

SECRET

Rec'd 30 June 1944

Authority NND 730027
By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

201 Bonesteel, C.H.

X201 McClay, J.J.

27 June 1944

Major General Charles H. Bonesteel
Commanding General, Western Defense Command
Presidio of San Francisco, California

Dear General Bonesteel:

As you are doubtless aware, your predecessor, General Emmons, had prepared a detailed plan for returning a substantial number of the evacuated Japanese-Americans to the West Coast. Although the President did not approve this plan, at the time it was considered he did indicate that it would be advisable for the War Relocation Authority, in connection with its general relocation program, to determine with great discretion how many Japanese families would be acceptable to public opinion in definite localities on the West Coast. The President was of the opinion that, with this safeguard, a portion of the Japanese who had formerly lived on the West Coast could be permitted to return, provided the return was not too sudden nor in too great quantities at any one time.

For your information I am attaching copies of correspondence which I have recently had with Mr. Fortas, the Under Secretary of the Interior. It is apparent from this correspondence that two principal questions are raised. The first is whether or not any publicity shall be given to the program and the second is on what basis and by whom shall the determination be made as to which evacuees shall be permitted to return. This latter question presents a serious question of coordinating the work of your Civil Affairs Division with that of the War Relocation Authority. The question of local acceptance is, of course, one which the War Relocation Authority is best fitted to determine. On the other hand, in view of your responsibility for security in the Western Defense Command, you are naturally concerned with who shall be permitted to return to the West Coast. And in view of your authority under Executive Order No. 9066 you will have to grant the exemption which permits them to return.

I would appreciate it very much if you could let me have your ideas sometime in the very near future as to the questions raised in these letters and indicate how you think the best way would be of working out this problem. Naturally, this matter

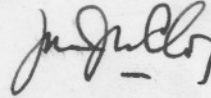


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should be kept secret until the plans are fairly well worked out and the determination has been made as to whether any publicity is to be given them.

Sincerely,



Enc.

- CC ltr 26 Jun 44 Mr. McCloy to Mr. Fortas
- CC ltr 21 Jun 44 Mr. Fortas to Mr. McCloy
and enc - cy President's memorandum 12 Jun 44
- CC ltr 20 Jun 44 Mr. McCloy to Mr. Fortas
- Cy ltr 16 Jun 44 Mr. Fortas to Mr. McCloy
and enc - suggested press release by Gen. Emmons.

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REF ID: A61703

26 June 1944

Honorable Abe Fortas
Under Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fortas:

This is in reply to your letter of June 21, 1944. I have read the President's memorandum with a great deal of interest and I appreciate your sending it to me.

The position which I took in my letter in which I questioned the advisability of the War Department issuing a release on this matter was based solely on what I believe to be the President's wishes. If he instructs us that he has no objection to a release of this kind, naturally we will be glad to issue one describing the program which is to be put into effect.

I am a little concerned by your suggestion that if the War Department does not agree to issue a release of this kind, the War Relocation Authority will proceed on the assumption that there will be no relocation on the West Coast. I do not believe the President contemplated that the alternatives should be so sharply contrasted, and it occurs to me that your argument is really with him rather than with the War Department. It would seem to me to be quite possible to carry out the suggestion which he makes in paragraph 2 of his memorandum without a public release; in fact, the very use of the term "with very great discretion" in his memorandum seems to me to imply he did not contemplate that any release be issued.

In your letter you also raise the question as to whether or not we approve all the other items of your memorandum of June 16 with the exception of the public release and the other suggestions made in my letter of June 20. I believe you will agree that the other items in your memorandum are so closely tied up with the question as to what public stand is taken on this question that it is hard to either agree or disagree with them until the issue of the public release is settled.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

JUN 21 1944

SECRET

Hon. John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
War Department.

My dear Jack:

In reply to your memorandum of June 20, I am sending for your personal and confidential information a copy of the President's memorandum of June 12, 1944.

