Harry L. Black
Asst. Project Director

Block 7406-A
W.R.A. Tule Lake Proj.
Newell, California,
March 10, 1944

Honorable Juan G. De Molina
The Minister - Counselor
In charge of the Japanese Interests
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please tolerate us, who are applicants for repatriation and expatriation, the freedom to present our inmost petition.

Because we are the ones who made the attitude of our mind clear, we would like to be clarified on our competency, and accordingly the reformation of administration for us is our hope. We wish to present our petition to Your Honor for a resegregation of we who have expressed and have signed the W.R.A. Declaration Form which sets forth our desire to be returned to Japan, our fatherland, at the very first opportunity.

I. Because we are the ones who manifested our wished to be repatriated to Japan, it is under our firm belief, that it is absolutely impossible to live in harmony under the counter-deited W.R.A. Policy as before..

II. Because we made up our minds to have a sense of honor as Japanese and recognized our own status, we have always been trying to be peaceful and to be circumspect. Yet, the fact that the armoured cars are at present patrolling in our camp is very inscrutable for us, and the only way we can construe upon this matter is the pressure of military power upon us.

III. Because approximately half of the residents in this camp are the ones who are contrary to our idea, are equivocal, and have unclarified their attitude, naturally it is unescapable that a discord will arise because of different views and we be driven to such despair that a pleasant peace will be hopeless.

We hate the disturbances. We desire earnestly for the revival~~xx~~ of an exchange ship. Therefore, we present our petition at this time and pray earnestly for the sanction of Your Honor.

Very truly yours,

THE PETITIONERW

STATEMENT

It was our expectation, according to WRA pronouncement, that this segregation camp should be administered in the definite treatment and competency as Japanese loyal to Japan and disloyal to the United States. However, the same administration disappointed us, for there are many Japanese disloyal to Japan in this segregation camp who do not belong here.

We found many heterogenous elements who were mingled with us and whom we cannot ideally harmonize with. Hereupon ten and several confederates, applied for our resegregation to the high officials in important positions in Washington, stating the following reasons:

1. We are observed by all as the enemy subjects, and because our every act shall really affect the greatest influence to our father country, we should always have to act carefully so that the honor of Japanese shall not be ashamed. Accordingly, we have to keep away from such a disgraceful behaviour as to fight each other among brothers, and we have to end the present discord.
2. Though it is very important for us and our children to be educated to fit into the life of our father country, it is impossible to exact such an education under these conditions as in the mingle with the objectionable elements (disloyal to their own people).
3. The cooperat~~x~~ion and~~x~~ harmonization of those who applied for repatriation~~or~~ expatriation and who desire earnestly to catch the first chance of the exchange ship will be a help to recover smoothly the exchange ship, which is brought to stant still at present.

Fortunately, W.R.A, according to the letter of Assistant Project Director Harry L. Black and other high government officials. is in advocate of our earnest petition. Therefore, it is necessary to ask for the signatures of those who applied for repatriation or expatriation and who want to be resegregated because of the earnest desire to catch the first chance of the exchange ship. At this time, we, clarifying our belief, sign on the application for resegregation in our own accordance and our own free will.

(This is our official statement of our petition)

JAN 18 1944

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This will refer to your communication of January 8, transmitting a copy of a memorandum dated January 7, from the Spanish Embassy in charge of Japanese interests in the United States, concerning incidents which have occurred at the Tule Lake Center since October 1943. As you know, the War Department has been in actual control of the Center from the evening of November 4 until January 14, consequently my comments relate primarily to the situation prior to the evening of November 4 when the Army had to be called in to restore order, and to certain general observations concerning the return of the Center to civil administration.

The memorandum from the Spanish Embassy refers to the committee of 14 appointed from a group of 64 delegates from the several blocks at the Center, and to certain promises made to the Japanese representatives, but it does not indicate what promises were made. The memorandum does, however, indicate that the residents became aroused by their belief that the promises made by the Director were not being kept.

With respect to this situation, the record (including the minutes of the meeting with the evacuee committee on November 1) indicates that numerous demands were made, and that the Authority promised to determine the facts involved ~~xxxxxx and xxxxxxxx~~ ~~indicated xxxxxxxx~~ and to consider the complaints. One point of complaint involved food, and the Director indicated that the facts would be ascertained and that correctional action would be taken if justified by the facts. No other promises were made.

