

SECRET

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

Secret

DEC 6 1941

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District 24319
Subject: Prosecution of Japanese for Being Agents
of a Foreign Government without Registration.

Reference: (a) Secret ltr. Com14 to CNO, S-A8-5/EF37/ND14-
Serial No. 01216, dated November 10, 1941.

1. 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.

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

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

R. E. INGERSOLL
Acting

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

SENT - DIVISION COPY RETURNED

R. S. Gardner

SECRET

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(SC)A8-5/EF37

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT
FOURTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
AND
NAVY YARD, PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, U. S. A.

NOV 14 1941

S-A8-5/EF37/ND14
(01216)

November 10, 1941

SECRET

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

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

OFFICE OF
NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
RECEIVED

1. I have received information to the effect that the F.B.I. 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 F.B.I. 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 airmail is authorized.

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Room 2055

NOV 14 1941

ROUTE 10- 16

Op File No. (SC) A85/EF37

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AP
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NAVY DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

In reply refer to No.

WASHINGTON

Op-16-B

December 17, 1941

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of 27 Sep 58

BY 914 DATE 2-2-70

MEMORANDUM

From: Op-16-B
To: Op-16-B-7

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

Reference: (a) Com 14 letter of 10 November 1941 (CNO
SC File Document 37923).

1. On 16 December Lieutenant Colonel Bissell,
MID, advised the undersigned that these agents were now
interned.


J. B. W. Waller

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