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By MA NARA Date 9/13/05

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

AG 291.2 (1-19-43) OB-S-F-M

January 20, 1943

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED
TO: "CONFIDENTIAL"
AUTHORITY OF G-2, WDC &
4th Army, FEBRUARY 6,
1943. INITIALS: HDL/77

SUBJECT: Loyalty Investigations of American Citizens of
Japanese Ancestry in War Relocation Centers.

TO : The Provost Marshal General:
Director, Special Service Division, S.O.S.

1. A Plan has been formulated whereby the War Department will, upon request of the War Relocation Authority, assist in determining the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry under its jurisdiction. The purpose of the plan is to determine (a) loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to permit of their release by War Relocation Authority from war relocation centers, and (b) whether those so released may be inducted into the military service or may be available for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort.

2. The following administrative procedure is prescribed for accomplishment of the plan:

a. Questionnaires will be distributed in war relocation centers by teams consisting of an army officer and three enlisted men, including one Japanese-American soldier of the Nisei class. The teams will assist the War Relocation Authority in supervising the execution of the questionnaires.

c. Personnel for the teams will be obtained by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, and The Provost Marshal General from Service Commands or other sources. The teams will be trained by The Provost Marshal General.

d. The Bureau of Public Relations will have charge of all phases of public relations involved in the accomplishment of the plan. Material for exclusive use in relocation centers will be prepared for the Bureau of Public Relations by Director, Special Service Division, SOS. In formulating publicity plans and working up material, appropriate representatives of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, The Provost Marshal General, the Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority, and Office of War Information will be consulted. No material will be released without the approval of the Deputy Chief of Staff.

e. The execution of questionnaires for male American citizens of Japanese ancestry within military age limits who are not in relocation centers and who make application for voluntary induction will be accomplished by the Selective Service System.

f. The questionnaires executed by male American citizens of Japanese ancestry within the age limits for military service who make application

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for voluntary induction will be forwarded immediately without analysis or evaluation to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, who will approve or disapprove such individuals for induction into the armed forces. The Military Intelligence Service will notify The Provost Marshal General of the results of its action, and will transmit to The Provost Marshal General questionnaires for those individuals under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority who are not inducted into the military service.

g. Copies of all other questionnaires, together with any information possessed by the War Relocation Authority pertaining to the loyalty of subject individuals, will be forwarded to The Provost Marshal General. A check of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval Intelligence records and an analysis of the answers given on the questionnaires will be made by the Provost Marshal General except for those individuals inducted into the military service under paragraph f. hereof. In cases where it appears to the Provost Marshal General that an investigation by the Western Defense Command will be of probable assistance, a copy of the questionnaire will be referred to the Western Defense Command for such investigation.

h. A Joint Board which by agreement with the Department of Justice, the Navy Department, and the War Relocation Authority will be composed of a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, and The Provost Marshal General will be created. The Provost Marshal General will transmit to the Joint Board the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval Intelligence record checks; the analysis of the answers given on the questionnaires; and copies of the reports of investigation made by the Western Defense Command. The Joint Board will:

(1) transmit the investigation reports and copies of the questionnaires to the War Relocation Authority, together with its recommendation concerning the release of subject individuals from relocation centers on indefinite leave; and

(2) will state whether the Joint Board has any objection to the employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort of any of those American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are released by the War Relocation Authority pursuant to its recommendation.

3. To assist in the execution of the plan, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War will coordinate the activities of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff; The Provost Marshal General, and the Director, Bureau of Public Relations. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of War will also be the point of

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contact with the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the formation of the Joint Board.

4. To prevent duplication of investigation, except where necessary upon receipt of supplementary information or for other cogent reasons, a list of American citizens of Japanese ancestry recommended for release by the Joint Board & their classification for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort, will be forwarded to the Western, Eastern, Southern and Central Defense Commands, and all Service Commands [.]

5. The procedure prescribed herein is intended to supplement the leave regulations and Administrative Instructions No. 22, Revised, issued by the War Relocation Authority, and not to supersede those regulations or instructions except as may be ordered by the War Relocation Authority.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J.A. ULIO,
Major General,
The Adjutant General

COPIES FURNISHED:

Office of the Assistant Secretary of War;
Deputy Chief of Staff;
Commanding Generals,
Services of Supply;
Defense Commands in the United States;
Service Commands;
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, War Department General Staff;
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, War Department General Staff;
Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations Division, War Department
General Staff;
Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority;
Federal Bureau of Investigation;
Office of War Information.

May 22, 1943

Dear General DeWitt:

As you know, the War Department is engaged in the rather thankless task of assisting the War Relocation Authority in determining the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry now residing in relocation centers. The program was adopted for the twofold purpose of expediting the return of the good ones to useful employment in the war effort and of discouraging the War Relocation Authority from releasing too many undesirables under its indefinite leave procedure.