The attitude of the committee was such that it was necessary to point out that we were not in a position to deal with demands, but that we would consider requests. Mr. Kuratomi, speaking for the group, stated "We do not want to commit any riots or conduct ourselves in a disorderly manner."

This meeting occurred on November 1, but before it was possible to complete our investigations or to complete action that might be deemed necessary, a disorderly group armed with clubs entered the administrative area the evening of November 4, and necessitated turning the operation of the Center over to Military Authorities to restore order.

If there is any implication in the memorandum from the Spanish Embassy that the issue of food to evacuees was being curtailed in order to feed persons employed outside the project in harvesting crops. I should like to dispel that impression. Food in the warehouses is the property of the U.S. Government and is subject to such uses as the proper officials deem appropriate. The Authority recognizes its responsibility, as an agency of the U.S. Government, to provide adequate supplies of food to the evacuees, and we believe that a fair appraisal of the facts would show that this responsibility has always been fulfilled.

This leads to a consideration of the second point in the memorandum from the Spanish Embassy to the effect that the evacuees were concerned regarding the administration of funds allotted to their purchase of foodstuffs and to the uneven distribution of such foodstuffs, part of which were subsequently discovered stored in Japanese houses in greater quantities than would normally be expected. This Authority has now made an investigation of the situation regarding the handling of foods, and finds that foods were properly allotted to the mess halls but that some of the evacuee chefs did not serve the full allotment. The action of these chefs constitutes misconduct on their part as employees of the Authority, and it was improper from the standpoint of their responsibilities to the evacuees who were dependent in part upon them for food preparation. The nature and extent of administrative action that may be appropriate in such cases has not yet been determined. It would appear, however, that the efforts of the committee in this respect might well be addressed to the members of the evacuee group who are guilty of such misconduct.

With respect to the food situation, action was initiated last August looking to a change in personnel, and a new steward has now been assigned to the project as part of our re-examination of this phase of project operations. If there were any cases where the issue of food was not up to standard, we believe the situation has now been adjusted.

With respect to the suggestion that the Center be returned to civil administration, it has been the expectation that this would be done as soon as conditions permitted, and plans have been underway for some time looking to such an eventuality. It has now become possible, as of January 15, to make this arrangement effective. One of the impediments making earlier return inadvisable has been the lack of a responsible and representative committee through which we could communicate with the evacuees in reaching a solution to the general situation.

The Kuratome committee, we believe, was neither responsible nor representative. Not only was there resort to violence before adequate opportunity was had to examine and consider their requests, but there is also reason to doubt that the committee accurately reported to the evacuees generally the nature of the commitments made to the committee.

At no time did the Kuratomi committee present to the War Relocation Authority evidence that it was selected by a representative process or that it was authorized to speak for the population. We have, in fact, good reason to believe that its members had used "strong arm" pressure tactics to establish their position as leaders of the evacuee community. In fact, certain leaders of the evacuee community have insisted that the leaders of the "strong arm" group be retained in a separate compound so that a truly representative committee could be established without fear of reprisal against peaceful members of the community and their families. After some of the group were moved to separate ~~xxxxx~~ accommodations we are advised that the community undertook to select a new committee based on representation by blocks, and that within the last few days, at an election in which about 8,000 evacuees 18 years of age or over participated, a new committee of seven has been elected.

I am sure that the Spanish Embassy, in its capacity of representing Japanese interests in the United States, does not wish to become involved in a factional dispute between groups of evacuees, and for that reason, we would hope that the Embassy might wish to reexamine the situation locally.

We propose to attempt, with the cooperation of this new committee, to secure the restoration of normal operations and conditions generally. In order to assist Mr. Best, Project Director at Tule Lake, in this undertaking we have assigned several of our responsible Washington officials for special duty at the Center.

Certain phases of the memorandum from the Spanish Embassy deal with matters which are under the jurisdiction of the War Department, inasmuch as the Army was in control of the Tule Lake Center from the night of November 4 until January 14. I refer in particular to those paragraphs of the Embassy's letter regarding the action of Military Authorities in dealing or not dealing with committee members, and the taking into custody of certain evacuees. Doubtless you will desire to secure a statement from the War Department on these phases of the Embassy's communication.