In view of your reservation regarding the suggested press release, it would seem that the War Relocation Authority has only one alternative and that is to proceed with their program as it is now operating carrying out the relocation job in other parts of the country and assume that there will neither be a change in policy regarding the West Coast nor an announcement by the War Department of certain actions that have already been taken, but which have not been announced to the general public. Of course, we will be glad to supply any information that will be helpful to the War Department in carrying out any policies that may be determined upon in relation to the evacuated area.

The War Relocation Authority agrees that the matter of community sentiment should be considered in the relocation in the evacuated area as it has been throughout the rest of the country. It should be pointed out, however, that the major factor in relation to checking community sentiment on the West Coast is an announcement by the War Department that military necessity no longer requires exclusion. Until some such announcement can be made, the War Relocation Authority is in no position to check community sentiment in relation to the return of specific evacuees. If the War Relocation Authority were to do this, we would immediately be charged with trying to bootleg evacuees into the area.

I am wondering, after reading your memorandum of June 20, whether we can assume that you approve all other items of our memorandum of June 16 excepting the recommendation that a news item be released. We believe, of course, that the War Department will go just as far as it possibly can in carrying out suggestions that we have made in order that we can ultimately look toward the reestablishment of the evacuees in their rightful homes, if they care to return, just as soon as the War Department feels that it can make an announcement lifting the military restrictions. So that there will be no misunderstanding, I should like to make clear that the decision to make no public announcement gives the War Relocation Authority no basis for

handling administrative problems at the centers. The War Relocation Authority will need to continue to say to both the evacuees and the general public that all matters relating to evacuated areas are still a matter of policy controlled by the military, and that so far as the Authority knows there is no other policy than that which has been in existence for the past several months; namely, complete exclusion from the evacuated area.

If individuals are allowed to return in the meantime without some announced policy, the position necessarily taken by the War Relocation Authority may lead people to question whether the Authority is keeping fully informed, and I am sure there will be charges that the War Relocation Authority is trying to evade the Army policy.

I shall be glad to have your further comments after you have read the President's memorandum.

Sincerely yours,

SGD. Abe Fortas

Abe Fortas,
Under Secretary.

Enclosure.

SECRET

20 June 1944

Honorable Abe Fortas
Under Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fortas:

This is in reply to your letter of June 16, 1944, setting forth a proposed program with respect to persons of Japanese ancestry. I agree generally with the suggestions outlined in your letter, although I will not be in a position to be more specific until I have read the President's memorandum of June 12, 1944. I do have certain suggestions based on the conversation which I had on this problem with the President, but I would appreciate it if you could send me a copy of his memorandum so that I can reply in greater detail.

When I discussed this matter with the President, he expressed a view that in carrying out any program for the relocation of evacuees in the excluded area, care should be taken to determine in advance that there will be local acceptance of the evacuees in the region to which they are to be returned. I believe it is necessary that provision to this effect should be included in any statement of a program which is drawn up on this question.

It was also quite clear that the President wished that the program be only one of very gradual relaxation rather than any substantial or sudden increase in the number of evacuees who should be permitted to return. He was also clear that there should not be any publicity, lest local prejudices be excited and the whole matter again become the subject for public debate. For that reason I do not think it would be advisable for the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command to issue any release on this question. Even if a release were to be issued I think that there might be some difficulty with the proposed release which you enclosed. The proposed release indicates that permits are being granted to families of Japanese-Americans in the armed forces. Although I believe that this category provides a sensible starting point from which to proceed in determining the issue of local acceptance, I believe it should be pointed

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Authority NND 730027By MA NARA Date 5/24/89

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out that the number of people in this category is considerably greater than the number which it is contemplated should be permitted to return and for that reason it might be inadvisable to mention this group in a release.

(SIGNED)

John J. McCloy

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

The more I think of this problem of suddenly ending the orders excluding Japanese Americans from the West Coast the more I think it would be a mistake to do anything drastic or sudden.

