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April 14, 1942

WDC

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Secretary of War

SUBJECT: Policies of the War Department and War Relocation Authority with respect to relocation projects.

The following statement of functions covering the relationship of the War Department and the Commanding General, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, on the one hand, and the War Relocation Authority, on the other, with respect to evacuation and resettlement, is submitted for your consideration:

1. The evacuation of combat zones is a military necessity and must not be slowed by resettlement. In other words, timing and evacuation are military functions.
2. Assembly centers are necessary because of the time required to construct reception centers.
3. Site location is a functional responsibility of War Relocation Authority, but War Relocation Authority will first obtain clearance from the War Department or the Appropriate Military Commander of any military considerations effecting the locations desired.
4. Site acquisition is a dual function of the War Department and the War Relocation Authority. War Relocation Authority will reimburse, or, in the first instance, furnish the necessary money if War Relocation money is available.
 - A. Public Lands
 - (1) Request for use will be made by War Relocation Authority. War Department will assist War Relocation Authority and will state the military necessity.
 - (2) The War Department or appropriate Military Commander will also advise the Chief Executive of the State Concerned of the military necessity for the location within that state.
 - B. Private Lands
 - (1) The acquisition by the War Department for the account of War Relocation Authority will be made by the appropriate division engineer. Where the site is outside of the Western Defense Command, the mechanics of such action will be determined by agreement with the War Department (SOS). (In this connection direct communication between the Commanding General, Western Defense Command and Fourth

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Army and the Chief of Engineers in cases where the site is outside of Western Defense Command, is believed to be the most practicable means of discharging this function.

(2) Same as A (2) above.

C. General

- (1) The function of the War Department in site acquisition is primarily pro forma to insure speed of acquisition and to present the case of military necessity.
 - (2) Compilation of necessary data remains War Relocation Authority function in connection with C (1) above.
5. Construction of initial facilities (Reception Centers), viz., shelter, medical, mess and sanitary, exclusive of such refinements as schools, churches and other community planning adjuncts, will be accomplished by the appropriate Division Engineer, U. S. Army. In other words, the Division Engineer will construct facilities necessary to the minimum essentials of living. Army construction will include administration buildings, housing for reception center staff, post offices, necessary storehouses, essential refrigeration equipment and military police housing. As to the latter, the placement, design and construction will be subject to the approval of appropriate military commander.
6. With respect to the procurement of equipment the Army will determine, procure and supply the initial equipment for reception centers to include kitchen equipment, minimum barrack equipment and hospital equipment (the latter as determined by the Public Health Service). From the date of opening, or the date on which War Relocation Authority initiates the operation of any reception center, as the case may be, the Army will transfer accountability for all such equipment and property to War Relocation Authority, and thereafter War Relocation Authority will maintain and replace all such equipment and property, and will procure whatever additional equipment and property it may require.
7. With respect to the operation of Reception Centers War Relocation Authority undertakes to provide for the operation of reception centers from the date of opening. This will include staffing and administration as well as project planning. In each case, War Relocation Authority agrees to provide a project manager who will be

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available to the appropriate Division Engineer as soon as a given project is approved for construction. War Relocation Authority further undertakes to be prepared to receive evacuees as soon as construction and equipment are ready, in order that the timing of evacuation will not be delayed.

8. The Army will provide for the transportation of evacuees from assembly centers to reception centers under appropriate military escort. The transportation of household goods of evacuees will be the sole responsibility of the War Relocation Authority.
9. In regard to military areas and military police, the War Department or the appropriate Military Commander will designate the reception center project area as a prohibited zone and military area subjected to appropriate restrictions on the right to enter, leave and remain in such areas so that ingress and egress will be subject to absolute control of the Army with respect to all persons, including evacuees. Each reception center area will also be subject to military police patrol and protection. Unless be reason of special agreement in each case, reception centers will have a minimum size of 5,000 evacuees in order that the number of military police required for patrol and protection may be kept at the minimum.

J. L. DeWitt
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

September 12, 1942

The Honorable Sidney P. Osborn
Governor of Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona

My dear Governor Osborn:

There are attached copies of letters which have this day been exchanged with the Secretary of War which explain the vital importance of long staple cotton, grown in Arizona, in the manufacture of gliders, balloons, parachutes and other implements of war.