I wish also to acknowledge and thank you for your communication of January 11, enclosing a copy of a letter to the Secretary of War, together with enclosures, relating to further requests from the Embassy in relation to the Tule Lake situation. Most of the specific complaints mentioned in the Embassy's communication, particularly these mentioned in the enclosures, relate to occurrences during the period of Army administration, and I am sure the Secretary of War will reply adequately to them in his letter to you. Otherwise I believe there is little that I can add to what has been said above in reply to your letter of January 8.

Sincerely,
/s/ John H. Provinse
Acting Director

BRStauber:ABC
1-15-44

Mar 1, 1944

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This will acknowledge and reply to your letter of January 22nd (your file SWP 740.00115 Pacific War/2108) enclosing a memorandum from the Spanish Embassy concerning the Gila River Relocation Center.

With respect to Item A in the memorandum from the Spanish Embassy, although we have, in the interest of the relocation of evacuees, discouraged their return to Centers except when an examination of the individual's situation indicated that that was the best solution, we have always left the way open for such individual cases to receive prompt and careful consideration. Should there be individual cases in which the Embassy is particularly concerned, we shall be glad to look into the situation presented thereby. Attention is directed to the fact that the program of the War Relocation Authority contemplates the relocation in normal communities of all these persons of Japanese ancestry, whether citizen or alien, whose relocation would not endanger the internal security of the United States. We believe that by so doing the persons whose evacuation from the West Coast was required as a military measure will be able to re-establish themselves in normal conditions most effectively. Accordingly, we are devoting a great deal of attention to this undertaking and are providing various means of assistance and advice to enable the evacuees to find suitable employment and to make the adjustment to the new locality as rapidly and completely as possible.

With respect to item B -- namely, that "facilities should be arranged" where by sons of evacuees in the American Army may be able to visit their parents at Relocation Centers -- the War Relocation Authority has, at all times, kept the gates open for such boys to visit their parents, and no regulation of the Authority prevents such visits at any Center (except at Tule Lake special regulations will need to be observed) at such times as the boys can secure furloughs. Some special regulations have been necessary recently at Tule Lake as a result of the circumstances there, and it is possible that some temporary inconvenience has resulted therefrom.

The Embassy will recognize of course that the War Relocation Authority has no jurisdiction over the question of granting furloughs to men in the Armed Forces. Although I can conceive of no action on the part of this Authority that would have resulted in the type of difficulty mentioned in the memorandum from the Embassy, we are making inquiry at the Project to discover what information may be available from that source.

With respect to Item C of the Embassy's memorandum, namely, that clothing allowances from the Turlock Assembly Center are not yet paid, this pertains to a situation~~x~~ prevailing before the evacuees came under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority. However, no serious situation should be occasioned thereby since the welfare division is in position to make grants to take care of real needs that may develop as a result of this, or other circumstances. We are requesting further information from the Center ~~XXXXX~~ concerning this situation. It would be helpful, however, in considering such cases if the names of specific individuals might be made available.

Concerning Item D, the War Relocation Authority has entered into an arrangement with the War Department whereby the patrolling of the boundaries of the Relocation Centers is handled by the United States Army, and it is respectfully suggested that inquiries concerning the conduct of the Military Police controlling boundaries of the Relocation Centers be referred to the War Department. The Authority regrets the occurrence of the incident, but it seems appropriate to observe that disobeying an order from Military Police and refusing to heed warning shots would normally be considered as incurring considerable risk, and it would appear that the individual in question, or his guardian, in case he is considered incompetent, was somewhat lacking in ordinary ~~xxx~~ prudence in disobeying the regulations concerning trespassing the boundary of the Project. The memorandum from the Spanish Embassy indicates that the victim, Mr. Satoshi Elmer Kira, is a "third generation American," which is consistent with our records, which indicate Mr. Satoshi Elmer Kira is an American citizen, having been born on February 5, 1922, in Seattle, Washington.

I hope this information will provide the information on which to base a reply to the Spanish Embassy.

