

11:15

KAWAMOTO, FUJIO FRANK

1945-1959

78/177

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

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

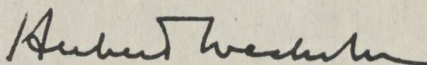
5202

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF RENUNCIATION OF UNITED STATES NATIONALITY

To: Fujio Kawamoto
(born Jan. 25, 1916, Hanford, California)
7206-A
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

You are hereby notified that, pursuant to Section 401(i) 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

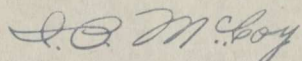


Herbert Wechsler
Assistant Attorney General
War Division

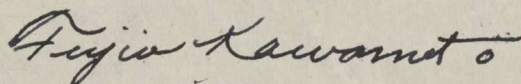
Ft. Lincoln Internment Camp
Bismarck, N. Dak.

Date: 7-31-45

Forwarded.



I. P. McCoy
Officer in Charge



Copy

Fujio Kawamoto
Box 300, Rm 32-C
Fort Lincoln
Bismarck, N. Dakota
December 28, 1945

Honorable Thomas C. Clark
Attorney of the United States
Department of Justice Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On December, 1942 I signed an application for renunciation of the U. S. nationality at the W. R. A. Segregation Center at Tule Lake, Modoc County, California, at a perfunctory appearance before a government official and I have received a letter dated March 22, 1945, from Mr. Herbert Wechsler, Assistant Attorney General approving this renunciation.

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 was then and there held in duress and was the victim of fraud, menace and undue influence and mistake of fact and law;

(3) I then and there was continuously from May, 1942, had been detained in the said W. R. A. Segregation Center by official authority and was deprived of substantially all my constitutional rights, liberties, privileges and immunities as an American Citizen by birth and by choice and was thus discriminated against solely by reason of the Japanese nationality of my ancestors;

(4) I was intimidated and compelled to sign said renunciation form while under pressure and duress.

Because of the foregoing reasons the said renunciation and approval thereof were, and each of them is, invalid, null and void.

I am not a citizen or subject of Japan and I do not and never have owed that country or nation any allegiance. I am a native American by birth and also by choice. I recognize as my sovereign the United States of America and I give the United States my undivided loyalty and allegiance. I have no dual citizenship through an act or acceptance upon my individual part.

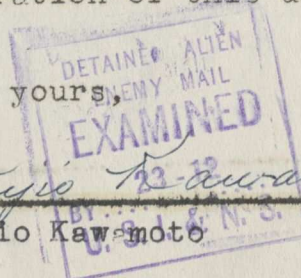
I ask therefore that you withdraw and set aside the said renunciation form which is herewith repudiated, withdrawn and revoked by me and that you recall, withdraw, cancel and revoke your approval of said renunciation form as well.

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

I respectfully request your immediate consideration of this urgent matter.

Very truly yours,

Fujio Kawamoto
Fujio Kawamoto



Copy sent to the Attorney General

Fujio Kawamoto
Box 300m Rm 32-C
Bismarck, N. Dakota

December 22, 1945

HONORABLE TOM C. CLARK
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On December, 1942, I signed an application for renunciation of U. S. Nationality form at the WRA Segregation Center situated at Tule Lake, Modoc County, California, at a perfunctory appearance before a Government Official.

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 was then and there held in duress and was the victim of fraud menace and undue influence and mistake of fact and law;
- (3) I then and there was and continuously from May, 1942 had been detained in the government centers by official authority and was deprived of substantially all my constitutional rights, liberties, privileges and immunities and an American Citizen by birth and by choices and was thusly discriminated against solely by reasons of the Japanese nationality of my ancestors;
- (4) I signed the said form under duress.

Because of the foregoing reasons the said renunciation were, and each of them is, invalid, null and void.

I am not an enemy alien. I have no dual citizenship through an act or acceptance upon my individual part.

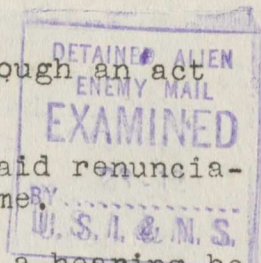
Therefore I demand that you withdraw and set aside the said renunciation form which is repudiated, withdrawn and revoked by me.

I am ready and willing to have this matter re-opened and a hearing be granted to me in order to prove that said renunciation form was signed when I was not a free agent in any sense of the words but was acting under duress and under menace fraud and undue influence and mistake of fact and law.

I respectfully request your immediate consideration of this urgent matter.