These letters will also advise you of the steps which will be taken by War Relocation Authority and my headquarters to allow the use of Japanese evacuees on a voluntary basis in harvesting this crop in designated areas of Maricopa and Pinal Counties.

I will much appreciate your interest and assistance in working out a successful program and to this end a member of my staff will communicate with you immediately.

Sincerely yours,

J.L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

(C O P Y)

WBC V WUY 26

WAR WASHING BC SEPT 12TH 1205P CR 300WB

LIEUTENANT GENERAL J L DEWITT

COMMANDING GENERAL WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND PRESIDIOSANFRAN
LONG STAPLE COTTON IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PRODUCTION OF GLIDERS PARACHUTES
BALLOONS AND CERTAIN OTHER VITAL IMPLEMENTS OF WAR. THERE ARE VERY
FEW SOURCES OF THIS VITAL COMMODITY IN THE WORLD AND THE ARIZONA CROP
IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US. IN FURTHERENCE OF A LONG RANGE PROGRAM
DESIGNED TO INSURE A SUFFICIENT SOURCE OF SUPPLY OF LONG STAPLE COTTON
THE WAR DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ENCOURAGED
AN INCREASE IN COTTON ACREAGE. THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN SUCH THAT A
SUBSTANTIAL HARVEST IS ASSURED PROVIDED SUFFICIENT LABOR CAN BE MADE
AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. AT THE INSTANCE OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT THE
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION HAS CONCLUDED SURVEYS OF AVAILABLE MANPOWER
IN ADVANCE OF THE NEEDS. I AM ADVISED OF A SERIOUS SHORTAGE IN LABOR
AT THIS POINT. I AM ADVISED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS EXPLORED ALL POS-
SIBLE EMERGENCY SOURCES OF LABOR INCLUDING IMPORTATION FROM MEXICO
AND ADEQUATE HARVEST CREWS CANNOT BE RECRUITED SOON ENOUGH TO MEET
THE HARVEST BEALINE UNLESS THE VOLUNTARY LABOR OF JAPANESE EVACUEES
NOW RESIDENT AT THE PARKER AND GILA RELOCATION CENTERS IS UTILIZED.
BECAUSE PARTS OF THE AREA IN WHICH THIS CROP IS LOCATED ARE WITHIN A
MILITARY AREA I RECOGNIZE THAT THE USE OF SUCH EVACUEE LABOR FOR
HARVESTING THIS CROP IS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER THE REGULAR PROGRAM NOW
IN EFFECT AND WITH WHICH THIS DEPARTMENT IS IN ACCORD. THE WAR DEPART-
MENT HOWEVER FINDS THAT THE HARVESTING OF LONG STAPLE COTTON AT THIS
TIME IS AN URGENT MILITARY NECESSITY AND I INQUIRE WHETHER IT MAY NOT
BE FEASIBLE FOR YOU TO MAKE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY VOLUNTEER
JAPANESE EVACUEE LABOR CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE HARVESTING OF THIS

- 2 -

(C O P Y)

VITAL CROP. IF YOU WILL ADVISE ME WHAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE
IN THIS CONNECTION I WILL UNDERTAKE TO ADVISE THE OTHER GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES INVOLVED.

HENRY L STIMSON SECRETARY OF WAR

1728Z

WVY V WBC R NR 25-26

RELAY

(Our Time Stamp:
Rec'd 9/12/42
12 m.)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE NUMBER TWO RELEASED AFTER PHOENIX CONFERENCE. QUOTE-

VOLUNTEER JAPANESE EVACUEE LABOR WILL BE UTILIZED IN HARVESTING ARIZONA VITAL LONG STABLE COTTON CROP, IT WAS AGREED TODAY AT A CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY GOVERNOR SIDNEY P. OSBORN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARMY AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

THE PLAN WAS ORDERED AS A MATTER OF MILITARY NECESSITY, BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR THE COTTON IN THE MAKING OF PARACHUTES, BALLOONS, GLIDERS AND OTHER IMPLEMENTS OF WAR, IT WAS ANNOUNCED. THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY, UNDER WHOSE JURISDICTION THE COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER NEAR PARKER, AND THE GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER NEAR SACATON ARE OPERATED, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARRYING OUT OF THE PLAN.