As I said at Cabinet, I think the whole problem, for the sake of internal quiet, should be handled gradually, i.e., I am thinking of two methods:

(a) Seeing, with great discretion, how many Japanese families would be acceptable to public opinion in definite localities on the West Coast. #3

(b) Seeking to extend greatly the distribution of other families in many parts of the United States. I have been talking to a number of people from the Coast and they are all in agreement that the Coast would be willing to receive back a portion of the Japanese who were formerly there---nothing sudden and not in too great quantities at any one time.

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Authority NND 730027

By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Also, in talking to people from the Middle West, the East and the South, I am sure that there would be no bitterness if they were distributed -- one or two families to each county as a start. Dissemination and distribution constitute a great method of avoiding public outcry.

Why not proceed seriously along the above line --- for a while at least? } #

"F.D.R."

F. D. R.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON.

June 16, 1944

SECRET

Hon. John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
War Department.

My dear Mr. McCloy:

1. As you know, I believe that the military orders which now require the exclusion of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific coast of the United States should be revoked. This is also the official view of the Department of the Interior and the War Relocation Authority.

2. In view of the President's memorandum of June 12, 1944, to the Secretary of the Interior and the Under Secretary of State, and of his discussion with you, revocation of the exclusion orders cannot be put into effect at this time.

3. After having considered the situation in light of the requirements of the President's memorandum, the Department of the Interior and the War Relocation Authority propose the following program:

- (a) The War Relocation Authority will intensify its efforts to relocate loyal evacuees into communities outside the excluded areas. It recognizes that its efforts in this direction will be limited to some extent by the continued exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the coastal area. As you know, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the question raised throughout the country as to why evacuees who have been selected as to loyalty are considered safe for relocation everywhere except in their places of former residence.
- (b) With respect to the excluded area, the President's memorandum constitutes an authorization slightly to increase the return of evacuees to the excluded area.
- (c) In order to carry out the requirements of the President's memorandum in an orderly fashion, taking into account problems of relocation throughout the country and problems of relocation center administration, as well as the problem of securing proper distribution and a general acceptance of a slight increase in the number of evacuees returning to the coastal area, we believe the Army should issue a statement outlining the policy it has followed in the past and proposes to follow in the future in the issuance of individual permits to return.

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In general, this statement should discuss the number and categories of evacuees to whom individual permits to reside in the evacuated area have been issued by the Army during the period since exclusion was ordered. As an indication of the type of statement we believe should be made, we have attached a proposed press release to be issued by General Emmons perhaps at the time he leaves the Western Defense Command to accept his new assignment.

- (d) In order to protect the program of relocation in areas outside the excluded area, the Army will exercise extreme care to see that no information is given out officially or unofficially that would convey the impression that the Army is reexamining the loyalty of evacuees, or that would in any other way impeach the soundness and adequacy of the WRA leave clearance procedures. The Army may wish to assert that the persons to whom permits are issued have been thoroughly investigated as to loyalty, but should not discuss how or by whom loyalty checks are made, or convey the impression that a judgment as to loyalty is the basis for denying a permit.
- (e) The War Relocation Authority will designate its Assistant Director in charge of the Western Field Office in San Francisco to maintain liaison with the Western Defense Command on all questions arising in connection with the return of evacuees to the coast. I should like to request that the San Francisco Office of the War Relocation Authority be kept informed of the categories of evacuees whose applications for return are being given favorable consideration, and that it be supplied the names of all evacuees who apply for permits at the time the applications are received, and a notification of the decision reached in each case.

In summary, we construe the President's decision to require that emphasis in the handling of the Japanese-American problem continue to be placed upon relocation of the evacuees into areas outside the excluded area of the Pacific coast. We understand it to permit some slight increase in the number of persons given individual permits to return to the evacuated area, but not to permit any major change in policy. The program we have outlined in this letter is intended to conform with the President's decision. If you agree with these suggestions, I should appreciate your indicating your approval by signing a copy of this letter and returning it to me.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ ABE FORTAS
Under Secretary.

Enclosure:

Approved:

John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

SUGGESTED DRAFT OF PRESS RELEASE BY GENERAL EMMONS

A total of _____ persons of Japanese ancestry have been granted individual permits to reside in the West Coast evacuated area since September 1943, Lieut. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, indicated today.

Reporting on the activities of the Western Defense Command during his tenure as commanding officer, General Emmons pointed out that he has continued the policy adopted by his predecessor, Lieut. Gen. John L. DeWitt, of granting such permits in individual cases where circumstances warrant. As the dangers of attack or invasion on the West Coast have been reduced through military and naval actions in the Pacific, the Western Defense Command has gradually been giving favorable consideration to an increasing number of cases.

Permits are being granted, General Emmons explained, particularly to the wives and husbands of Caucasians, to the families of Japanese Americans in the armed forces, and to a variety of "special hardship" cases. The policy of granting individual permits, which was adopted in 1942 while the evacuated people of Japanese descent were in assembly centers under Army jurisdiction, will continue in effect until further notice.

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Authority NND 730027

By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

15 June 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commanding General.

SUBJECT : Proposal to Rescind Executive Order 9066.

1. Pursuant to telephonic instructions from the Assistant Secretary of War (see transcript of telephone conversation No. 226, 13 June 1944, between Colonel Watson and Mr. McCloy; and No. 225, 12 June 1944, between CG, WDC, and Mr. McCloy), comment is submitted upon the suggestion that in connection with any modification of the existing exclusion program the following action be taken:

a. Rescind Presidential Executive Order No. 9066, basic Proclamations Nos. 1 and 2, this command, and the ancillary and amendatory proclamations to Nos. 1 and 2.

b. Issue a new Executive Order and Proclamation under which the modified exclusion program would be effected.

2. The benefit contemplated is that any legal attacks on the new procedure would be directed against the new Executive Order and its subsidiary proclamations and that persons questioning the new procedure might be required first to exhaust the administrative remedies therein provided before the courts would act, thus providing additional time before a court decision for the development of the new exclusion program. The placing of the new program under a new Executive Order, it is argued, would avoid an adverse decision on Executive Order No. 9066 and the validity of action taken under Executive Order No. 9066 would not be affected by a decision on the new program.

3. There are certain material considerations against the proposed action.

a. Executive Order No. 9066, Proclamations Nos. 1 and 2, this headquarters, and Public Law 503 were upheld by the Supreme Court in the Hirabayashi case on the ground that they formed part of a single program and were an exercise of the joint war powers of Congress and the President. (320 US 81, 1943). The issuance of a new executive order would be an exercise of the presidential war power alone and this question, namely, the power of the President acting alone to authorize a military commander to exercise control over civilians, was expressly reserved by the court in the Hirabayashi case. Furthermore, it is important to retain, as far as possible, the support which that decision lends to the original exclusion and the ancillary relocation program. While the decision was limited to the validity of curfew orders as applied to persons of Japanese ancestry, yet the reasoning of the case can most effectively be used in support of an exclusion program based upon Executive Order No. 9066, Proclamations Nos. 1

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Memorandum for Commanding General (cont'd)

and 2, and Public Law 503.

b. An adverse decision probably would concern only the particular action taken by the military commander under Executive Order No. 9066 and would not be directed against the Order itself.

c. A new proclamation revising the exclusion procedure, but issued pursuant to Executive Order 9066, would have the advantage of being grounded upon an order already upheld by the Supreme Court, while an attack upon a proclamation based on a new Executive Order, would call for a decision upon the validity of the underlying order.

d. At this time, when the military situation on the Pacific Coast has very materially improved, a strong objection to the proposal may be made on psychological grounds. As noted, the exclusion program, based upon Executive Order 9066, Proclamations Nos. 1 and 2, this headquarters, and Public Law 503, was inferentially upheld in the Hirabayashi case. Any procedure seeking to relax the exclusion restrictions would be more readily upheld by the courts where it appeared such relaxation was a logical development of the original exclusion program which had been approved. On the other hand, a new Executive Order and Proclamation, setting up a new procedure, would appear as an entirely new system of control over the excludees. The courts' consideration of this apparently new system, under conditions now existing, would undoubtedly be far more critical.

JOEL F. WATSON
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Staff Judge Advocate.

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Authority NND 730027

By MA NARA Date 9/13/05

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HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND730027
By MA NARA Date 5/24/89

#226
13 June 44
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Transcription of telephone conversation between Colonel WATSON and Mr. McCLOY, WD.

W: This is Colonel Watson, sir. I believe I am to talk to you about two proposals that have been made. One was to rescind the old Executive Order, 9066, and the other to rescind all of the old proclamations, and then the exclusion orders in connection with them. Now I have given it some thought overnight and I can't see very much in the way of material advantage. Very slight advantage as far as I can see. Of course, as to proclamations, there would be some simplification involved. It seems to me that it is more than offset by some very affirmative advantage that I think we would lose because of the position of the Supreme Court in the Hirabayashi case where they approved the Executive Order and proclamations and held that it was all a part of one program which Congress had adopted through the passage of the 503, Public Law 503. If you recall, our first two proclamations were the 2nd and 16th of March and the 503 Act was the 21st, I believe, so they had before them the declarations and the findings and the predictions that were made in those two proclamations. Now, we lose a very affirmative advantage there, I think, if we throw all that overboard and try to start new. Moreover, there is a psychological advantage in treating this matter, it seems to me, as a reduction or a relaxation of an existing program rather than wiping it out and starting it over.

M: Well, I'll tell you right now. You don't need to go any further, Colonel. I saw the President this afternoon and he made it perfectly clear that's the line he wanted to take.

W: What I have just suggested?

M: The reduction and relaxation rather than anything else and he was very doubtful about the relaxation so that's settled, but what is not settled--or rather, I hope it may be settled too--that certainly we can't go along the line, as he puts it, of any publicity at this point. He doesn't want, in other words, to stir up the California situation and he wants to reinvigorate the distribution in the other areas, then relax on modifications from time to time on the introduction of people in California and communities where we know we'll accept them on a very small scale.

from mass to individual

W: A gradual shifting over /, but very gradual. Mr. Secretary, the General would like to speak to you on this phone. Are you through with me.

M: Yes, that's it. I'll tell you what you might do, you might can this, Colonel, by sending me a memo of what you think that legal situation they made is because we might have to face it again.

W: On this point we just talked about, yes, sir. I'll get up a memorandum, Sir.

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By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

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Page #2 Telcon between Colonel Watson and Mr. McCloy.

M: If you will give me a memorandum we will have it "canned" so that we can use it in the event where we come to some other procedure.

W: You will have the ammunition right there.

M: That's right.

W: Yes, sir, we will do that. Thank you, sir.

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CWD

PMB

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND
 OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
 PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

#227

13 June 44

2300Z

jjb

Telephone conversation between General EMMONS and Mr. McCloy, Asst Secy of War.

M: I just came from the President a little while ago--keep this to yourself--he put thumbs down on this scheme. He wants to reinvigorate the distribution in the rest of the country and it is all right, he said, to introduce some very gradually as a relaxation of the general program into California but to do it on a very gradual basis and nothing like the scheme that we have in mind. He was surrounded at that moment by his political advisors and they were harping hard that this would stir up the boys in California and California, I guess, is an important state.

E: Oh, yes. It may be the West state.

M: And he said if we are going to say,--well, he didn't say that, his advisors did and he went along by saying all right it may be relaxed but do it on a very gradual basis and let in individuals in communities you know will accept them but do it on a rather that type of thing than a general lowering down of the bars which I feel that, after all, our scheme is that.