Yours very truly,

Fujio Kawamoto



CONFIDENTIAL

Committee No. _____

(For Use Only of My Attorney) Atty. No. _____

Name (type or Print) FUJIO FRANK KAWAMOTO
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Address at present: 32-C FORT LINCOLN BISMARCK N. DAKOTA

Sex: Male X Female _____

Age: 30 year. Date of birth: Month: JANUARY Day: 25 Year: 1916

Place of birth: City: HANFORD County: KINGS State: CALIF.

Permanent residence at time of evacuation: RT. 1 BOX 261

CAMPBELL CALIFORNIA

Occupation at time of evacuation: FARM

Have you dual citizenship? YES

Did you ever have dual citizenship? YES

Did you ever take steps to cancel dual citizenship? YES

On what date did you sign an application to renounce your citizenship?

JAN 1945

Were you under 21 years of age at that time? No

Were you given a hearing on that application? _____

Where was the hearing conducted? _____

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 that letter? JULY 31 1945

(Attach that letter and the envelope it came in to this questionnaire.)

Who signed that letter of approval? HERBERT WECHSLER

Have you written a letter to Attorney General Tom Clark revoking your renunciation? YES

What is the date of that letter? FIRST LETTER DEC. 22 1945 SECOND LETTER
Dec. 31. 1945

(Attach your carbon copy of that letter to this questionnaire).

From what camp were you removed and taken to the camp you now are in?

DETAILED REVIEW
ENEMY MAIL
EXAMINED

7206-A

TULE LAKE CALIFORNIA

BY 29.7
U. S. I. & N. S.

Have you served in our military forces? No

If you have, what type of discharge did you receive:

What was your last draft classification? 4F

Were you ever classified "4-C"? YES

Did you refused to be drafted? No

Are your parents U. S. citizens? No

What are their names? MASANO KAWAMOTO

Have they been relocated? No

Where do they live now? JAPAN

What members of your family are serving or have served in the military forces: NONE

Have you been registered as an "alien" under the Alien Registration Act of 1940? YES When? OCT. 1945 Where? FORT LINCOLN N. D.

Did you protest that registration in writing? No

Have you filed a "non-repatriation" form? YES

When? SEPT 24, 1945

Are you single or married? SINGLE

What is your wife's name: _____

What is her present address? _____

Is she a renunciant? _____

Have you any children? No

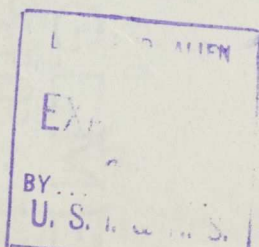
What are their names and where are they living? _____

Are there any other renunciants in your family? NONE Who? _____

The following space is for any remarks you wish to make:

Dated: JAN. 3, 1946

Fujio Frank Kawamoto
(Name)



WAYNE M. COLLINS
Attorney at Law
Mills Tower
220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, California

JAN 9 1959

Mr. Fujio Frank Kawamoto
c/o Rm. 215, 124 S. San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Kawamoto:

I am returning herewith the original and copy of the affidavit which I have prepared for you from your answers to my questionnaire. I would thank you to read the answers therein and if you find them to be true, you should take them to a notary public and there sign the original and swear to it. The notary public should stamp in the copy for you. Thereupon you should return the original to me promptly for processing to the Justice Department. You should keep the copy in your possession for future reference.

If you should make any additions or corrections in the affidavit, please inform me of the changes in a letter enclosing the affidavit and those changes will be made in the other copies sent to the Justice Department.

Very truly yours,

W. M. Collins

Encs.

P.S. It is imperative that you take care of this important matter immediately.

AFFIDAVIT

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF AFFIDAVIT

This affidavit should be specifically addressed to the circumstances of your particular case and should not consist of generalities. When you are uncertain as to matters related in your affidavit write "uncertain". Where you claim that any action was taken by you as the result of fear, you should state in each instance, with the greatest possible particularity, what was feared and why. If it is claimed that the fears were caused by threats from individuals or groups of individuals, the nature of the threats, the names of the individuals making them, if known, and the time, place and occasion for the making of the threats should be given.

If more space is needed for answers to particular questions, separate sheets of plain white paper should be used. Each separate sheet so used should be plainly marked with the number of the question being answered and your name.