The Japanese-American Joint Board, composed of representatives of the War Department and other government agencies, has been established to pass upon the various cases after the Provost Marshal General's Office has conducted or instigated appropriate investigation. In carrying out its responsibility, the Provost Marshal General's Office is classifying the questionnaires which the Army teams caused to be executed in the relocation centers into three categories - white, brown, and black. We are not going to trouble you with the black cases, where there is already at hand the sufficient information to warrant a recommendation against release on indefinite leave; but as to the white cases, where no or very minor derogatory information is on hand, and the brown cases, where substantial but not conclusive derogatory information has been developed, the conclusion has been reached that the Joint Board would be foolish in going ahead without the benefit of information on hand, or being developed, in the Western Defense Command, in the files of Counter Intelligence and the Civil Affairs Division.

As it was not known here in Washington exactly what records were on hand in San Francisco, I had Captain Hall of my office, and Dr. Dedrick and Captain Hughes of the Provost Marshal General's Office, go out to look the situation over and develop a tentative procedure. They have now returned with a recommendation, of which I enclose four copies for your convenience. The general idea is that white cases, which are being considered for possible employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort, shall be subjected to a CIB and CAD record check and also a special field investigation by your Provost Marshal's office, whereas the brown cases, which are being considered merely for indefinite leave, would simply pass through the CAD and CIB record check.

While I fully appreciate that this casts a burden of no mean proportions on your staff and may require additional personnel, it is a job which I feel will someday have to be done anyway, whether in connection with this present program, segregation, or disposition after the war. If it is important to have it done, it might as well be done right.

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The Civil Affairs Division contemplates completing the translation and analysis of a couple of West Coast Japanese newspapers and also an examination of West Coast port arrivals for the years 1930 - 1940, inclusive. This seems to me important, and I hope it can be done.

I do not know whether the proposed procedure is the best that can be worked out. Any suggested changes will be welcome.

Captain Hall tells me that General Barnett and other members of your staff extended every courtesy to them during their visit and could not have been more cooperative.

Sincerely,

(Signed) John J. McCloy

John J. McCloy

Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt
Commanding General
Western Defense Command and Fourth Army
Presidio of San Francisco, California

Enc.

Four copies Standard Operating Procedure, May 19, 1943.

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May 19, 1943

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

In Cases Involving Persons of Japanese Ancestry Referred to Western
Defense Command for Record Check or Special Investigation1. General Plan

a. Under the War Department directive of January 20, 1943, a procedure was established to assist in the determination of the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry residing in relocation centers. In general, the directive provided for the execution of questionnaires by all American citizens in relocation centers, both male and female, who had reached the age of seventeen on or before February 1, 1943. The questionnaires were returned after completion to the Provost Marshal General's Office in Washington, D.C., for preliminary analysis; for record checks by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval Intelligence; and for such other investigation as appeared appropriate. After completion of the analysis, record checks and investigation, the cases are referred to the Japanese-American Joint Board, which is composed of representatives of the Military Intelligence Service, the Provost Marshal General's Office, Office of Naval Intelligence, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and War Relocation Authority. After consideration of each case, the Joint Board makes a recommendation to War Relocation Authority as to the desirability of granting indefinite leave, and states further whether there is objection to employment of the individual in plants and facilities important to the war effort.

b. Pursuant to this plan The Provost Marshal General's Office has tentatively divided the cases into three categories: White, brown and black.

- (1) White cases. Those where no, or very minor derogatory information appears from an analysis of the questionnaires and of the information derived from FBI and ONI record checks.
- (2) Brown cases. Those where substantial but not conclusive derogatory information appears from an analysis of the questionnaire or of FBI and ONI record checks.
- (3) Black cases. Those where the analysis of the questionnaire or of FBI and ONI record checks reveals tentatively conclusive evidence of disaffection.

c. Those white cases where employment in vital war plants is a reasonable possibility are referred to Western Defense Command for record check and special investigation.

d. Brown cases are referred to Western Defense Command for record check only.

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e. The object of referring cases to Western Defense Command is to enable The Provost Marshal General's Office to furnish to the Japanese-American Joint Board all immediately accessible information concerning each individual in order to facilitate intelligence action by the Joint Board. The Western Defense Command will not be called upon for an opinion as to loyalty or for a recommendation as to action, but merely for transmission of such information as may be developed in case.

2. Western Defense Command Procedure. All cases referred to the Western Defense Command will be transmitted by the Provost Marshal General's Office in Washington, D. C., to the Provost Marshal, Western Defense Command. The Provost Marshal General's Office will indicate in each case whether only a record check is desired, or additionally, a special investigation.

a. Cases in which a record check alone is desired. Upon receipt of these cases the Provost Marshal will transmit them to Civil Affairs Division for record check.