E: Yes, that is that and we are doing it in a logical way while we have time but that is all right

M: He won't let us go ahead on any such large scale, reintroductions.

E: All right, sir, then we can drop that. Now, suppose I wait a day before I report my availability to the CPD because they may change their minds.

M: Yes, they may.

E: I'll call you tomorrow, sir, and if there is nothing changed, then I'll tell them that I'm available to go.

M: Okay.

E: Thank you.

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OSD Col. 3-May 72
 By col NARS Date 6/8/23

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C O P Y

WASHINGTON, JUNE 13--(UP)--PRESENT RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE RETURN OF PERSONS OF JAPENSE ANCESTRY TO PACIFIC COAST AREAS HAVE NOT BEEN LIFTED AND ANY FUTURE POLICY CHANGES WILL "HINGE ENTIRELY ON CHANGES IN THE MILITARY SITUATION," ACCORDING TO SECRETARY OF WAR HENRY L. STIMSON.

IN A LETTER DATED JUNE 7, STIMSON TOLD REP. JOHN Z. ANDERSON, R., CAL., THAT "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT AT THIS TIME WHEN THE WAR DEPARTMENT ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION WILL WARRANT THEIR RETURN TO THE WEST COAST."

THE POLICY OF EXCLUDING ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY, STIMSON SAID, WAS BASED ON THE "IMPOSSIBILITY" OF DETERMINING QUICKLY THEIR INDIVIDUAL LOYALTY. THE GENERAL ECLUSION POLICY, HOWEVER, IS "UNDER CONSTANT STUDY," HE ADDED.

IN ANOTHER LETTER, ANDERSON WAS INFORMED BY DIRECTOR DILLON S. MYER OF THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN "A FEW INSTANCES IN WHICH PERMISSION TO RETURN" TO THE WEST COAST HAS BEEN GRANTED TO EVACUEES.

SECRET

11 June 1944

*Final draft submitted
to CG-12 June 44
AM.*

MEMO TO: Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Statement to press re proclamation affecting Japanese.

1. Attached is the draft of a possible statement to the press on the above subject.
2. This draft has the approval of WDC's CAD and JA.
3. It is recommended that the statement be released simultaneously with the proclamation for these reasons:
 - a. A statement announcing that a proclamation is going to be issued rather than has been issued, would precipitate a flood of calls from the press and other agencies, especially interested federal, state, county and municipal authorities, and others, asking for the exact date of issuance.
 - b. Persons opposed to the proclamation would immediately start active political pressure to have it stopped. Such action would include telephone and telegraph protests to the White House, government departments in Washington, Western Senators and Representatives and others — to say nothing of possible annoying calls to this Headquarters.
4. It is believed that announcement of a fait accompli, with fullest possible details, as embodied in the attached statement, would reduce activity listed in 3a and 3b above to a minimum.
5. If the statement is approved, perhaps with such modifications as may be deemed desirable, it is recommended in order to safeguard its contents from premature disclosure that:
 - a. It be released first to the San Francisco wire services, newspapers and radio stations at about 1000 PWT of the day of distribution for use beginning at a designated hour that same day, say 1200 PWT, and that this be followed by mail distribution to all other newspapers and agencies on the CAD's list. This list includes all the daily papers and the more important weekly papers in the WDC area.
6. For the same reason outlined in 5 above, it is recommended that distribution of the proclamation itself to federal, state, county and municipal agencies and elsewhere be not started until the statement to the press has been delivered in San Francisco.
7. To assure widest local, regional and national distribution of the statement, it is recommended that it be distributed as early as possible in the week (but not on Sunday) and in no event later than a Friday.

M.H.
Asst G-2 (PRO).**SECRET****SECRET**

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The Western Defense Command today rescinded its exclusion restrictions against persons of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty to the United States has been established beyond reasonable doubt.

