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Translation of Letter written in Japanese received by Mr. Best

December 28, 1943

Project Director
Tule Lake Center

Your Excellency:

May I take the liberty to write to you. If you will honor me by reading my humble message, I shall be deeply grateful to you.

Two long months have passed since the troubles created by those revolutionists disregarding your Excellency's kind considerations destroyed the normal Center life completely. Now as an inevitable result, the majority of the peace-loving colonists are put to countless sufferings and misery, even though the peace-loving colonists certainly do resent and long for the restoration of peace and order. They cannot take any action for the solution of this existing condition because of some pressure group and few remaining Dai-hyo Sha. Confident of this fact, the tyrants (Dai-hyo Sha) are even more shouting Status quo to intimidate the poor helpless colonists. Such is the true condition of the Center at the present time. I only regret that my words cannot adequately describe it.

As your Excellency may already be aware of the fact that the majority of the colonists are orderly and only the minority (they prevail upon this condition among this minority) adhere to this damnable policy of Status quo. One of the factors contributing to this condition is none other than the Mess workers. They are economically well-off, since they have jobs; in cahoot with the tyrants so that they have nothing to resort to, as far as their health is concerned. They are within the reach of sugar and other food. Lastly, but not the least they can have the pleasure of seeing other people struggling to get a job, even at the risk of being beaten up. Such cruel people! Such is the true condition of this Center.

Now this humble person wish to suggest to your Excellency for the solution of this issue which is segregation of good from bad by means of referendum votes--signed ballots,-to decide the question whether for or against status quo. Those who vote against Status quo be given a job and protected by Army police, who will in time eliminate the tyrants (Dai-hyo Sha). If this humble person's suggestion could be of any help to your Excellency's plans, I shall be more than glad that I did. It is very important that the referendum votes be taken without due notice to the colonists, in order to deal the terrifying blow to those scheming Dai-hyo Sha.

TULE LAKE CENTER

January 14, 1944

MR. BEST, Project Director:

As a result of the referendum votes taken on January 11, 1944, Dai-hyo Sha's Status Quo was liquidated completely. As the first step to restore normalcy in this Center, the responsible men of various divisions and sections decided, at its meeting held on January 13, 1944, to organize temporarily a Co-ordinating Committee of seven to represent the body, in order to facilitate the ground work for returning the people to work.

We hereby request for your official recognition, in writing, of this Committee until such time that official representatives are selected by the colonists. The reasons for this request for official recognition are:

1. To avoid possible misunderstanding among parties concerned, as well as the colonists.
2. To facilitate the initiative step toward the immediate object; that is, i.e., call the people back to work.

Co-ordinating Committee

Copy

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL INTERVIEW
OF THE
RESPONSIBLE MEN OF VARIOUS DIVISIONS
WITH THE
DETAINED STOCKADE INTERNEES

January 13, 1944

RE:

DETAINED INTERNEE

DATE: January 13, 1944

PLACE: Ad. Bldg. Rm. 23

TIME: 1:35 p.m.

Attendance: Detained Internees: Hoshiko, Morri, Shimizu, Inouye, Katayama,
and Nakamoto

Divisional responsible men: Akitsuki, Ikemoto, Kondo, Shimada,
Yamatani, Furukawa, Mayeda, Okamoto, Naito,
Namekawa, and Nakao

Shimada: As you know, the maintenance of status quo existed. Concerning it, there were many opinions expressed that it was just impossible to continue it; moreover, the release of those detained was also impossible. On January 5, Dai-hyo Sha Kai was convened and an attendance of about 200 was shown but unfortunately the meeting was dissolved just because one responsible party did not show up.

Then some young people wanted to work in the warehouse, thereupon the division heads and foremen held a meeting, at which time they decided that we must liquidate the status quo and simultaneously return to work as an initial step. So, Mr. Kozuma was approached but he had been picked up, and Mr. Kataoka had resigned; therefore, the only solution was to call all divisional workers together. After due discussion we concluded that divisional workers' opinions be first obtained on the question--whether they desire return-to-work, which was, of course, affirmative. Subsequent to the workers' decision, we took referendum votes of all the colonists on the question of whether they were for or against the maintenance of status quo. The results were again successful as follows:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Opposed Blocks</u>	<u>For Status Quo</u>
1	6	3
2	5	4
3	5	4
4	8	1
5	7	2
6	2	7
7	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
	35	28

Total number of ballots casted was 8941, 4593 opposed it. 4120 favored it, and there were 228 blank votes.