1. Name Fujio Frank Kawamoto		Date of Birth Jan. 25, 1916	
2. If born prior to December 1, 1924	(A) Have you ever renounced Japanese nationality? Yes	When	Where San Jose, Calif.
3. If born since December 1, 1924	(A) Was your name ever registered with a Japanese Consulate for the purpose of reserving your Japanese nationality?		
If so, did you thereafter renounce your Japanese nationality?	When	Where	
4. State periods of visits to Japan and purpose of each visit:			
Date		Purpose	
From 1921	To 1931	Taken as a child.	
5. Give details concerning any formal education in Japan:			
School		Period of Attendance	
Grammar and Jr. High Schools		From 8 years	To
Specify subjects studied (attach additional sheet if necessary).			
General Courses			
6. Have you ever made application for repatriation to Japan?.....If so, give date..... Uncertain, and your reasons for so applying:			
See attached sheet			
7. (A) Have you ever expressly indicated that you would not swear unqualified allegiance to the United States?		Have you ever declined to answer when asked whether you would swear unqualified allegiance?	
Yes. See attached sheet			
Or have you ever given a qualified answer to such question asked at War Relocation Centers?.....If so, give your reasons:			
(B) If your answer to any of the questions in (A) is affirmative, then did you ever subsequently change your mind and express your willingness to swear an unqualified allegiance or would you have been willing to do so if an opportunity had been afforded you?..... YesIf so, state when you changed your mind and your reasons therefor:			
I would have been willing to do so if I had the opportunity, with some assurance about my citizenship and safety.			

(C) Did you ever indicate that you would not swear unqualified allegiance to the United States either expressly or by refusal to answer, or a qualified answer, knowing that by so doing you would be sent to the WRA Segregation Center at Tule Lake?.....**No**.... If so, give reasons:

8. (A) WERE YOU EVER AT ANY TIME A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:	Answer		Period of Membership
	Yes	No	
Black Dragon Society (Kokuryu Kai)		X	
Central Japanese Association (Beikoku Chuo Nipponjin Kai)		X	
Central Japanese Association of Southern California		X	
Dai Nippon Butoku Kai (Military Virtue Society of Japan or Military Art Society of Japan) (Hokubei Kai)		X	
Heimuska Kai, also known as Hokubei Heieki Gimusha Kai Zaibei Nihonjin, Heiyaku Gimusha Kai, and		X	
Zaibei Heimusha Kai (Japanese residing in American Military Conscripts Assoc.) Heimusha Kai		X	
Hinode Kai (Imperial Japanese Reservists)		X	
Hinomaru Kai (Rising Sun Flag Society—a Group of Japanese War Veterans)		X	
Hokubei Zaigo Shoko Dan (North American Reserve Officers Association)		X	
Japanese Association of America (Zaibei Nihonjin Kai)		X	
Japanese Overseas Central Society (Kaigai Dobo Chuo Kai)		X	
Japanese Overseas Convention, Tokyo, Japan, 1940		X	
Japanese Protective Association (Recruiting Organization)		X	
Jikyoku Iin Kai (Current Affairs Association)		X	
Kibei Seinen Kai (Association of U. S. Citizens of Japanese Ancestry who have returned to America after studying in Japan)		X	
Nanka Teikoku Gunyudan (Imperial Military Friends Group or Southern California War Veterans)		X	
Nichibei Kogyo Kaisha (The Great Fujii Theatre)		X	
Northwest Japanese Association		X	
Sakura Kai (Patriotic Society or Cherry Association—composed of Veterans of Russo-Japanese War) (Cherry Blossom Society)		X	
Shinto Temples		X	
Sokoku Kai (Fatherland Society)		X	
Suiko Sha (Reserve Officers Association Los Angeles)		X	
Hokoku Seinen-Dan	X		See 8(B)
Hokoku Joshi Seinen-Dan		X	
Sokoku Kenkyu Seinen-Dan		X	
Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi-Dan	X		See 8(B)

(B) Give reasons for becoming a member:

See attached sheet

(C) State nature of your activity and offices you held:

See attached sheet

(D) If you voluntarily discontinued membership in any of the aforementioned organizations, give approximate date and reasons for so doing:

6:

I was evacuated with my brother, Kumajiro and his family, from Campbell, California, where I did farm work. I do not remember when the application was made but I believe it was while I was at Tule Lake, Block 72. I had lost my property at evacuation time and my way of living, doing farm work; I was a Kibei-Nisei and I was afraid that the government was going to deport me to Japan where my mother was living. There was a lot of agitation in camp and pressure about repatriation and many rumors were spread around. Outside of camp there had been cases of violence and bad treatment for persons of our race, and they were refused food service and were badly treated in many ways. I thought that the public would not accept us and that living for persons like us outside of camp was dangerous. One of my roommates was K. Yoshinaga, Kibei, and he said I must make request for repatriation; I believe the Dan provided the form for repatriation. A number of the Dan officers came to my room, talking about repatriation and how it must be done because otherwise there would be trouble. I felt it was the safest thing to do and that I might run into some harm if I did not comply. Also I did not see where I had much choice in the matter because of my circumstances and since I expected deportation anyway and believed I was not acceptable in this country, I went ahead to apply for repatriation.