Rescission was in the form of a proclamation issued with War Department concurrence by Lieutenant General Delos C. Emmons, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, and permits that carefully investigated excludées of Japanese ancestry who desire to do so may, in a controlled and supervised manner, return to their former homes on the Pacific Coast.

"American democratic principles for which we are fighting," General Emmons said in a statement accompanying the proclamation, "require that restrictions on persons of Japanese ancestry be removed as soon as consistent with military security.

"The military situation which required the evacuation of such persons from the prohibited coastal area of the Western Defense Command in 1942 has now improved to the extent that it is no longer necessary for the security of the Pacific Coast to prohibit the return of those who are loyal to the United States."

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The Western Defense Command has already rescinded restrictions against persons of German and Italian ancestry whose loyalty to the United States has been established beyond reasonable doubt.

Loyalty of persons of Japanese ancestry allowed to return, General Emmons said, will have been determined by a screening board made up of representatives of the War Department, the Navy Department, the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior.

Applications for return will be made to the War Relocation Authority which will submit them to the Western Defense Command.

Persons whose applications are granted will be returned by the War Relocation Authority to those areas from which they were excluded.

Persons whose applications are denied will, upon request, be given a hearing at which they may present evidence in their own behalf.

It is impossible at this time, General Emmons said, to estimate the number of Japanese who may re-enter the prohibited area under the provisions of the proclamation.

The proclamation also reduced the area of the Western Defense Command which will continue prohibited to persons who are considered dangerous

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or potentially dangerous. The prohibited area, as reduced, consists of approximately those portions of the coastal states lying west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains in Washington and Oregon, and west of the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California.

Heretofore the prohibited area consisted of approximately the western half of Washington and Oregon, all of California, and a border strip of Arizona extending from California to New Mexico.

General Emmons, in his statement, continued:

"Exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from vital areas of the Western Defense Command was dictated by military necessity and was accomplished at a time when the Pacific Coast was in danger of not only attack but actual invasion. Suspicious pro-Japanese activities, coupled with insufficient intelligence information, made it impossible to determine the loyalty of such persons.

"The Army's mission on the Pacific Coast is the defense of life and property against our enemies. Certain unprecedented steps have been essential to the accomplishment of that mission. Now that the military situation in the Pacific has so materially improved, I believe it is in the national interest to remove as many restrictions as possible consistent

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with security.

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Authority NWD 730027
By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

"During the last two years the intelligence agencies of the United States have been engaged in an intensive examination of the subversive activities of persons of Japanese ancestry. Upon the information developed, it is now possible to measure with reasonable certainty the potential danger of such individuals to military security, thereby furnishing a basis for determining which persons might be permitted to return to the Coast.

"Therefore, with the concurrence of the War Department, I am issuing a proclamation advising the public in general that the cases of all persons heretofore excluded from the vital areas of the Western Defense Command are being reviewed by me with the assistance of a board composed of qualified civilian and military personnel.

"All of those persons who are no longer considered potentially dangerous to the security of the West Coast will be permitted to return under individual permits issued by me. Decisions in each case will be based upon the information presented by the security agencies. Cases of American citizens of Japanese ancestry will, insofar as practicable, be given priority in consideration.

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Authority NND 730027
By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

"The relocation of Japanese will continue to be the responsibility of the War Relocation Authority, a civilian agency. Applications of persons for permission to return to the evacuated areas must be submitted to that agency. Japanese whose applications for return are denied, will upon request be given a hearing at which they may present evidence in their own behalf.

"It is realized that many citizens are opposed to the return of Japanese to the coastal states, at least until the unconditional surrender of Japan. I urge these citizens to bear two things in mind:

"Firstly: We are dealing with many Japanese who are loyal American citizens and who are giving their full support in the fight for American democratic principles.

"Secondly: Any action or demonstrations by an individual against Japanese permitted to return might result in retaliatory action against Americans who are now prisoners of war of Japan."

General Emmons, in amplifying his statement that it is impossible to estimate the number of Japanese who may re-enter the coastal area

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