(1) The CAD record check will include the following:

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| (a) Master Index Card | Subject
Subject's father
Subject's employer |
| (b) Fixed Deposits | Subject
Subject's father |
| (c) WCCA Crime Records | Subject only |
| (d) West Coast Port Arrivals | Subject only |

The Wartime Civil Control Administration crime records file will be screened to eliminate all delinquencies of a minor nature and other irrelative information. West coast port arrivals are presently available only for the year 1941. Steps will be taken to develop this information additionally for the years 1930-1940, both inclusive, starting with the year 1940 and proceeding retrogressively from that year. As the information becomes available it will be incorporated in the west coast port arrivals files. Several sources of the information which is being incorporated in the Master Index Card File are presently incomplete and steps will be taken to develop this information additionally and incorporate it into the file. It is understood, however, that such additional information which is not now available will be used when it becomes available and that the absence of such additional information will not cause a delay in

the normal processing of cases referred for record check. Of particular importance is the completion of the work on recent issues of the California Daily News, the Rafu Shimpo, and the Great Northern Daily News, and the telegraphic transfers and drafts to support the war effort in Japan from the Sumitomo Bank of Sacramento and the Sumitomo and Yokohama Specie Bank of Seattle.

- (2) After completion of the CAD record checks, the cases will be referred to CIB, WDC, where a record check will be made as to each of the following individuals named in the questionnaire:
 - (a) Subject.
 - (b) Subject's father.
 - (c) Subject's brothers, if now resident in Japan.
- (3) Upon completion of the CIB record check, the cases will be referred back to the Provost Marshal, W.D.C., for transmission to The Provost Marshal General's Office.

b. Cases in which a special investigation is desired.

- (1) These cases will be processed for record check through CAD and CIB as provided above except that they are to take priority over those cases in which a record check only is requested, and with the addition that CIB will also record check the individual's employer and such other persons as may be important for a special investigation.
- (2) Upon receiving this type of case from CIB, the Provost Marshal, WDC, will cause a special investigation to be made. Upon completion of the special investigation, the case will be transmitted to The Provost Marshal General's Office in Washington, D. C.

c. Referral to service commands in the United States for supplemental investigation is authorized in appropriate cases. Similarly, those cases which involve Hawaiian-Japanese will be referred by the PM-WDC to the PM-HDC (or other appropriate agency) for supplemental investigation.

3. General

a. Derogatory reports obtained after record check with FBI and ONI in Washington, D. C., will be forwarded with the questionnaires.

- (1) If any information in the files of either CAD or CIB indicates the existence of an intelligence report not forwarded by The Provost Marshal General's Office with

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By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

the file, the substance thereof, if available in the files of CAD or CIB, will be transmitted with the case file to The Provost Marshal General's Office.

- (2) If the files of CAD or CIB merely contain an identifying reference to such a report (not the substance), the citation alone will be transmitted with the file to The Provost Marshal General's Office.
- (3) If the existence of an intelligence report not forwarded by the PMGO is indicated during the processing of a case by WDC and there is no citation or identifying reference, this fact will be merely noted except in the cases where a special investigation is desired. In the latter instance, the Provost Marshal, Western Defense Command, will consult the records of the appropriate intelligence service field office where such offices are within the Western Defense Command. If such a report is found, its substance will be transmitted to The Provost Marshal General's Office.

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By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

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May 31, 1943

My dear Mr. McCloy:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of May 22, 1943, inclosing copies of the proposed Standard Operating Procedure to be followed by this headquarters in developing data regarding Japanese-Americans in cases forwarded by The Provost Marshal General.

I have reviewed the Standard Operating Procedure and you have my assurance that this headquarters stands ready to assist in every way in expediting the flow through it of such cases as may be referred to it. In this connection I have directed that the various research projects now being carried on by this headquarters be accelerated to the end of reporting as promptly as feasible.

Sincerely,

J. L. DeWITT,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
Washington

25 June 1943

Dear General DeWitt:

I have received your letter of June 9 in which you set forth certain considerations in connection with the record checks being conducted by the Civil Affairs Division in cases involving Japanese-American residents of relocation centers. The information has been passed on to the Japanese-American Joint Board.

I understand that the work you are doing out there is going ahead with good speed and that the results thus far indicate that the transmission of cases to the West Coast for record check is very definitely worth the time and effort it occasions.

Sincerely,

/s/ John J. McCloy

/t/ John J. McCloy

Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt
Commanding General
Western Defense Command & Fourth Army
Presidio of San Francisco, California

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