

13:1

TAGAWA, HIROSHI

1945-1965

78/177

c



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

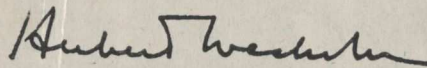
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF RENUNCIATION OF UNITED STATES NATIONALITY

To: Hiroshi Tagawa  
(born April 14, 1917, West Adams, California)  
702-D  
Tule Lake Center  
Newell, California

You are hereby notified that, pursuant to Section 401(1) of the Nationality Act of 1940, as Amended, and the regulations issued pursuant thereto, your renunciation of United States nationality has been approved by the Attorney General as not contrary to the interests of national defense. Accordingly you are no longer a citizen of the United States of America nor are you entitled to any of the rights and privileges of such citizenship.

Date: March 22, 1945



Herbert Wechsler  
Assistant Attorney General  
War Division



Date Feb 13 1946

Honorable Tom C. Clark  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On or about October 25 1945, I was requested by Mr. Ivan Williams, Officer in Charge, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, to appear before their officer to register under the provisions of the Alien Registration Act.

Although I appeared before your office to comply with the provisions of the Alien Registration Act, I wish to state that said registration form was signed by myself under protest.

I am an American citizen. Although within the non-repatriation form it indicated in Question No. 2 that my nationality was Japanese, I heroby wish to protest said designation as I am not a citizen or a national of Japan, but a citizen and a national of the United States.

Therefore I shall appreciate your accepting this letter as a documentary evidence that my signature affixed on said Alien Registration form and informations furnished in Question No. 2 of the non-repatriation form was done so under protest, as I am an American Citizen.

Yours very truly,

Kirochi Tagawa

Block 702-D  
Tule Lake Center  
Newell, California



Feb 13, 1946

HONORABLE TOM CLARK,  
Attorney General of the United States,  
Department of Justice Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On or about February 15, 1946, I signed an application for renunciation of U. S. Nationality at the Tule Lake Center, Newell, Modoc County, California.

I hereby repudiate, withdraw, retract and revoke the said renunciation upon the following grounds and for the following reasons:

(1) The circumstances under which said renunciation form was signed by me did not constitute a fair and impartial hearing and was a denial of my constitutional guaranty of due process of law and of the equal protection of the laws;

(2) I was not a free agent at the time when and the place where said renunciation form was signed but then and there was held in duress and was the victim of fraud, menace, undue influence and mistake of fact and law;

(3) I then and there was and for a period of time prior thereto had been detained in said Tule Lake Center by official authority and was deprived of substantially all my constitutional rights, liberties, privileges and immunities as an American citizen and was treated as though I were an alien enemy and thus was discriminated against solely by reason of the Japanese nationality of my ancestors;

(4) I was intimidated, coerced and compelled to sign said renunciation form by reason of the duress in which I was held by the government and the duress, fraud, menace and undue influence of groups and individuals within said Center, against which the government failed to protect me.

Because of the foregoing reasons the said renunciation was fictitious and is invalid and void.

I am not a citizen or subject of Japan and I do not and never have owed or given that country or nation any allegiance. I am not an alien enemy. I am a native American by birth and by choice. I have no dual citizenship through any act or acceptance upon my individual part.

I demand that you withdraw and set aside the said renunciation form, and the approval thereof if any approval thereof was given.

I am ready and willing to have this matter re-opened and a hearing be granted me in order to prove the said renunciation application was executed under the circumstances above-mentioned when I was not a free agent in any sense of the word but was acting under duress, menace, fraud, undue influence and mistake of fact and law.

I respectfully request your immediate consideration of this urgent matter.

Very truly yours,

Hiroshi Tagawa  
(Name)

Address: 702 - D  
Tule Lake Center  
Newell California



HIROSHI TAGAWA  
Q - 13 - 3  
Alien Internment Camp  
Crystal City, Texas

April 14, 1947

Hon. Thomas M. Cooley, II  
Director,  
Alien Enemy Control Unit  
Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: Hardship case of Renunciant  
Petition for Release.

Honorable Sir:

I would like to ask your kind understanding and sympathy about my poor health and release me at the earliest date.

I had been suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis since August 23, 1946 and received the medical treatment of Dr. Martin and Dr. Boyd of this Camp sanitorium for five months. I returned to my own barrack on January 23, 1947, but still I have not perfect self-confidence in my health and am receiving constant watch from the hospital.

The weather of this district is becoming hot day by day, and I cannot sleep well. This being every night in recent days. My appetite is decreasing gradually which reminds me of the same terrible condition of the last year. I am afraid that I might be taken as the prey of the ruthless plague again this year.

Please refer this hospital about my physical condition and save me from the undescribable fear of the disease and set me free to be able to return to California where the climate is moderate as quickly as possible.

I don't know what is the main reason for my internment and removal notice but anyway, I am deeply regretting of my renunciation and some poor answers at the hearing.

I must be careful of my health especially for several years and should avoid hard works. If I am removed to Japan where the essential food and especially medicines are extremely scarce, I would never be able to live long. At this cliff of life or death I must do my best to get your permission to stay in this country in order to prolong my life.



I believe by myself that my record is not so bad because my character is quite moderate and tender and I have been always cooperative with camp authorities. Please check up my case again and release me as soon as possible with your sympathy.

Yours very truly,

---

Hiroshi Tagawa



Hiroshi Tagawa  
Q - 13 - B - 3  
P. O. Box 788  
Alien Internment Camp  
Crystal City, Texas

May 19, 1947

Hon. Charles M. Rothstein  
Acting Director  
Alien Enemy Control Unit  
Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: Case of Renunciant.  
Appeal for Release due to  
poor health.

Honorable Sir:

Soon after I was transferred to this camp on March 24, last year, I was tortured by the violent hot climate of this district which was unprecedented to me. My health declined day after day and at last affected by PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS and entered the hospital on August 23, 1946. I cannot express here my disappointment and discouragement at that time. I passed five months of physical and mental agony but fortunately permitted to come back to my barrack on the end of January of this year.

However, still I am not strong enough and it will be necessary for me to be careful for several years.

I suffered from pleurisy for two years since 22 years of age.

I am very fearful to pass the terrible season of high heat again. I have heard the pulmonary tuberculosis will be influenced by the climate and also heard that this district is not really suitable for the treatment of lung disease because of heat and moisture.

It is already becoming hotter and hotter this year. My appetite and sleeping hour is decreasing. I am sincerely worrying of my health in such heat, and earnestly desiring to be released as soon as possible to recover my health at the comfortable place of California.

At this opportunity, I would like to ask your good understanding about my case.

Among my room-mates in Tule Lake, there was a strong member of Hokoku Dan. He gave up his citizenship earlier than others and rebuked violently of citizenship holders. He explained that renunciation was the wisest way in such



circumstance, but I could not accept their opinion and I had clear opposite will from the Hokoku Dan. However, the movement of renunciation became stronger and stronger under the skillful agitation of Hokoku Dan. I was advised very often directly or indirectly by both of Isseis and Niseis to renounce my citizenship. All of my room-mates renounced. But I did not follow them, because I was planning to go to some school at outside on the spring or early summer of 1945.

The office of renunciation was located at the short distance of my barrack and I could see the long line of renunciants. The fever of renunciation raised up higher and higher just as terrible epidemic. I could not stand against such strong wave of the circumstance and forced to renounce at last. I regret it so much now.

However, please check up the fact that I did not have any intention to be against the Camp Authorities at all. Hokoku Dan was doing anti-American Activities and protesting to the Department of Justice and W.R.A. They threatened us to join the organization, but I refused to obey them considering that their activities were opposite to the policy of the U.S. Government.

Thus, I was not a member of Hokoku Dan or any other pro-Japanese Group. Also I had no intention to do anything against the United States.

Concerning to a question in the Mitigation Hearing, I would like to state my present opinion as follows:

Q. "How do you think about the Japanese defeat in this war?"

A. "I am very glad to hear that Japan has become a peaceful country which will be guided by the United States under the government of the same principle after the destruction of her oppressive government or feudatory idea."

I have had a poor physique since my childhood and still now I am in poor health. I received the physical examination of U.S. Army in July 1941, but unfortunately classified in 4-F. I am very sorry I could not contribute to the defense work of this country due to my poor health. When I read the brilliant works of many Nisei soldiers in the newspapers, I always envy them of their good luck and feel so sorry of my weak construction.

I will not be able to do hard work with such health even hereafter. I must do something to this country with my intelligence or mental ability. For this purpose I am sincerely desiring to study in the school of this country and to learn the high grade science and social circumstance of this great



country and to do my best to contribute to the endless prosperity of the United States.

Please re-examine my case and release me at the earliest possible date before the dreadful hot season.

Yours very truly,

---

Hiroshi Tagawa



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CMR:wp

146-54-2148

May 27, 1947

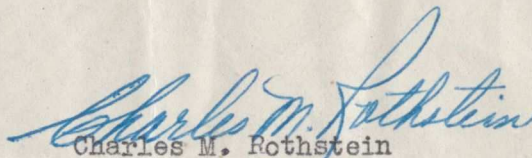
Mr. Hiroshi Tagawa  
Q - 13 - 3  
Alien Internment Camp  
Crystal City, Texas

Dear Mr. Tagawa:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letters  
of recent date concerning your case.

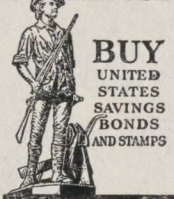
The facts in your case have recently  
been reconsidered in the Department and I regret to  
inform you that it has been determined that no  
change in the outstanding order of removal is  
warranted.

Sincerely,

  
Charles M. Rothstein

Acting Director, Alien Enemy Control Unit

FOR DEFENSE





Mr. Wagne M. Collins  
attorney at Law  
mills Tower, 220. Bush St.  
San Francisco Calif

I sent the petitions to get my release to  
Department of Justice on April - 14. and on May  
19. and I received the answer of Dep-  
artment of Justice on Jun - 2.

The answer doesn't say anything why I was  
qualified in removal order.

When I looked over my past of during war  
I haven't got any bad record of anti-America?

"In spite of most strong member of  
Hokoku-Dan got released, why I was interned  
and wasn't release" this is my most doubtful  
point

Will you please kindly ask for me to  
Department of Justice that why I was qualified  
in removal order?

I send you the two petitions<sup>copy</sup> which  
I sent and the answer of D.J. which I  
received recently.

And I am very glad to if you look  
over my petitions and answer of D.J. which  
I received recently for reference.

Please help me best you can to get my  
release from the detention.

Please forgive me my scribble.

Sincerely  
Hiroshi Tagawa



June 6, 1947

Mr. Hiroshi Tagawa,  
Q-13-3, P.O. Box 788,  
Alien Internment Camp,  
Crystal City, Texas.

Dear Mr. Tagawa:

I have received your letter of June 4th together with its contents. The question whether or not the Attorney General will release a person held under the Alien Enemy Act is one that is entirely discretionary with the Attorney General. He is authorized under the Act to hold a person arbitrarily, that is to say, without justifiable reason.

He asserts his right to do so in your case and in the case of each person still detained. The only remedy we have against such arbitrary detention is a resort to court action which has been taken on your behalf and on behalf of all the persons who are detained. A decision in the case is expected from day to day.

Obviously I have no control over the matter as to when that decision is to be made and what it is to be. I am hopeful that when made, that will order you released from detention and the release of all other renunciants unless the Attorney General prior to that time releases you.

If you will keep in touch with Mr. Iwao Shimizu you will be informed as to what steps are required to be taken, if any, and also as to the progress towards the release of the remaining renunciants.

If you have doubt that you are cured of your tuberculosis, I suggest that you keep in touch with your doctor at Crystal City and you receive treatment from him. He will do his level best to cure your ailment.

Very truly yours,

WMC:ow



December 8, 1960

Mr. Aki Tagawa  
1350 Turk St.  
San Francisco, Calif.

*unknown*

Dear Mr. Tagawa:

I would thank you to let me know the present  
address of Mr. Hiroshi Tagawa, born 4/14/17  
so that final papers concerning his citizenship status  
may be transmitted to him. Please use the enclosed  
card and self-addressed envelope for your reply to me.

Very truly yours,

WMC:ss  
Enc.



Hiroshi Tagawa

noted

Dear Mr Collins

I regret to inform you that I know now any relative by this name.

If I should happen to come across this party I'll be glad to let him know of your letter

Sincerely Akei.



5/5/65

Wayne:

Mr. Hiroshi Tagawa, 636 West 168th Street,  
Gardena, Calif was in my office.

He was one of the renunciants at  
Crystal City, Texas. He has made an  
inquiry as to his status, and I shall  
appreciate it if you can let me know  
whether he was cleared administratively.

Tex

4/27/46 - \$25<sup>00</sup>. credited to

Hiroshi Tagawa

702-B

XI-2-B

7d  
4/10/59

~~7d~~

1970 Pro 38 9/10/47

From 4/14/17 West Plains, Ark



May 6, 1965

Dear Tex:


Replying to your letter of May 5th, I wish to let you know that Hiroshi Tagawa (Committee No. 2241)- 702-B, Tule Lake who was born April 14, 1917, at West Adams, L.A. County, was credited with paying \$25 only on 2/27/46 in Tule Lake apparently under the name of Hiroshi Togawa.

Hiroshi Tagawa once was at 1920 Pine St., San Francisco, then apparently moved.

Before the war his address was 668 ~~mm~~ San Julien St., L.A. He was in Crystal City - Q-13-3. He had t.b. Special pleas were made for his release without avail. He had ~~two brothers~~ 1 brother and two sisters in Japan - and he was the only member of his family in the U.S.

I tried to get in touch with him through Aki Tagawa of 1350 Turk St. S.F. ~~mm~~ in Dec. 1960 but Aki wrote me he did not know Hiroshi Tagawa and was not related to him.

I have a final ~~judgment~~ judgment entered for Hiroshi Tagawa, born 4-14-1917 on April 13, 1959 and the certified copy is in my file.

  
P.S. Ask him if he knows the whereabouts of Yoshio Nunotani who once was in Crystal City suffering from T.B.



June 2, 1965

Tex Nakamura, Esq.,  
Attorney-at-law  
124 South San Pedro St., Room 215,  
Los Angeles 12, California.

Dear Tex:

Enclosed find certified copy of Original  
"Final Order, Judgment And Decree" in USDC Case No.  
25294-5, Abo v. Rogers, et al., which was entered  
on April 13, 1959, which cancelled the renunciation  
of Hiroshi, Tagawa who was born April 14, 1917, in  
West Adams, Los Angeles County, original "Comm. No.  
2241", and who lived at 702-D in the Tule Lake  
Center, and later at Crystal City A.D.Camp at Q-13-3.

His present address is 636 W. 168th Street,  
Gardena, California.

He paid \$25.00 on 2-27-46 and the balance of  
\$275.00 he delivered to you to send to me on May 27,  
1965.

The enclosed check for \$137.50 is for you.

Very truly yours,

WMC/W

P.S. I suggest that you call him and have him  
come to your office to receive the certified copy of the  
judgment.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CONFIDENTIAL

Committee No. 2241

(For Use Only of My Attorney)

Atty. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (type or print) Hiroshi Tagawa

Block No. 702-D

Sex: Male ☒ Female ☐

Age: 29 years Date of Birth: Month: April Day: 14 Year: 1917

Place of Birth: (City) West Adams (County) Los Angeles State) Calif.

Permanent residence address at time of evacuation: \_\_\_\_\_

668 South San Julien St., Los Angeles, California

Occupation at time of evacuation: worker in vegetable wholesale market

Have you "dual citizenship"? yes

Did you ever have "dual citizenship"? yes

If you have or have had dual citizenship, who registered you as

a dual citizen: Parents When: at birth

Where: I don't remember.

Did you ever take any steps to cancel dual citizenship? No

When: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

What steps were taken to cancel it? \_\_\_\_\_

On what date did you sign a form renouncing your U. S. citizenship:

Month: about February Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: 1945

Were you under 21 years of age at the time you signed that

renunciation form? No

Was there a hearing officer present when you signed? yes

What was his name? I don't know

Did you have a hearing on the matter at that time? yes

Did anyone represent you at that appearance or hearing? No

If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you attend that hearing alone? yes If not, who went with you? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received a letter approving your renunciation? yes

If you have, what date does it bear? March 22, 1945

On what date did you receive the letter of approval? June 5, 1945

Who signed that letter of approval? Herbert Wechsler

\_\_\_\_\_. (Attach the letter of approval and the envelope.)

Did you write a letter revoking your renunciation before you received a letter approving your renunciation? No



If you did, what date did you send that letter in the U. S. mail? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you a copy of that letter? \_\_\_\_\_

(If you have, annex it to this form)

Since receiving a letter from the Attorney General's office approving your renunciation, have you sent a letter to that office or

to the Attorney General revoking your renunciation? No, but will send letter of revocation Feb. 13, 1946

What date did you send that letter revoking your renunciation of U. S. citizenship? Feb. 13, 1946

(If you have a copy of that letter revoking your renunciation, annex it to this form.)

Have you served in our military forces? No

If so, what date did you enroll? \_\_\_\_\_ When were you discharged or released from military service? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of discharge did you receive? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your last draft classification? 4-F

Did you refuse to be drafted? No

Are you or have you ever been a member of the Hoshi Dan, the Hokoku Dan, Seinen Dan or similar organizations while in camp, either becoming such by intimidation, coercion, or otherwise? No

Are your parents U. S. citizens? No

What are their names: WAKATO TAGAWA (father); SASAYO TAGAWA (mother)

Have they been released from detention? Both deceased

Have they been relocated? \_\_\_\_\_

What members of your family, if any, are serving or have served in the military forces of the U. S.? None

Have you registered as an "alien" under the Alien Registration Act of 1940? Yes When: About October, 1945

Where: TULE LAKE CENTER Who was present with you at that time, if anyone? No one Were you represented by

anyone at that time? No

Was any hearing given to you at that time? No

Who registered you, if you know? IVAN WILLIAMS & STAFF

Did you protest registering as an alien? No

Did you write your protest on the form? No

Did you file a letter of protest with the registering officer?

No, but will send (If so, annex a copy of the letter to this form.)

protest letter Feb. 13, 1946



Have you signed non-repatriation form asking to stay in U.S.? YES

Have you filled out a Department of Justice Repatriation form asking to be sent to Japan? No If you did, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_ Before whom did you appear to sign that repatriation form? \_\_\_\_\_

Did anyone represent you at that time or were you alone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Were you given a hearing by anyone on the question of signing the repatriation form? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you protest signing that Repatriation form? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you write the protest on the form? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you file a letter of protest with the registering officer at the time you signed it? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the name of the officer present when you signed, if you know? \_\_\_\_\_

When, if ever, did you fill out a repatriation form for W. R. A.

Social Welfare? Sometime in 1944

When did you send a letter cancelling that request? HAVE NOT CANCELLED

Do you own any agricultural land, a home, or commercial property in the U. S.? No If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

The following space is for any remarks you care to write:

I am single and am the only member of the family in the United States. I have 1 brother & 2 sisters in Japan.

Date: February 13, 1946

Hiroshi Tagawa

(Name)