7(A):

It was very difficult to live in camp in the midst of the many rumors and propaganda and disturbances that were going on. I could not escape the influence of all these things and I felt very uneasy about my status. There was a lot of agitation in camp against these questions and I was told many times that the answers should be "no" because otherwise there would be a lot of trouble. I had registered for the draft in October, 1940, at Santa Clara, California, and then while I was at Heart Mountain Camp, in 1943, I received a 4-C, alien enemy classification. Some of the other Kibei people were saying that if "yes" answers were given we would be forced outside of camp and it would be dangerous to live that way. Because of the strong feeling inside of camp against these questions, I was afraid of being treated like a castout and roughed up if I did not go along with almost everybody else, the way they were answering. I believe, however, that at first I did give a "yes" answer and then because of the worries about the consequences, I changed my answer to "no".

8(B):

I believe I was in the Dan organization pretty much from the beginning where I lived at Block 72, Tule Lake. My roommates were Y. Takai, K. Yoshinaga, and M. Shimazaki. Mr. Keiji Obata, Issei, was a Hoshi-Dan leader in our block. K. Yoshinaga and my roommates said I should be a member of the Dan, that since I was a Kibei I would be deported so I should join the Dan and repatriate, even if I did not join I would still be sent to Japan. I was afraid of not joining, that there would be trouble for me in the future and that there would be some reaction against me in camp which would result in bad treatment.

8(C):

Shimazaki recommended and appointed me as a secretary, Ward VII, and I went to meetings and kept records. I felt that I could not refuse to serve this way because I would be inviting trouble and some of the Dan members would treat me like a castout and the pressure was

8(C) continued:

too great to go against it. I believe that it was after the first group had left that I was appointed as secretary, and Mr. Yoshinaga was one of the persons who notified me that I was to keep records.

I went to morning exercises; lectures and the meetings. I believed I could not refuse to show up because my roommates would certainly know about it and others in the Dan would be informed and I would have been very uneasy in such a spot.

8(E):

At first the Dan group seemed like an organization that was mainly for cultural purposes, physical fitness and the like--and it was only later that some of the agitators changed things so that the group became different than when it was first organized. I was afraid of the pressure of the Dan group and the influence it held in camp as it turned out later and I always thought that the safest thing to do was to cooperate as much as possible where I lived so closely with members and came into contact all the time with the leaders.

8(F):

I was afraid that if I tried to drop out of the Dan membership that the officer group would make it rough for me in many ways and I heard that for persons who tried to do this that names would be reported to the Japanese government and it would mean trouble when we were sent to Japan; also there was talk of trouble for family members in Japan.

9(A):

I believe that when it was time for the first application Mr. Obata's daughter wrote out the form for me and Shimazaki and then we received some reply saying it was not ready. It was Mr. Obata, Issei Dan leader, who had the form prepared for my signature and I had to follow his orders and the Dan in this way was trying to find out whether the forms were ready. When I made the second request a little later when the forms came Mr. Obata told me to go ahead on this occasion. I thought the safest thing for me to do was to comply generally with the conduct of the Dan officers as I did not want to be treated like a castout and be put on the spot for trouble in camp. There had been a number of cases in camp where some of the men were badly treated because they did not cooperate and they did not have a chance against a gang group. I could not escape the pressure of the Dan group, living as we were closely and hearing rumors and propaganda all the time. I never felt that I had the chance to act for myself because I was afraid of consequences and I pretty much thought that I was unwanted in this country, a Kibei-Nisei who was just like a deportable alien. I did not want to stay in camp indefinitely and it was a very useless feeling to be kept this way without any assurance about status and having to listen to the pro-Japanese talk around me until I was worried and troubled to think of the future. There was no protection for us in camp and I was scared to think of the rough treatment I might get if I tried to

9(A) continued:

act for myself and refuse to go along with some of the agitators.

There were rumors also about trouble in Japan, that unless I renounce citizenship I would be facing hardship and mistreatment in that country. My mother was in Japan and I was worried that she would also be punished some way for my conduct. Mr. Yoshinaga and Mr. Takai said that I must renounce citizenship. I was worried about some harsh reaction from Mr. Bingo, Block 73, Dan leader; Mr. Daizo Inouye, Judo expert; and also from Mr. Uchida and Mr. Tachibana. I wanted to avoid their singling me out because I would run the risk of being considered an outcast and then being ganged up on in camp.

There were many cases of bad treatment outside of camp for persons of our race, of property destroyed, refusing food service, and incidents of persecution. I was afraid of this kind of discrimination and I thought that even if I had a good chance to live outside of camp, still I would not be able to earn a living or even live in safety. I thought that the public would not accept persons like me and that the government plan was to classify us like the aliens, deportable persons, and there was nothing I could do about this plan. I believed that the only safe course opened for me was to go ahead with the renouncing of my citizenship and hope that in this way I could avoid trouble and feel more easiness about my life in camp and also about the future.

9(B):

When it came time for the hearing, the atmosphere in camp was even more tense than before and I recall receiving some word before the hearing and I believe it was from among others, Mr. Yoshinaga, about what should be said at the hearing to get approval. I cannot now remember exactly how the questions or statements went but I believe that when I was asked a question about favoring Japanese victory that I replied "yes"; and also I referred to the emperor as a living god. I do not know what else I said but I tried to give a pro-Japanese impression because I thought that it was the way to get my renunciation passed. This was mainly in my mind at the time of the hearing so whatever words were used or questions were asked, I would have said such things so that there would be approval and I could then feel less worried in my mind about the future. I was scared that unless I went through with the hearing, I might meet up with some harm in camp afterwards. Some of the Dan leaders were still around, as I recall, and I did not want to have any run-ins with them at this time of tension and unrest.

- (E) If you claim that your membership in any of the aforementioned organizations, your activities therein, or your acceptance of an office was due to misunderstanding of the purpose or nature of the organization, explain fully:

See attached sheet

- (F) If you at any time wished to discontinue membership, activity, or office and were prevented from so doing, explain fully:

See attached sheet

9. (A) When did you decide to apply for forms upon which to renounce your United States citizenship?
Give reasons for so doing:

Uncertain

See attached sheet

- (B) If reasons given in answer to preceding question differ from reasons given to officer who held renunciation hearing, give your explanation for difference:

See attached sheet

- (C) If you claim that your renunciation was caused by fear, you should explain fully why such fear extended from the time of the application for renunciation papers until the date of actual renunciation:

The answers to questions 9(A) and 9(B) cover this period which was very short and as I remember, at the time of the renunciation the same conditions existed and there was no let-up in the pressures of camp life which caused me to be very upset in my mind about what I must do for protection.

- (D) If the fear did not extend from the date of application to the date of approval by the Attorney General, you should state whether you made any effort to withdraw your application, and if not, explain fully:

- (E) If, after approval, you requested the Attorney General to withdraw his approval of your renunciation or to cancel your renunciation, give the reasons for the delay in making such request:

I did not know anything could be done about my status until there was legal advice.

(F) If there are any other facts which influenced your action in renouncing your United States citizenship, state fully below or on a separate sheet if necessary.

10. (A) If you now are in Japan, give your reasons for having returned to Japan.

(B) If you are in Japan, have you since you returned to Japan taken any action to resume or acquire Japanese citizenship?.....
 If you have, state nature of action taken and reasons therefor. Answer Yes or No

11. (A) If you have served or are serving in the military or naval forces of the United States fill in the following:

I enlisted (or was drafted) on..... in the.....; my Serial number is.....;
State the date State the Branch of Service

I still am in such service.....; I was released from active duty on.....and received my Discharge
Answer Yes or No
 on.....

(B) If at any time while in a war relocation center or since then you volunteered for military or naval service but your offer of service was rejected state the time when and the place where you volunteered.

(C) State why your offer of such service was rejected, if the reason was made known to you.

(D) If you were rejected for military or naval service by your Local Draft Board since your release from a war relocation center state the reason for the rejection if known to you.

12. If any member of your family has served or is serving in the military or naval forces of the United States state the relationship of such person to you, the name of such person, the branch of service and serial number of such person:

Relationship	Name
Branch of Service	Serial Number

/s/ Fujio Frank Kawamoto
 (Signature in full of applicant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of January, 1999

(Notary Seal)

/s/ Tetsujiro Nakamura
 Notary Public in and for the
 County of Los Angeles, State
 of California

My Commission Expires Oct. 24, 1962

This affidavit may be executed before any person authorized to administer oaths.