Sincerely,

D.S. Myer
Director

CC: Leroy H. Bennett

BRStauber:ti
2-14-44
Requitten
2-22-44

MAR 3 1944

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of February 23, 1944, asks that the War Relocation Authority suggest to you the nature of the reply which might be made to the memorandum of February 12, 1944, from the Spanish Embassy concerning thirty-nine Japanese nationals at the Tule Lake Segregation Center, Newell, California. The memorandum from the Spanish Embassy states that these thirty-nine Japanese nationals "were arrested" on November 4, 1943, and that only six of them subsequently "have been released." The memorandum asks that the Department of State use its good offices to hasten the "Trial or Hearing of the remaining 33 Japanese still detained."

The words "were arrested" do not accurately describe the treatment accorded to the Japanese nationals referred to. These men, along with the several thousand others who are detained at the Tule Lake Segregation Center, were already in custody at the time of the incident referred to in the memorandum, and they were at that time part of it. The effect of this transfer was that they were separated from other evacuees detained at the center, including the members of their own families, but the effect of the separation was no greater and no more unpleasant, than if they had been transferred to one of the alien enemy internment camps operated by the Department of Justice. In fact, transfers of some of the Japanese nationals named in the memorandum to such alien enemy internment camps will probably be effected in the near future.

There will be no occasion for the holding of formal "Trial or Hearing" of these Japanese nationals in connection with their present detention, since it involves no disciplinary punishment, though the fact of separation from other residents of the Segregation Center may possibly have caused the persons named to have felt otherwise. This administrative separation has been decided upon as a measure to reduce the likelihood that the persons moved to this special block will stir up additional dissension similar to that stirred up during the recent incidents of November 1 to 4, 1943

I should add that the persons moved to this special block are not in close confinement, as in a jail. They have a considerable outdoor area available to them for free movement, and their housing, food, and other accommodations are not different from those available to the other residents of the Tule Lake Center.

I trust that this information will enable you to formulate a satisfactory reply to the Spanish Embassy.

Sincerely,

D.S. Myer
Director

RAleflar:glc
2/28/44

Director

Sp Evh

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON



005

B11.01

MAR 1 1944

Mr. Leroy H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We are in receipt of a communication from the Department of State, enclosing a memorandum from the Spanish Embassy, in charge of Japanese interests in the United States, concerning several complaints and requests received from the Embassy's Representative during his visit at Gila River Relocation Center on December 19 and 20, 1943.

We are enclosing a copy of our reply to the State Department and would appreciate receiving any information you can supply concerning the basis for the complaints numbered B and C in the memorandum from the Embassy concerning Mr. Satoru Sujimoto's difficulty in securing permission in visiting his father before his death. We cannot understand how any regulation of the War Relocation Authority could have operated to prevent the visit and would surmise that the problem may have been one of securing furlough rather than one of securing admission to the Project. However, any information you can supply on this case will be greatly appreciated. A copy of the Spanish Embassy's memorandum is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

D.S. Myer
Director

Enclosures - 2

SMB

005

MAR 1 1944

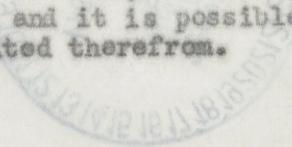
The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This will acknowledge and reply to your letter of January 22nd (your file SWP 740.00115 Pacific War/2108) enclosing a memorandum from the Spanish Embassy concerning the Gila River Relocation Center.

With respect to Item A in the memorandum from the Spanish Embassy, although we have, in the interest of the relocation of evacuees, discouraged their return to Centers except when an examination of the individual's situation indicated that that was the best solution, we have always left the way open for such individual cases to receive prompt and careful consideration. Should there be individual cases in which the Embassy is particularly concerned, we shall be glad to look into the situation presented thereby. Attention is directed to the fact that the program of the War Relocation Authority contemplates the relocation in normal communities of all those persons of Japanese ancestry, whether citizen or alien, whose relocation would not endanger the internal security of the United States. We believe that by so doing the persons whose evacuation from the West Coast was required as a military measure will be able to re-establish themselves in normal conditions most effectively. Accordingly, we are devoting a great deal of attention to this undertaking and are providing various means of assistance and advice to enable the evacuees to find suitable employment and to make the adjustment to the new locality as rapidly and completely as possible.

