

Authority MPD730027
By PT NARA Date 9/14/05

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE ONLY

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MSG CEN NO | HOW SENT
081836

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(CLASSIFICATION)

DATE 8 December 1942

NO. _____

(URGENT _____)
(OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES _____)
(PRIORITY _____)
(ROUTINE _____ ROUTINE)
(DEFERRED _____ 014.31)

2011 SEND THE FOLLOWING
8-e WDG/B1

M I S
G-2
WAR DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

~~SENT IN CONFIDENTIAL CODE~~

NUMBER 1461 AT 081730 ZED DECEMBER. INFORMATION FROM KNOWN RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATES PRO-JAPANESE AGITATION BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ISSEI AND KIBEI AT THE GILA RIVER WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY AT RIVERS, ARIZONA, WHICH DEVELOPING FROM AN UNDERCURRENT OF TENSION FINALLY CULMINATED IN OPEN DISORDER DURING THE PAST WEEK. CHOTA B. HIROKANI, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE ISSEI (PRO-AXIS) GROUP AND A MEMBER OF THE ISSEI JAPANESE DRAMATIC CLUB, IS IN JAIL FOR FELONIOUSLY ASSAULTING ANOTHER JAPANESE, GROWING OUT OF AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED BY REASON OF ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENTS MADE BY HIROKANI. ON THE NIGHT OF 6 DECEMBER, A JAPANESE FLAG WAS PLACED ON A BUTTE OVERLOOKING THE CAMP AND WHILE AT BREAKFAST 7 DECEMBER, A NUMBER OF JAPANESE WERE HEARD SINGING SONGS WHICH EXALTED THE VIRTUES OF THE JAPANESE ARMY. NO VIOLENCE IS EXPECTED AND IT IS BELIEVED THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL. A FULL INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE FBI WHICH HAS JURISDICTION IN ALL WRA CAMPS WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRO-JAPANESE LEADERS.

~~SENT IN CONFIDENTIAL CODE~~

Sent 1854 Z

WECKERLING
G-2 WDC & FOURTH ARMY

OFFICIAL:

JOHN WECKERLING
Colonel, G.S.C.,
A. C. of S., G-2

DEC 8 1942 11 32 AM



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Arrest of Japanese Internees (Continued)

To: CG, WDC & 4th Army

Arrested by Camp #2 Police and turned over to Sheriff of Yuma County on assault charges:

TADAO HASEGAWA	207 - 2 - B
TETSUO INOKUCHI	214 - 6 - B
GEORGE INOUE	207 - 2 - B
MITSUO KURIMOTO	216 - 8 - A
MIYOSHI MATSUDA	211 - 14 - D
YASUNORI TANAKA	227 - 6 - D
JAMES TOYA	211 - 5 - A
KATARU URAEE	220 - 5 - D

The above men signed confessions prepared both in English and Japanese to being guilty of the assault.

6. The 323rd MP Escort Guard Company provided custodial guard for and fed all prisoners due to the necessity of getting them out of the camp area and also due to lack of facilities for caring for them at the evacuation camp. The Company provided one truck and a driver and an assistant driver to transport the nine men arrested by the FBI to Phoenix, the guarding of the prisoners being taken care of by the F.B.I.

7. Checking with W.R.A. authorities late Sunday afternoon shows all quiet with no indications of pending trouble. The 323rd MP Escort Guard Company is being held in readiness for any further call.

Distribution:

Orig. and 2 copies to CG, WDC & 4th Army
 One copy to Major Hughes, Phoenix
 One copy to CO, SSD
 One copy to CG, HNSC
 One copy to File



H. R. HOLM
 Capt., CMP
 Commanding

NO. WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND
 AND FOURTH ARMY

FEB 3 1943



FEB 3 1943 2 45 PM

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HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

#401 SM

X201- 1640Z November 24, 1942

Transcript of telephone conversation between General DeWITT, commanding WDC and Fourth Army and Mr. McCLOY, Assistant Secretary of War.

General DeWitt. Good morning, Mr. Secretary. I just wanted to tell you that - about the situation in Arizona at the relocation camp at Poston. The papers carried a news report this morning as given out by the manager, Mr. Head, that troops were used.

Mr. McCloy. I saw it here.