As a consequence the division heads met, discussed, and finally decided that you people be approached and that we should mutually discuss and give informations and suggestions pertaining to this matter. We realize that the present incident started with "improvement of living conditions" as the object, primarily, but we thought that our efforts in trying to get you people released from the stockade should be the preliminary step, prior to our ultimate object. Therefore, we would like to report and give informations on the present condition of the camp and at the same time hear your side of the story--conditions and opinions in the stockade.

Do you have any questions? Can you give us some opinions of the condition or feelings of the people within the stockade?

- Shimizu: We received this notice so suddenly we didn't know where we were heading for or what for. As for the feelings of the people in the stockade internees, we do not have any answer. Even if we do express our opinion it might not conform to the present condition of the camp, since the condition is so different now, I suppose. There about 247 people detained and whatever you request we can do or inform them. If it's personal opinion, we can give it to you but not any representative opinion.

Yesterday about 10 men came in the stockade. All of their stories differ. Each one had a different story to tell in a different angle. Some were important and some very insignificant reports. Results of the referendum vote--this is the first time we heard about it. Although we had heard that referendum voting took place.

It's so hard to answer your question since it's so abrupt.

Yamatani: We are not asking you to give a representing opinion. We would like you to hear what we have to say and we would also like to ask you for your personal opinion. We were so worried about you people in the stockade that we always hoped to try to get your release as soon as possible. Therefore, we would like to have your frank and sincere opinion. In this way we hope to get a full clear understanding.

- Shimizu: In reality, we have many things misconstrued; that is, regarding the condition of the camp. This is my true feeling. It is hard to tell which of the stories reported is the legitimate one, so we have to just imagine and guess. There are many things that we may have misunderstood because of that. We have nothing to do but just eat three times a day which causes us to just do a lot of thinking, good and bad.

Yamatani: In regard to the hunger strike, we want to be able to get a more accurate picture of it; for example, the actual phase of it. We hope to avoid many worries which the people have been going through.

Shimada: Colonists are so worried after hearing so much about the hunger strike.

Akitsuki: Day before, S. F. Chronicle had a large headline about the hunger strike. In that article, an item appeared stating that as a result, death took place.

- Shimizu: Of course, prime motive of the hunger strike was one way of trying to clear up the incident in the center; they thought, because negotiations with the authorities had failed, there was no alternative. Among the men within the stockade, some were transferred to other tents just because they laughed or talked too much. We couldn't tell what was what. On the 31st, I think, we had to stand in the snow for about three hours. Within that period, the Army had got into the barracks and some of our belongings were stolen by them. Hunger strike was caused by this. You see the Army took a cruel stand--bread-and-water attitude. The strike continued for about a week, but it didn't affect any lives.

As to the restoration of normalcy to the Center, our ideas were in common, inasmuch as this is already an international incident, we felt that we should not do anything for which we may later be ashamed of. The attitude or the desire of the stockade internees is that they want to return to Japan and therefore, there's no reason why further international incidents should be created.

Akitsuiki: At night the lamps go out around 9 o'clock, is that right?

- Shimizu: It's a regulation but it's not strictly followed.

Akitsuiki: I would like to ascertain this, when the lights are bright everyone does not feel much but when they go out some men sense the misery very deeply, is that right?

- Inouye: Silly questions like that should not be asked.

- Shimizu: As to the lights, it's not strictly ordered, but it's their desire to have us go to sleep and rise early.

Shimada: As you know, we wanted to ask you for your opinion since it would be too bad if the Japanese are compelled to take sides and fight each other, which may be possible after analyzing the referendum results. We were misunderstood because of the referendum; in spite of it, with full determination, we are trying to tackle this problem. It is our desire, if possible, to get a fuller understanding. I believe and trust that even within the stockade, there are people who have the same feelings as we have. If we get your personal opinion, I think we can go ahead with confidence and perhaps solve the problem more peacefully.

- Inouye: As one of the residents, we have put our reliance and full responsibility to the Negotiating Committee. I think it's not the proper time to be expressing our personal opinion.

Shimada: But we only felt that by conferring with you people we might be able to find some friendly way out.

- Inouye: We didn't come into the stockade just because we wanted to; we came in here because we were picked up. Many times negotiations with the Administration were transacted but was rejected each time. (He was pointing out to the release of those detained)

Shimada: Divisional heads are just working with this sincere motive--to return the Center to normalcy and at the same time try to get your release.

At this time, Mr. Shimada read the Statement printed by the Committee.

Shimada: Even though improvement of living condition may have been the primary object of the Negotiating Committee, we thought it more important and humanly to work on the release of those detained, since some are so worried. Recently a woman, whose husband is detained, told me that their chief object in coming into this center was because they wanted to return to Japan and she certainly doesn't want to leave her husband here--dead.

Doing the same old thing over and over again in vain did and does not bring results, so we decided to take the initiative.

Naito: The reason why we started such a movement was because some boys who were working in the warehouse were working under great restraint and risk. Another was because--well, I've been affiliated with the Seinen Kai for the purpose of studying public opinions, confidentially, because, in the first place, I did not heartily approve of the attitude of the Dai-hyo Sha. However, inasmuch as I and the members of the Seinen Kai had signed the petition giving full responsibility to the Dai-hyo Sha authorizing them to negotiate and solve the existing situation, we did not take an aggressive stand. In fact the members numbering somewhat 500 were more or less suppressed not to take any drastic steps even if the accomplishments of the Dai-hyo Sha provoked and aggravated them. Dai-hyo Sha, if they possessed any true Japanese spirit, should have disbanded a long time ago. I therefore suggested that a resolution be prepared; that is, a resolution for returning back to work; selection of another responsible political group put the resolution to vote--secret ballots, abandon the existence of the Dai-hyo Sha; and finally foster the true Japanese spirit and base all our future ideas as a gentlemanly Japanese would.

○ Shimizu: Practically all the blocks are represented in this stockade. If possible, we would like to inform them of the attitude of the camp residents ask for their opinion, and then meet with you people again. As I said before, all ideas of various block representatives vary, so as it is now, we can't say definitely what their general opinion is. I'll tell you what we can do, however, we'll compile the opinions of the internees and then meet again.

Shimada: I think we can get permission. There are rumors disseminating within the camp that the place is on the verge of explosion; in spite of it, our determination is firm. We don't know what's going to happen to us. We can't be afraid of the pressure groups, otherwise nothing can be accomplished.

○ Inouye: Administration plan to first get rid of the status quo and then get on with the release of the detained. In other words, it means that unless status quo is gone, our release will be out of the question.

Mr. Shimada then read the report of the Spanish Consul and commented as follows:

Shimada: You can see that even the Spanish Consul will not attempt to get

himself mixed up in politics, stating that his jurisdiction implies only to the living condition of those people who were born in Japan. There is no other way out, but to settle the problem by ourselves. Isn't this right, Mr. Shimizu, you were there when the Consul came, weren't you?

② Shimizu: Yes. Dai-hyo Sha also met the Spanish Consul before noon at that time. Questions were raised and the answers were the same; that the duties of the Consul are restricted only to the conditions of the camp in conformity with the International treaties, and that he has nothing to do with the present incident.

Yamatani: As the result of the referendum, various divisional responsible men got together and tried to thrash out a procedure for this return-to-work movement and this was the result. Every department will have Japanese heads with a Caucasian in the supervisory position. As, for example, the Co-op, all heads are Japanese with one Caucasian supervisor, Mr. McNeil, and in the Mess Division, the Chief, Mr. Hayward, will have a Japanese chief steward and under the Japanese will be two or three assistants. If there are any complaints, it will be settled among the Japanese stewards. If the complaint is too complicated, Mr. Hayward will then take care of it. Various division heads will be Japanese and Caucasians will only assume the positions of supervisors. This plan should be permanent; Mr. Silverthorne will draft it and later Director Myer will sign it, I understand.

Incidentally the name of the project will no longer be Tule Lake Segregation Center, but will be Tule Lake Center.

Anyway please inform the people in the stockade as to how and why we came about to take the referendum vote.

Naito: We have no desire whatsoever to disregard you detained people.

Yamatani: It is our desire only to hear the opinion of the people in the stockade even though they may consider our plan advisable or not.

The interview ended at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ M. Iwahara
Secretary Pro Tem

RE:

O - DETAINED INTERNEE

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL INTERVIEW
OF THE
DIVISIONAL RESPONSIBLE MEN
AND THE
DETAINED STOCKADE INTERNEES

January 14, 1944

DATE: January 14, 1944
TIME: Administration Building Room 23
PLACE: 1:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Divisional Responsible Men: Shimada, Akitsuki, Nakao, Okamoto, Naito, Namekawa, Yamatani, Mayeda, and Furukawa

Detained Internees: Hoshiko, Morri, Shimizu, Inouye, Katayama, and Nakamoto

- Shimizu: The stockade internees first questioned me, what the standing of the people whom we met was and the object of the meeting. So will you kindly explain that fully again, if you don't mind, so that our positions will be cleared.
- Shimada: This body was selected from the various divisional heads. The object is just the way we explained yesterday.
- Shimizu: From what view point did you people call us?
- Akitsuki: As to the people we wanted to meet, we didn't have the slightest idea whom to call. We first included some of the members of the Negotiating Committee but permission was refused and their names were crossed out.
- Shimizu: Did you say that you couldn't get permission to call the Negotiating Committee members?
- Akitsuki: We asked for Mr. Kimura, for instance, of the Negotiating Committee, but he was denied. There were few others who were also crossed out from the list we submitted.
- Shimizu: We reported all the things discussed at yesterday's meeting to somewhat 247 stockade internees and also told them that your sincere object in meeting with all the divisional heads was your earnest intention in trying to restore the Center to its normal condition. Unless you try to encounter this problem with solid determination and sincerity this situation cannot be

solved. Merely return to work of a portion of the colonists is not enough. You have a very heavy responsibility.

Shimada: I can't and don't know whether we'll succeed or fail. But I can tell you this, we are doing this with our sincerest faith and I can say that we are certainly doing our utmost.

Akitsuki: Let me add this, we have no political ambitions, whatsoever.
We have strongly resolved to dissolve this group as soon as the Center returns to its normal condition, as soon as people go back to work, as soon as we succeed in getting the release of those justifiable colonists detained, and finally when the responsible political group is established. However, we're not saying that we'll not be responsible thereafter, even after dissolution.

Naito: We're just saying that until that time, that is until the official political group is selected by the people, we will act as the Co-ordinating Committee.

Shimizu: The Dai-hyo Sha and the Negotiating Committee members looked at the results of the referendum vote. They noted at over 4,000 still favored status quo. Looking at the problem from that point of view, they felt and were somewhat worried whether returning to work of a portion would not be complicated and perhaps dangerous.

Inouye: Yes, after looking at the results, it's barely half and half. I wonder if the workers returning to work on Monday could go without complications. I surely hate to see the Japanese divided and hate to see them fighting with each other. It's obvious that majority of colonists have opposed status quo. If a portion return to work what do you think these people will think or what kind of reactions will they take? They might take an exactly reverse attitude instead of calmly, peacefully yielding to the winning side. In that case will you people take the responsibility? I hate to see anything like that happen, after all the things you people have gone through. Have you anything prepared in the event of such a circumstance? As Japanese to Japanese, let's speak frankly and tell all we know, after all we're working for the same object.

Shimada: That was the very thing we were worried about. This morning one representative came over. He was a strong backer of this status quo, his attitude was very firm; however, he gave many just and sound reasons for supporting it. Of course, I made my footing clear too. Nonetheless, I found, after talking to him, one thing in common that that was the ultimate object which we were both aiming for, although in a different way.

acatuki: Let me give you an illustration. During the hot presidential campaign, when Roosevelt and Wilkie were running for President, American people were divided. But after it became known that Roosevelt was the victor, all the Wilkie, conceded (whether they like it or not) to Roosevelt and his Administration and supported him whole-heartily. Why can't we do that?

○ Inouye: The referendum was won by a bare majority, but I personally think that in reality, status quo actually won. After all that hardship and all that misery the people had gone through for a long time, little less than a half still supported status quo. Without giving that point a thorough consideration and should people return to work on Monday, it may be pretty hard to continue or reestablish friendly relations among the Japanese. You may be worried about that point, but so are we.

Shimada: Yes, we were worried about that and that's why we really wanted to consult and confer with you people and possibly find a harmonious solution to this problem.

○ Shimizu: To what extent, in the first place, are you attempting to get our release, that is among the 247 interned. You realize, of course, that the reason why status quo came into existence was chiefly for the purpose of getting our release. In other words you cannot remedy and settle this situation fundamentally, by merely liquidating status quo. Normalcy will automatically come back if you solve the root of it.

○ Morri: In getting our release, did you have any arrangements or provisions made with the Administration?

Shimada: We tried all means we could think of, but all in vain and so we concluded that this was the only way out.

○ Shimizu: This is my personal opinion. If, for instance,

one or two men are left behind the rest of us cannot come out of the stockade, from the standpoint of humanity. I think the others have the same opinion. If we are all released status quo will automatically disappear.

Are you thinking in this way - abolish status quo first and then proceed with our release? Even if status quo is gone some people will be left behind without work, then this situation cannot be remedied fundamentally.

Shimada: Let me repeat this, the Army would not give us a chance to talk about release of you people, unless normal condition was first returned.

○ Inouye: The opinion of the internees in the stockade is that "if one go out, we all go out, if one stay in we all stay in." Do you realize why the people are so firm in their conviction?

I have heard such a thing as this - FBI said that there are people like this, one who is a source of strife to the WRA, the Army, and even to the Japanese people. Remember, the FBI is an American. Who told such an erroneous thing? That's the cause of all the troubles.

I think it is only proper to get the former Negotiating Committee released first. If you don't do that the others will not come out. If release is impossible and Army continues to repress us, we will still continue to favor status quo, since that's the only thing we can do.

○ Shimizu: Are you willing to negotiate with the Administration whether release en masse of the detained would be possible? The the whole thing will be solved.

Shimada: We tried, as I said before, we tried all methods and ways, but was kicked each time. This was the only alternative.

○ Shimizu: To what extent is rease en mas se possible? You see there are some men who have had no hearings even after two months and they still don't know why they were picked up.

○ Katayama: So the people are actually returning to work on Monday? What is your outlook? What are you trying to tell us? Are you trying to get our understanding or concession? As Japanese to Japanese, let's not have anything behind our backs.

Shimada: Yes, the people are returning to work on Monday. We called you people with a thought that we might be able to get your understanding and your cooperation and perhaps your frank opinion, as we mentioned yesterday. We thought by doing this, we might be able to avoid possible frictions among the Japanese, who are so divided in their ideas.

○ Morri: You have our cooperation in all respects. However, speaking from our standpoint, don't you think you people have more-or-less over-ridden us in not consulting or conferring with us before the referendum. If you people had any sincerity I don't see why you overlooked that.

Shimada: We admit that we over-rode you people, but you see we tried to put this issue over in a matter of two or three days that . . .

○ Inouye: What is your future plan and what kind of negotiation are you expecting to carry on in regard to our release?

This problem does not concern the 247 detained nor does it concern the mere 16,000 colonists --this is a very delicate problem which affects Japan and America. Do you realize that?

Akitsuki: After many attempts, we found that the release of you people was just impossible; therefore, we took this step of first returning the workers back to their jobs, thereby restoring normalcy to a certain extent, and then continue on to transact negotiation to get your release. Even tho' we realized that the prime object of this present incident was improvement-of-living--conditions movement. We expect to go into that after we complete our plans of getting your release. With that purpose in mind, we wanted to meet you people to hear your opinion on this matter.

○ Inouye: But what is your future plan?

Shimada: Well, if this place returns to its normal condition, we will try to get you people released, that is justifiable colonists. The Administration also said that they are willing to take that into consideration; only, if the center is in its normal condition.

○ Inouye: Are you trying to just give us a report or asking something from us?

- Shimada: If you will only understand why we took this step, that is all we ask. Some people who are returning to work are a bit afraid of those who are not. If you people will agree and understand this situation, the colonists will think more deeply. As you know some colonists have so much confidence in your statements.
- Naito: As Mr. Morri stated, we may have over-ridden you, but you see, there were several warehouse workers who wanted to work and who started work at a great risk. In order to protect and support them, we had to take quick action in carrying out the will of many others. So we did not consult you first. I can say that there were 800 young people who were ready to stand up, however, they were suppressed. I think if suppression wasn't done, there would have been riots.
- o Morri: The foundation of this, as you know, is the Negotiating Committee. Even if we, six, were called out like this, we cannot decide at our own will. We want you to ask Mr. Best or Colonel Austin to release en masse all those detained without condition. The the problem is automatically solved, I think.
- Naito: Let's see. Unconditional release? That may be impossible, I think.
- o Shimizu: In the past we got into politics and feuds, but after and if the release is granted, we can assure you that the Negotiating Committee will not mix into politics. Even at that time, our object was the improvement of living conditions. With this condition and promise, will you inform the Administration about it? It is certainly not our desire to see riots and disorder. Then consideration, as well as our fullest cooperation will be given whole-heartily.
- Akitsuki: Negotiation will be facilitated if you will give us such an assurance in writing.
- o Katayama: Mail is censored.
- Akitsuki: However, we have our weaknesses too, lest we are accused or suspected by the Administration.
- o Morri: If you have any Japanese spirit, I think this matter could be easily solved. If you have any intention in trying to accomplish anything, I know you will succeed, but if you have any personal element involved, it will always be a complete failure.

- Shimizu: There's another plan, if Mr. Morri's is impossible. Since you are so worried about restoring the center to complete normalcy, how about getting the Negotiating Committee (14 members) out for maybe even two or three hours and have them meet and talk to the colonists. I think if you should do that they can convince the people, who are so strongly supporting them, of the fact that true normalcy can only be achieved by yielding to the plans offered by you people.
- Inouye: I had the same feeling. You said that the camp might be divided into two (that is the people). If you believe in peace, I suggest that you consider Mr. Shimizu's plan.
- Yamatani: Well, according to the referendum, we won by a majority, which is little over half, but the ballots were none too good and some people didn't understand the meaning of status quo.
- Akitsuki: Maintenance and Mess are working. Let me give you a sample of some of the opinions expressed. There are families where four or five of their members are working in the mess. Lest status quo is abolished they fear that they may lose their jobs; such people voted for status quo, purely from a selfish standpoint.
- Inouye: On the other hand, there are people who just became tired of status quo and voted against it, so you can't say very much.
- attempt to beat akitsuki*
Akitsuki: Two boys came over last night to beat me up. I asked for their names and told them, "If you came to beat me up, why didn't you come during the daytime. Baby has just gone to sleep; you might wake her up." After talking to the boys for a lengthy time, we came to an understanding and they assured me that since we were all working for a common cause, they will be willing to support us.
- Inouye: We realize all the things you people are going through and have told the men in the stockade that you people were working so hard for the common goal. We are just as worried as you people are.
- Morri: However things don't always happen by accident. Only with firm determination, you can go ahead; otherwise, no.
- Shimizu: Men in the stockade commended and appreciated your efforts. We request that you solve the

problem from the root. At least try again.

Akitsuiki: Let me say this. We don't want to annoy the Japanese Government any more. We know that they have plenty on their hands. Let's try to solve our own problems with our own hands. We must fully realized that if we fail this time, the whole thing will go on a stand-still.

(At this time, Mr. Yamatani asked if the men could tell us more about the hunger strike.)

A /
O Morri:

The reason why we went on a hunger strike was because the Army boys stole our shirts, gloves, fountain pen, and even garlic, while we stood out in the snow for about three hours. I think they took about \$1,000 worth, of course, this is a guess. So we took an aggressive stand and said that isn't it a shame for men of the Army, the most responsible men who are now backing America in this war, to steal people's things and doesn't it spoil the history of U. S. They took an immediate retaliatory step by food. They threw three loaves of bread into the gate--giving an attitude that bread and water was good enough for us. This is the first time we had real unity within the stockade. All were very indignant, so I think there isn't a single thing that cannot be fulfilled if one has a strong will and determination.

O Inouye:

The whole thing started just because we refused to appear for roll call.

O Morri:

Chief reason, of course, was because two men laughed during the roll call. They weren't laughing at the officer calling the roll, but were laughing at some men who were loading cartons of tobacco, I think. These men happened to be extra small in stature and they were really a comical sight juggling with a piled stack of cartons in an attempt to load it. Well, just because these two laughed they were segregated into another tent. This happened on the 30th. We refused roll call unless these two were released. Thereupon, the Army took this bread-and-water-is-good-enough-for-you attitude. On the 31st, I think, Army men gave in and said that if we appear for roll call these two will be released and they were released but as we said before we were left out in the snow while the Army boys searched our entire barracks, and took many of our belongings. On the 31st these two returned by we still refused to go out for roll call. The Army said, "All right, we have plenty

of solders." and they brought out some 300 soldiers so we had to go out for roll call. Our punishment continued to be bread and water.

o Inouye: As Japanese we couldn't just concede to the Army's mean attitude like this so we took the same stand Let's not Eat.

o Morri: Our strike ended on the 6th. Not a single person ate. We just managed to survive on water and salt.

Yamatani: What caused you to give in finally?

o Morri: Mr. Hartman requested Tsuda for an interview. Tsuda came back and requested us to stop the strike and so we did. .

o Inouye: So you can readily see that the circumstances made it so that we had to be united. We are so united, I don't think individual release would be possible.

B →
o Shimizu: { If Mr. Inouye's plan is not feasible, see if you can get the Negotiating Committee out for certain number of hours for the purpose, as I mentioned.

Akitsuiki: Whatever the Negotiating Committee members have to say to the people, I suggest that such should be written up.

Interview ended at 3:45 p.m.

(Translation of a letter received by Mr. R. R. Best,
Project Director on January 26, 1944)

PROJECT DIRECTOR:

I think it is justifiable to submit this letter to you since I know that you have SBI (meaning FBI) talented in Japanese, as your secretary with an excellent salary.

Am
My unreserved opinion on your management policy at the time of the incident was inconsiderate and very very poor; however, I must congratulate you in your good judgment in the selection of Akitsuki as one of your newly organized Co-ordinating Committee. Although I resented bitterly on the impression that you were repeating the same foolish mistake, my point of view has become somewhat changed upon knowing Akitsuki better. Would you, Project Director, be interested to know more about the past of one of your Committee, whom you trust, since I have this information with regard to Dog Akitsuki. Through one of my friends (an old man) I have heard this and I will pass it on to you. According to this old man, Akitsuki comes from one of the best families. This is evinced by the fact that he has been receiving regularly, up to the time of the outbreak of this present war, New Year's greeting cards from the former premier of Japan, Prince Konoye. His parent's standing -- it seems that he had a mother who had spent years in England and France, studying art and music. It is not a wonder that Dog Akitsuki is talented in many fields.

Upon announcement of the Committee's name (fresh guys working against us to dissolve the Committee), we spotted Akitsuki first the night of the 11th about nine. One of our young men trailed Akitsuki as he crossed the fire break. The next morning when I called this young man, he complained, lying in bed, that he had pain in the vertebrae and refused to report about the occurrence of the night before. At last by evening, he confessed shamefully that he had been thrown bodily on a hard ground by Akitsuki (sutemi--jiu jitsu). I was stupefied because this young man is a great wrestler, weighing nearly 140 pounds. Two or three days later again, an unusual report came to me. According to that report this time, two young men went over to Akitsuki's apartment and were subjected to apologies. On top of that, their names and addresses were taken by the Dog. I watched with suspense, the disposition of these two young men, what course the Dog Akitsuki would take. Seven days passed yet those two were left free. Upon seeing these two free, I cannot help but question myself.

My conviction is that the Dog Akitsuki is one of our comrades. All in all even though he (Akitsuki) may be American born, he is a Japanese. Upon this conclusion you cannot hate them any longer. The only thing I wish to call your attention to is that these Committee are working for the sake of the Japanese colonists.

Therefore, with consultation with the Committee, keep promises made to the former Negotiating Committee as much as possible.

c o p y

20 PY

February 4, 1944

Lt. Schaner
Camp Tule Lake

Sir:

We understand that there is a committee working hard toward an amicable settlement of the situation in the Center. Previously several men have met and conferred with this committee on three different occasions. Now we would like to meet this committee so would appreciate it if you would arrange a meeting with them. We will explain the detail of the purpose of this meeting if you would see us at your office.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Iwao Shimizu

/s/ Ernest M. Kozuma

DETAINED INTERNEES

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE STOCKADE INTERNEES AND THE
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE TULE LAKE CENTER

February 5, 1944

Date: February 5, 1944 Place: Ad. Building Room 5 Time: 2:35 p.m.

Attendance: Stockade Internees. Kozuma and Shimizu
Co-ordinating Committee: M. Shimada, K. Okamoto,
J. Nakao, J. Naydo, I. Namekawa, G. Yamatani,
and B. Akitsuki
Others: B. Mayeda and F. Furukawa

Shimizu: The reason why we asked for this meeting was because we heard many true stories and actual reports of the Center's existing condition at the present time, by many men who recently came into the stockade. We heard about you people who were working so hard for the benefit of the colony and how straightforwardly the Committee had been working in attempting to get the stockade people released.

When you people called us out last time, we just had to take such a step and say such things because the atmosphere at that time was such that we couldn't very well express ourselves truthfully. Yes, I said things which weren't my true feelings. I've often wondered, if you had only called us in a smaller group or as individuals, things might have worked more smooth and better.

Since Komiya came in, we were able to get a thorough picture of the conditions outside of this stockade and everything became more clear, especially the work of the Committee. We also were convinced of the fact that more and more people were inclining to your side. As we noticed how conditions within and without the stockade had changed so, we figured that there's no use dragging along as we have and so, we came to this conclusion to meet the Committee again by requesting Lt. Shaner.

After many people were released from the stockade, people in there became very happy.

After seeing you people working so hard for our benefit, I think it is only right and just for us to, at least, cooperate with you. If the WRA or the Army ask for our assurance that we do not meddle in politics again, we will, in every respects, cooperate.

There are cases like this -- some young boys have even said that they're willing to take the chance of getting beaten up twice or thrice, if they could only get out into the Center. The reason why their attitude changed even to that extent is because of Komiya. I think his report was very fair.

Among the six men whom you people interviewed last time, only three are left now, Morri, Inouye, and I. At that meeting, I wanted to say more but unfortunately I didn't know what was in Inouye's mind or the other persons' minds that I hesitated from expressing myself too frankly. But as I became more intimate with Mr. Inouye, I was amazed to find that our ideas and feelings were in common. Mr. Morri -- just after the meeting was asked by Mr. Shimada whether his statements were sincere -- Mr. Morri told me later that he just couldn't find an answer to his question. Since that meeting, we wanted to meet again with the Committee but we thought it was no use because sometimes 30, 50 would be released in a day. However, recently we noticed that some were still being picked up, so we decided that we should meet with you people again. Mr. Kimura, Mr. Kozuma and many others believed that it was just of no use being so stubborn -- there's no limit to it. Army's attitude toward the Negotiating Committee hasn't changed a bit since their December 4th statement. We felt that there's no hope in relying on those Negotiating Committee. At that time we had strong convictions, but since we failed once, we have no intentions of being block representatives again. Many of those men have this same opinion. Some even went on to say that they felt so sorry toward the block residents whom they represent. But -- there is no other way out or any channel within the stockade to convey our present attitude to the Army or to the colonists.