With respect to Item B -- namely, that "facilities should be arranged" whereby sons of evacuees in the American Army may be able to visit their parents at Relocation Centers -- the War Relocation Authority has, at all times, kept the gates open for such boys to visit their parents, and no regulation of the Authority prevents such visits at any Center (except at Tule Lake special regulations will need to be observed) at such times as the boys can secure furloughs. Some special regulations have been necessary recently at Tule Lake as a result of the circumstances there, and it is possible that some temporary inconvenience has resulted therefrom.



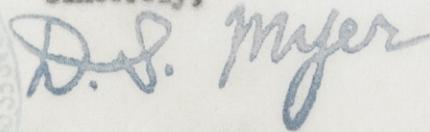
The Embassy will recognize of course that the War Relocation Authority has no jurisdiction over the question of granting furloughs to men in the Armed Forces. Although I can conceive of no action on the part of this Authority that would have resulted in the type of difficulty mentioned in the memorandum from the Embassy, we are making inquiry at the Project to discover what information may be available from that source.

With respect to Item C of the Embassy's memorandum, namely, that clothing allowances from the Turlock Assembly Center are not yet paid, this pertains to a situation prevailing before the evacuees came under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority. However, no serious situation should be occasioned thereby since the welfare division is in position to make grants to take care of real needs that may develop as a result of this, or other circumstances. We are requesting further information from the Center concerning this situation. It would be helpful, however, in considering such cases if the names of specific individuals might be made available.

Concerning Item D, the War Relocation Authority has entered into an arrangement with the War Department whereby the patrolling of the boundaries of the Relocation Centers is handled by the United States Army, and it is respectfully suggested that inquiries concerning the conduct of the Military Police controlling the boundaries of the Relocation Centers be referred to the War Department. The Authority regrets the occurrence of the incident, but it seems appropriate to observe that disobeying an order from Military Police and refusing to heed warning shots would normally be considered as incurring considerable risk, and it would appear that the individual in question, or his guardian, in case he is considered incompetent, was somewhat lacking in ordinary prudence in disobeying the regulations concerning trespassing the boundary of the Project. The memorandum from the Spanish Embassy indicates that the victim, Mr. Satoshi Elmer Kira, is a "third generation American," which is consistent with our records, which indicate Mr. Satoshi Elmer Kira is an American citizen, having been born on February 5, 1922, in Seattle, Washington.

I hope this information will provide the information on which to base a reply to the Spanish Embassy.

Sincerely,


D.S. Myer

Director

CC: Leroy H. Bennett ✓

BRStauber:ti
2-14-44
Rewritten
2-22-44

COPY

005

MEMORANDUM

RE: Complaints submitted by
Japanese internees at
Gila River Rel. Center

No. 4

Ex. 113.00 G

The Spanish Embassy presents its compliments to the Department of State and begs to inform that in the Report submitted by the Spanish Representative in San Francisco, on his visit of December 19th and 20th, to the Gila River Relocation Center, Poston, Arizona, he points out the following complaints and requests filed by the internees at said Camp:

A. They desire that those who have been relocated outside of the Center be permitted to return to the Center if circumstances make it advisable, since there appears to be no ruling to the contrary.

✓ B. Those who have sons in the American Army request that facilities should be arranged in order that these may be able to visit them at the Center. (The case of Hatsujiro Sujimoto was mentioned: Mr. H. Sujimoto died and his son, Satoru, who is serving in the 17th Infantry Regiment at Monterey, California, was not given permission to visit his father before his death).

C. There are a number of residents of Gila River who came from the Turlock Assembly Center, and the clothing

allowance which was due them at Turlock has not yet been remitted to them.

D. On December 1st, Mr. Satoshi Elmer Kira, a Japanese subject "third generation American", 22 years of age, was wounded by a shot of a sentinel for not having obeyed an order to stop and two warning shots. The parents of the Kira boy said that since the evacuation his mental condition has not been normal, because of his bitterness against his detention at Gila River. At about the same time, in the beginning of December, it seems that also a sentinel shot a warning at three youths within the Center.

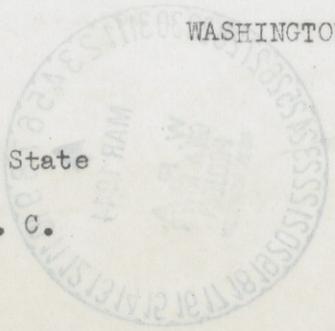
The Spanish Embassy believes it would be advisable to recommend to the Commander of the Military Police of the different Centers that extreme care should be exercised to avoid this type of accidents and submits the foregoing to the kind attention of the State Department, asking it to use its good offices with the corresponding authorities in view to complying, if possible, to the wishes of the internees.

January 8th, 1944

WASHINGTON,

Department of State

Washington, D. C.



With Husband

005

Rivers, Arizona
September 5, 1942
11:15 a.m.

SATORU TED SUGIMOTO
1608 Cm. C.A.S.U. CAMP GRANT
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT. HAVE TRIED TO GET
PERMISSION FOR YOU TO ENTER THIS AREA FOR FUNERAL AND
H
HAVE BEEN REFUSED.

MASA SUGIMOTO
22-2-B

GET CHARGES ON THIS AND NOTIFY
MRS. SMITH

Stappard

B/Kof

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

March 23, 1944

To: All Project Directors

Subject: Extract of Memorandum From Spanish Embassy
Regarding Repatriation and Exchange

Distribution: E

Under date of March 8 we received from the State Department pertinent parts of the memorandum from the Spanish Embassy dated March 2, 1944, relating to actions taken by the Spanish Embassy with respect to requests for repatriation. We are advised that the Embassy has no objection to the subject matter of the attachment being made available to Japanese nationals in residence at your Relocation Centers.

It is not, on the other hand, the type of information which should be made the subject of a general newspaper release, and accordingly it is suggested that it might be taken up with the Community Councils, or other representative groups, as a step in bringing it to the attention of the Japanese nationals.

Heland Barrow

Acting Director

COPY

The Spanish Embassy has communicated to the "Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores" in Madrid, for transmittal to the Japanese Government, all such repatriation applications as have been received at this Embassy from Japanese internees in the United States, the number of which, well exceeds 10,000. As the Department of State is well informed by the Spanish Embassy, all the "Priority Lists" as well as the Lists of "Japanese who have asked for Repatriation" (thirteen in all) which it has received from this Embassy were submitted at the same time, to the consideration of the Japanese Government, as were also the lists drawn up by the State Department, called the List of 3101 and the List of 3961 Japanese who have signed that they "decline to go".

There is, however, another question pending, diverging completely from the above, which, no doubt, has lent itself to conjectures and misunderstandings on the part of the Commanders or Spokesmen at the Japanese Internment Camps, and which can be summarized as follows:

For the last year this Embassy has been receiving thousands of requests from Japanese internees asking that cables be sent to the Japanese Government, requesting their "PRIORITY" for the next exchange vessel. This, is what the Embassy has declined to do, notwithstanding the overflowing number of postal money orders from the Camps, to cover the cable expenses involved (which have been returned to the interested parties).

FIRST, AND FOREMOST because the Spanish Embassy in charge of Japanese Interests has no funds available for this purpose.

SECONDLY, because the Japanese Government who is aware of the number and names of all its subjects in the United States, has already submitted an extensive Priority List. If all the Japanese were to telegraph requesting their priority, in the long run, they would find themselves in the same position as before, and furthermore, deprived of the funds which the forwarding of their messages entail.

The Spanish Embassy cannot, on the other hand, permit that the internees, who have, generally, little funds at their disposal, defray the cost of these telegrams. The Spanish Embassy despite its refusal to route cables of this nature, has transmitted to Madrid, three collective cables; one requesting priority for the group of 97 who were unable to embark aboard the GRIPSHOLM on September 2nd last; another, for the internees at Tule Lake and a third one, for a group of internees at Santa Fe, N.M. who came from Peru.

The Spanish Embassy furthermore, asked the Japanese Government in September last, for authorization to send individual telegrams soliciting priority and requested that the cost of such cables be charged to the Account of the Protection of Japanese Interests. To date the Spanish Embassy has received no reply from Tokyo.

WASHINGTON, March 2nd, 1944

C-1122-P3-NOBU-Final