

In reply refer to
Initials and No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Op-16-B-7
A3-1(2)/EN3-10
CONFIDENTIAL
Serial 02021/416

14 August 1944

From: Director of Naval Intelligence
To: Distribution List 10r
Subject: Naval Interest and Responsibility in Movement
of Persons of Japanese Ancestry.

1. Responsibility and concurrent authority in regulation and control of the movements and activities of persons of Japanese ancestry have been vested in several Federal Agencies by statute and by executive order.

2. In view of this, it is felt most desirable to emphasize the fact that the Navy has no primary jurisdiction or responsibility over the movements or activities of alien Japanese or American citizens of Japanese ancestry in the United States or its territories, except in the Naval Establishment, Defensive Sea Areas, and, (as result of U.S. Coast Guard jurisdiction,) in connection with the security of harbors, waterfront facilities and shipping. Appropriate Naval authority, such as Naval District Commandants or Naval Sea Frontier Commanders, should direct the attention of those agencies vested with jurisdiction and responsibility to any conditions deemed to endanger naval security.

3. The Office of Naval Intelligence has joint jurisdiction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in investigative matters relating to Japanese, whether alien or citizen, when espionage, counter-espionage, sabotage or subversion is involved. This joint jurisdiction is confined strictly to investigation and in the designated categories. The result of any investigation made by the Naval Intelligence Service, except in situations outlined in paragraph 2, must be turned over to the appropriate Federal authority for action.

4. It is the desire of the Director of Naval Intelligence to cooperate with the other Federal Agencies in this matter to the fullest extent consistent with the responsibility and authority of the Navy. To that end, it is desired that the District Intelligence Officers make such specific name checks of their files as may be requested by the appropriate authority and supply such derogatory information on individuals or groups as has not already been forwarded locally to the Army or to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is assumed that the District Intelligence Officers will immediately

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make available to both Army and the Federal Bureau of Investigation without a specific request any new information pertaining to Japanese which is received.

5. Under no circumstances should a recommendation be made, or an opinion expressed by the District Intelligence Officer as to the desirability of re-admittance of any individual or group of individuals to any areas unless naval responsibility as delineated in paragraph 2 is involved.

6. Because of the regional character of the District Intelligence Officers' file material, it is felt that more effective and prompt service can be rendered by arranging for the designated liaison officer in each district to contact the District Intelligence Officer of that District directly, rather than to attempt coordination through either the Office of Naval Intelligence or an individual District Intelligence Officer. In this way, complete data relative to Japanese will be accessible in the District in which they formerly resided.

/s/ B. F. Perry

B. F. Perry
By direction

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Washington

Op-16-B-7-0
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April 21, 1943

From: The Director of Naval Intelligence.
To : The Distribution List Appended.
Subject: Relocation of Japanese.
Reference: (a) Conf. ltr. from DNI to same addressees,
same subject, dated 3/15/43.

1. In the interval since the distribution of Reference (a), definite progress has been made in the task of relocating those Japanese at present in relocation centers who are deemed to be loyal to the United States. It is hoped that the following description of this progress will provide an answer to questions submitted by certain of the District Intelligence Officers.

2. At the outset it must be noted that the work of relocation is at the moment in such a state of flux that the field representatives of the War Relocation Authority as well as of the various other federal agencies concerned in the matter cannot be expected to keep fully and currently informed on the problem. For this reason it is requested that for the present, whenever any question of policy or any important question on mechanics arises, the District Intelligence Officer concerned will address his inquiry to the Office of Naval Intelligence rather than attempt to find the answer in the field.

3. In order to carry out the directive mentioned in paragraph one of Reference (a), there has been established what is known as the Japanese-American Joint Board, composed of representatives of the War Relocation Authority, the Military Intelligence Service, the Office of the Provost Marshal General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval Intelligence. In addition there has been set up for this immediate task a so-called Japanese Section in the Office of the Provost Marshal General. There already existed, of course, equivalent Japanese Sections in the other federal agencies just mentioned.

4. The procedure currently in effect under the Japanese-American Joint Board involves the following steps:

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(1) Pertinent materials on each individual are assembled in jackets by the Employment Division of the War Relocation Authority and are forwarded, when the case comes up, to the Japanese Section of the P.M.G.O. (Usually the Federal Bureau of Investigation file check results are in the jacket before it reaches the P.M.G.O.)

(2) The Japanese Section of P.M.G.O. processes each case in order to be able to present to the Japanese-American Joint Board a summary analysis chart which permits of rapid evaluation and disposition of the case. This same section also secures an Office of Naval Intelligence file check, and, if one has not already been made, a Federal Bureau of Investigation file search.

(3) The case is then ready for presentation to the Joint Board, which at the present time makes one of several recommendations: (a) for or against the granting of indefinite leave from the relocation center; (b) for or against employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort; or (c) for further investigation before making disposition of the case. This additional investigation may be undertaken by any one of the three investigative agencies or by the P.M.G.O., depending upon the nature of the case. (To expedite matters the cases are presented to the Joint Board in groups; unusual, difficult or border-line cases are treated individually.)

(4) The jacket then goes back either to the War Relocation Authority with the recommendation of the Joint Board or to the P.M.G.O. to initiate further investigation.

5. It is essential to note that the role of the Joint Board is purely advisory and to understand that any given case may be submitted to the Board for reconsideration innumerable times if there exists any basis for reconsideration. It is also essential to note that the Joint Board may recommend that a given evacuee be permitted indefinite leave and yet be barred from employment in war industry; in this latter connection the recommendation of the Joint Board is really the law in the matter because of the present jurisdiction of the War and Navy Departments.

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6. The status of the evacuees who are granted indefinite leave vis-a-vis entrance into the various Defense Commands is not yet clear, but in the case of the Eastern Defense Command at least the Joint Board has been given the authority to indicate for General Drum those Japanese who shall and those who shall not be permitted to move from Relocation Centers into the Eastern Defense Command. For the present, entrance into the Western Defense Command has not even been considered by the Joint Board.

7. The problem of dissemination to the districts of the names of those evacuees granted definite leave was explained in Reference (a). It has been determined that when an evacuee, whether a citizen or alien, departs from a War Relocation Center pursuant to either seasonal work or indefinite leave, a notice of his departure (W.R.A. Form #178) is transmitted to the War Relocation headquarters in Washington as well as to the relocation office in the area to which he is destined. Inasmuch as the Federal Bureau of Investigation has requested that this type of information clear through the Bureau, the War Relocation Authority is desirous of the Naval Intelligence Service using the same system. Until further notice, then, the District Intelligence Offices may expect to receive notices of indefinite leave from the War Relocation Authority via the Office of Naval Intelligence. While this method will appear somewhat slow and cumbersome to those naval districts having relocation offices (see Enclosure (B) of Reference (a)), it will standardize the procedure and facilitate matters considerably for the Office of Naval Intelligence.

/s/ Wallace S. Wharton

Wallace S. Wharton
 By direction.

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