9 November 1943

Memorandum for Director, Central Division

Subject:

Determination of Navy's Policy Relative to Employment of U.S. Citizens of Japanese Ancestry in Naval Establishment, and as Semmen on Merchant Vessels Under Control of the United States.

1. It is requested that steps be taken to determine the Navy's policy relative to the employment of U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry in the Navel Establishment and as seemen on Merchant Vescels under control of the United States.

Authority of releasing such citizens from the various Relocation Centers, the request of the War Shipping Administration and the need for maximum utilisation of man power available throughout the nation generally have brought this question forward to a point where it is deemed advisable that a determination of policy be made as a guide for future action.

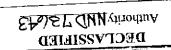
3. Factors involved include:

- (a) Determination of the loyalty of such citizens to the U.S.
- (b) Action of the Japanese-American Joint Board in releasing certain persons in this category for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort.

(c) Presence of combat units of such citizens in the U.S. Army and employment of such persons in the Military Establishment in civilian capacities.

- (d) The ruling of the Passport Division of the State Department that such citisens shall not ship foreign in vessels of the Merchant Marine when not in physical possession of a valid seamen's passport. (State has so far not issued seamen's passports to any one Japanese or otherwise.)
- (e) The desire of WSA to utilise all available persons to man vessels under its control.

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(f) The announced policy of the President of avoiding discrimination against American citizens on gadial grounds.

(g) The attitude of U.S. Naval Commanders of Forces Afloat, especially in active war operation areas, toward permitting such persons serving in Merchant vessels which perforce must be in antimate contact with the Fleet and over-seas Maval Shore Bases.

(h) The possibility of such persons being inducted by Selective Service and being alloted to fill

Navy's quote of enlisted men.

(i) The fact that some persons in this category have shipped and are shipping for coast-wise

voyages in merchant vessels.

- (j) The possible danger of persons in this category being subjected to pressure from enemy agents in foreign ports, which might be ports of call for vessels not in foreign trade but which might be directed in accordance with the needs of Fleet service.
- (k) The fact the Civil Service Commission is certifying such persons for employment in Federal War Agencies.
- (1) The fact the Civil Aeronautics Authority (Dept. of Commerce) permits them to work on certain airport projects.
- 4. It has not been brought directly to issue in the courts, but Supreme Court decisions on collateral issues indicate that agencies barring such persons from activities in which other loyal U.S. citizens engage solely on the grounds of ancestry would have a heavy burden of proof to bear in defending a challange brought in the civil courts.
- 5. In view of the problem having remifications affecting so many units of the Navy, it is recommended that a general conference be had on the subject. Havy units most directly affected are, of course, Op-30, Op-16, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Cominch, and Shore Establishments Division, Secretary's Office, (and uses)

Dictated 9 Nov. 1943 Dictated By Capt. Wharton Typed by R.B.Jackson

R.K. Schuirmann Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy Director of Naval Intelligence

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