D. Well, troops were not used. The only way we used troops was that they increased the patrols around the perimeter, but no troops went in. The situation has not yet been settled. The situation has been eased. Certain individuals have gone back to work but the work project as a whole - the Japs have not gone back to work, but I called up - - -. I get a daily report from the company commander of the Military Police Company there and he telephoned this morning: "Troops positively were not used in any way." He has merely established a patrol around the perimeter and prevented Japs from entering and leaving, but they have taken no action whatever and he was at a loss to understand the statement made by the manager that troops were used. They are holding another meeting now and they hope to settle it by tomorrow; but I will tell you one thing, Mr. Secretary (I dropped you a note this morning), the pro-Japanese element in all these camps is gaining ascendancy and in my letter (I sent you a copy of one I sent in to the Chief of Staff) - I sent you the copy and I am recommending that some definite action be taken to get these ~~people~~ out and segregate them. They are causing the trouble.

Kibei

M. I am sure that we ought to segregate. I am convinced of it.

D. They are going around in that camp throwing milk bottles at the management, waving Japanese flags, the management has just lost control right straight along. They apparently haven't got the force to enforce it and, of course, a show of troops would stop things, but I don't want to put troops in.

M. Have you talked to Meyer yet?

D. I haven't. He is still in Salt Lake as far as I know. As a matter of fact, Head just got back from Salt Lake, I mean the manager of that camp, he just got in yesterday.

M. I am calling - - I am going to call up - -

D. I haven't talked to Mr. Meyer. I didn't want to talk to him. I thought possibly he would come out.

M. He is coming out to the coast and he wants to talk to you when he gets there.

D. I would like to talk to him.

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Page 2. General DeWitt and Mr. McCloy. 11/24/42.

M. I'm going to call the people here in his absence, because we feel very strongly that that solution isn't going to be solved until they segregate.

D. No, as a matter of fact, it is going to be worse each time, because the way they are apparently settling these things - I am waiting for a complete report from the officer I sent there when he gets back - but the way they are settling these things is giving in to the Japs. Now, each time they do that they make that pro-Jap element stronger.

M. They give in to the pro-Jap element.

D. That's it, and the pro-Jap element controls all the others by intimidation. Now, we had one Jap there that volunteered to go to this intelligence school. We had to take him out of the camp and put him in the Military Police barracks to prevent him being beaten up, and then they threaten their families. They say: "If you do this, we are going to beat your family up." So each time it is settled on the basis of giving in to them, they get stronger and each time it is going to be worse, In other words, it is getting out of hand all the time and the only answer to it is to take the Kibei and put them somewhere by themselves.

M. I think there is no doubt about it. I am going to tell these fellows that this morning very strongly. I have written to them two or three times.

D. In this letter I have sent you I have reiterated again and emphasized the necessity for it.

M. All right, sir.

D. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. Goodbye.

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Authority NPD730027

By PI NARA Date 9/14/05

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X201 Ewman

Record #55 & 56
Colonel Bendetsen & Capt. McFadden
11-23-42 Time 5.35
K. Russell

SUBJECT: Parker Riot

McF Can you hear me? This call was put in over Mr. Head's phone and that is the reason it came in as Mr. Head; he was not trying to call you?

B I see, I thought perhaps he was, but I stood by from 4.30 on

McF Well we are trying or having an awful time trying to get the calls out of here and in here, Colonel as you may know.

B Now can you speak louder?

McF Yes, is that better? The situation in here is still quiet the crowd around the jail is smaller; camps two and three are unanimous in support of the administration and they are all at work.

B Camps two and three are unanimous in the support of the administration and they are all at work, there was no strike at those camps. Is that correct?

McF That is correct sir. A few people here at No. 1, have returned to work individually, and all who do return are being required to reapply for work cards.

B I see, in other words except for the operation of the mess halls the hospital, the fire department and so forth the strike is still in progress although a few individuals, on an individual basis only, are returning to work if they reapply for work.

McF Correct. The MP's have returned around the center/^{as directed}and have the situation well in hand; there have been no incidents.

B There have been no incidents whatever today or any involving the military police and as I understand you they are disposed around the center as directed.

McF Correct.