"ARIZONA'S LONG STAPLE COTTON IS A VITAL MILITARY MATERIAL, AS IMPORTANT IN THE WAR EFFORT AS RUBBER, SAID COLONEL KARL R. BENDETSSEN, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION, WHO REPRESENTED LIEUTENANT GENERAL J. L. DEWITT,

COMMANDING GENERAL, WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY, WHO REPRESENTED THE WAR DEPARTMENT AT THE CONFERENCE. "THE NECESSITY OF ASSURING ITS SUCCESSFUL AND COMPLETE HARVEST FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF COMBAT IMPLEMENTS IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE. THE COOPERATION OF ALL CONCERNED IN COMPLYING WITH THE WAR DEPARTMENT NEEDS IS APPRECIATED." THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY HAS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN THE RECRUITING OF VOLUNTEER EVACUEE WORKERS IN THE TWO CENTERS, AND HAS CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS. FURTHER DETAILS ARE BEING WORKED OUT WITH STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

UNDER THE PLAN, THE EVACUEE LABOR MUST BE PAID THE PREVAILING WAGE FOR COMPARATIVE WORK IN THE AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE EMPLOYED. THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THIS FACTOR, AS WELL AS PROPER HOUSING AND SANITATION.

THE ARMY MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO CHANGE WILL BE MADE IN THE BOUNDARIES GOVERNING EVACUEES AND THAT CONDITIONS OF THE ARRANGEMENT PROVIDE FOR SECURITY MEASURES BY STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, WITH FEDERAL TROOPS BEING UTILIZED TO MAINTAIN SECURITY SURROUNDING DESIGNATED HARVEST AREAS, MAINLY WITHIN MARICOPA AND PINAL COUNTIES.

THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY WILL DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE WITH AUTHORITY TO ACT IN THE MATTER, AND TO MAINTAIN LIAISON WITH GENERAL DEWITT'S HEADQUARTERS, AND EXECUTE THE PROGRAM. UNQUOTE

BYRON BOX

END GJ 4-02 P ACK PLS
END EM 5-02 PM

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

WDC
D 2.050

September 12, 1942

The Honorable
The Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have studied the problem presented in your letter of September 12, 1942, with reference to the harvesting of the Arizona long staple cotton crop.

As the conditions which necessitated the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from Military Area No. 1 and the California portion of Military Area No. 2 and which prohibit their use as volunteer labor in that area, remain unchanged, I feel sure you agree that only the vital need you describe, namely, the urgency of securing this crop for the production of combat implements, renders possible the making of an exception in this case.

I am prepared to permit the use of voluntary evacuee labor within designated areas of Arizona, provided the same minimum conditions surrounding the use of such labor beyond Military Area No. 1 and the California portion of Military Area No. 2, for example, in the sugar beet fields, are met. These conditions relate to the maintenance of security measures within the harvest area by state and local authorities and to the maintenance of proper housing and sanitary conditions as well as the payment of prevailing wages. In the case of voluntary evacuee agricultural labor beyond the limits of Military Area No. 1 and the California portion of Military Area No. 2, War Relocation Authority has been the Federal agency responsible for insuring that these conditions are met. That agency has undertaken the recruitment of evacuees and has concluded all necessary arrangements with state and local authorities on the one hand, and intending employers on the other. Accordingly, I will expect War Relocation Authority to undertake the accomplishment of all these conditions in this case on the same basis as it is now doing in the case of sugar beet labor.

Further, I am prepared to establish security measures surrounding the designated harvest areas in Maricopa and Pinal Counties, employing Federal troops for this purpose.

In order to facilitate and to insure execution of the program in accordance with the prescribed conditions, designed as they are to provide protection not only for the surrounding communities affected and the crop but also for evacuee labor, I shall expect that War Relocation Authority, for itself and all other responsible Federal agencies, will designate a representative with authority to act and to maintain liaison with this Headquarters.

Sincerely yours,
J.L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding