

(S) 16-3-7-99/15 1-11
Op-16-B
Serial No. 01216
Op-16-B
SECRET

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

6 December 1941
December 17, 1941

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District
MEMORANDUM

Subject: Prosecution of Japanese for Being Agents of a Foreign Government without Registration.

From: Op-16-B
Reference: (a) Op-16-B-7. Comh to CNO, S-3-5/9237/MSH, Serial No. 01216, dated November 10, 1941.

Subject: Prosecution of Japanese for being Agents of Foreign Governments without Registration.

1. In reference to the memorandum from the War Department concerning the prosecution of said Japanese Agents, the War Department recommended that SC File Document 37923 be registered in accordance with the law and be given a limited time to do so. On 16 December Lieutenant Colonel Bissell, The MID, advised the undersigned that these agents were now interned, within which they must register. This position was taken on the recommendation of the Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, because of the latter's campaign to solicit the loyalty of persons of Japanese parentage.

2. Further investigation is being made to determine what action has been taken by the Dept. of Justice on this recommendation of the War Department.

3. The urgency of delivery of this document is such that its transmission by registered trans-Pacific air mail is authorized.

/s/ H. E. Ingersoll
Acting

Dated December 4, 1941
Checked by Commander Davis
Typed by R. Blalock

CONFIDENTIAL

(SC)A8-5/EF37
Op-16-B-7-RB/12-4-41
Serial No. 01348816

FOURTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

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6 December 1941

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: The Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District

Subject: Prosecution of Japanese for Being Agents
of a Foreign Government without Registration.

Reference: (a) Secret ltr. Com 14 to CNO, S-A8-5/EF37/ND14
Serial No. 01216, dated November 10, 1941.
In the Hawaiian Islands who have acted as paid agents for the
Japanese. In reply to a communication from the Attorney
General to the War Department concerning the prosecution of paid
Japanese agents in the Territory of Hawaii, the Secretary of
War recommended that these agents should be warned to register
in accordance with the law and be given a limited time to do so.
Those who fail to register within that time should be prosecuted.
The War Department suggested that about one month should be the
maximum time within which they must register. This position was
taken on the recommendation of the Commanding General, Hawaiian
Department, because of the latter's campaign to enlist the
loyalty of persons of Japanese parentage.

Op-11

Op-16

Op-16-1

Op-16-B

Op-16-B-1

Op-16-B-7

Further information indicates that the local District
attorney is conducting a further investigation is being made to determine
what action has been taken by the Department of Justice on this
recommendation of the War Department. It is noted that the prosecution
is being conducted in order that cordial relations between the Japanese and
Americans be maintained. The urgency of delivery of this document is such
that its transmission by registered transpacific air mail is
authorized. The local attorney here has been directed to prosecute the case.

The urgency of delivery of this document is such that
its transmission by registered transpacific air mail is authorized.
R. E. Ingersoll
Acting

C. G. BLACK
Dictated December 4, 1941
Dictated by Commander Davis
Typed by R. Blalock

SECRET

FOURTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

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SECRET

S-A8-5/EF37/ND11
(01216)

SECRET

November 10, 1941
December 17, 1941

From: Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District
To: The Chief of Naval Operations
Subject: Prosecution of Japanese for Being Agents of Foreign Government Without Registration.

1. I have received information to the effect that the FBI here has evidence indicating that there are a number of Japanese in the Hawaiian Islands who have acted as paid agents for the Japanese Consul General without being registered with the State Department.

2. My information further indicates that the District Attorney desires to prosecute these men for violation of the law and that the FBI shares this desire. Inquiry was directed to the Commandant some time ago as to his wishes in the matter and the Commandant informed the local District Attorney that, as this was a violation of law, he saw no reason why they should not be prosecuted in the same manner as others have been on the mainland.

3. Further information indicates that the local District Attorney made a recommendation to Washington that the prosecution be proceeded with, but that the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department, through the War Department, urged that the prosecution be abated in order that cordial relations between the Japanese and Americans here and in other places be enhanced. My information indicates that the Department of Justice has acceded to these representations and has directed the District Attorney here not to prosecute the cases.

4. The urgency of delivery of this document is such that its transmission by registered transpacific air mail is authorized.

/s/

C. C. BLOCH

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