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- B Very well.
- McF Mr. Head and part of his staff met this afternoon/and with ^{at 3 oclock} an executive committee of 12, made up from the committee of 72 who are now representing the camp regarding a settlement of the strike. They have not yet returned from that meeting.
- B Mr. Head and his staff who are meeting with a committee of 12 who are representing the Japanese council of 72 are in conference with regard to a strike settlement and they have not yet ended the conference and you have had no report?
- McF Right.
- B Correct, go ahead.
- McF I believe the general attitude of myself and the administration is that a final solution will demand the moving and segregation of some 150 to 200 evacuees with their families who have been active in an anti-jap movement.
- B Mr. Head concludes with his staff that a final settlement will involve the necessity of segregating with their families some 100 or 150 persons active in the militant pro-japan movement.
- I don't think you should in any way participate in those considerations but only record what they have in mind. I didn't gather that you are, but I wisd to state that I don't think you should.
- McF Yes sir, they had requested as to whether there are any facilities
-
- B Well that is something for WRA to determine, ho ever if they have a request to make, that should be submitted thru the regional office here and you should reflect what they want in your report so that you can give us a full background on it.
- McF All right sir, Major Dykes, is still here and will remain until some settlement is agreed on.
- B I see.
- McF The present MP company is sufficient but if any other move is made then additional constabulary might be required.
- B And if, at the present time it is the opinion of Major Dykes, the Commander of the MP's and yourself, that the present company is sufficient and that if there is any change in the situation re-

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B quiring any additional, this headquarters will be immediately informed.

McF Right.

B Very well.

McF I have a list of 11 of the 12 men, members of that committee they are meeting with this afternoon and Mr. Head wanted whatever information your headquarters had on them.

B Can you send it up on the teletype?

McF I believe we could yes,

B I don't think the connection is good enough to get it over the phone if they are Japanese names.

McF They are Japanese names, yes, and

B When you send it, will you ask the staff there to give us the WCCA family unit number?

McF The WCCA family unit number, yes sir I will.

B That will simplyfy and expedite the search.

McF I'll try and get those and send them with the numbers; with names and WCCA numbers, the family unit numbers, with a reference as to why they are coming in?

B That's right, and direct the wire to my attendance I mean attention in accordance with telephone conversation.

McF Mr. Head would like to have any information back as soon as possible.

B Very well we will look into our files on it and you need not say anything in the message about why you are asking for it or why it is transmitted. Go ahead, are you thru?

McF No that is about all sir.

B Now there has been some talk here, to the effect that the demonstrators who participated in the action to prevent turning over the two men to Arizona authorities were motivated by some feeling that they had been promised the right to do their own punishing of any recalcitrants or offenders amongst themselves, and that they wanted to punish these two people but would not allow their release and stood in the way of it because they

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B that the so called promise had not been fulfilled; have you heard anything about that?

McF Nothing definite, some rumors.

B Well be very discreet about it, we are not taking any position, one way or the other because that is an interior administrative problem, but if you can dig that up, as discreetly as you can, but as completely as you can, as feasible, I wish you would.

McF I'll try Colonel

B I'm rather of the view that the report you made yesterday and the others that I've had, to the effect that this was inspired by the militantly pro-japan group who were trying to intimidate and so forth, and they were merely trying to get their friends out of the clink.

McF I think they were trying to seize this opportunity, or the first opportunity of stirring up trouble.

B Yes, well that looks more like it; but anything you can get on both or either side of the story of course we would like to have the facts.

McF Yes sir.

B How are you coming?

McF Very well, it will take a little more time though, maybe another day or two.

B Well I see, now do you need anything down there, any assistance from us?

McF I don't believe so sir.

B Because if you do I want to see that you get it.

McF I'll call on you for anything I may need sir.

B I see, is there anything we can do for you up here?

McF No sir, other than getting this information for Mr. Head.

B Very well if you send that along in a teletype with the family numbers we will dig it up for you. The situation is all quiet? If there are any recommendations that the military police commander has he should make them to this headquarters.

McF He should make them to this headquarters, yes sir.

B Yes, to the C. G. WDC.

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War Department
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE
751 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, Calif.

Reply

Reference: O-15

August 8, 1942

SUBJECT: Parker Reception Center
Parker, Arizona

TO: B I O, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army
AC of S, G-2, Suite 216
Rowen Building, 458 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, California

It has been reliably reported to this office that the occupants of the Parker Reception Center are deliberately creating fire hazards and wrecking fire protection equipment. It is said that a new fire truck was run from Unit 1 of the Camp to Unit 2, a distance of about three miles, and that the motor "froze" upon arrival at Unit 2. It is further stated that waste paper and excelsior is being thrown under the buildings and that there is evidence of tampering with hand fire extinguishers.

For the District Engineer:

/s/

Curtis T. Ricketts
1st Lt., Corps of Engineers
Protective Security Officer

Sent to WRA

by Messenger by
direction of KRB

EXHIBIT 5

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