○ Kozuma: There were some boys in Barrack A who were rather intimate with me and talked freely. As we exchanged our ideas, I found that their thoughts were not different from mine. Why couldn't we work hand in hand with that certain group who are working so hard, we thought. So we brought this story up and talked to Mr. Shimizu and others and came to this conclusion to meet with you again.

Yamatani: We named eight on the list, for instance, Kimura, Morri, Inouye, Yoshida, Shimizu, Yamamoto, Kozuma, and Yamana, but the Army permitted only you two. They warned us that since we made such a blunder last time don't repeat the same mistake, so they permitted us to meet you two first and if proved successful, meet the others later -- this was their suggestion.

{ We are also informed of the fact that you six men did not call a meeting with the other stockade detainees as you told us at the second interview. Naturally, we were puzzled when we heard that and didn't know to what extent we could believe or trust your words. Army questioned today's meeting because they knew that our last interview was a bungle.

○ Shimizu: You see, we have been in the stockade for almost three months. We see each other every morning and night. We

can't do things as we wish.

After that interview, I asked the Army if they wouldn't stand watch because we wanted to hold a meeting that day during the mess hour. For some reasons it came about that we should, instead of holding a mass meeting, go around to the barracks and report it to them personally. As a result, we held no meeting. Only meeting we had was just among ourselves that is the six of us.

Shimada: We sincerely understand you. Even though we feared that result of the chance we were taking at that time lest the colonists divide in two and aim at each other, the result was, however, more effective than we anticipated. The people who were released stood up for us, more than we thought. Those people are very brave. In fact they are so bold and so out-spoken that sometimes, we feel as if we should suppress them. We are certainly grateful to them.

(At this time, Mr. Shimada presented a letter written by Mr. Kozuma to G. Kuratomi, when Kozuma was still active in the Negotiating Committee.)

Shimada: In getting your release, such letters as this might prove as an evidence or grounds upon which you might not be justified for a release. However, as far as we're concerned, we understand your honest feeling and likewise, we'll do our best. By the way, did you send this letter to Kuratomi?

○ Kozuma: Yes, But I don't even remember what I wrote in that letter.

○ Shimizu: Since men have been detained for such a long time, psychologically, they have changed. I think 90% of them have the same attitude as we have. There are cases which are really pitiful -- boys who are merely 20 or so have been detained in there for three months just because their past records weren't too good or something.

Since I became a captain of the barrack, I met boys who come in to fill coal and do other works. They have told me that they were detained simply because they didn't carry or because they lost their temporary passes. Some of them are really handicapped because of their inability to speak English. Recently I have noticed many fellows like that. There are three boys in particular, who have been in Tule since the inception of this center. I think something should be done for them, even before us. Once when I heard that a young boy dreamt about his mother, I felt so sorry for him. I think it's urgent that such boys be released as soon as possible. Do you know anything about Shingu?

Akitsuki: I think we have his name on the list going out soon.

Shimizu: Please get him released. There are many other boys like him. Torii, for example -- his younger brother went out but he's still in there and he doesn't even know why he came in. He told me that he wasn't at the Motor Pool at the time of the incident as the Army thinks so. He told me that he was willing to testify strongly and even provide evidence, a time punch, to establish proof that he was in a mess hall.

(Conversation recurred to the subject of the last interview.)

Shimizu: No one actually expressed their true personal opinion at that time, I think. But, as I said before, if you had interviewed us individually, I might have told you what I really thought. Even for myself, I didn't know Mr. Inouye very much and didn't have the opportunity to really get acquainted with him so I hesitated. I hate to say this but I didn't trust him at that time and I'm sure he felt the same way toward me.

Shimada: Yes, I knew Mr. Inouye from the outside, in connection with judo. I realized and knew that those weren't his true words.

Shimizu: If it were private and informal it didn't matter much but since we felt that we were called more-or-less officially, we couldn't very well say as we felt and always had to bear in mind the many who were supposedly supporting Kai-Kuratomi group.

Even during that hunger strike, I didn't know that some men ate food because I was just sleeping and barely living on water. I couldn't believe that people who weren't so young and people who were suppose to be responsible men did such a thing.

Kozuma: We also had another informal meeting with Mr. Robertson sometime ago, seven of us, Sugimoto, Kuratomi, H. Mori and some others. At that time, I did say a few words but as Shimizu said, I couldn't express myself honestly. Mr. Kuratomi acted as our spokesman and did most of the talking.

Oh yes, as we came out of the stockade today, Lieutenant jokingly asked if we came out with Kai-Kuratomi-Headquarters-big shots' permission.

Shimizu: Even some of the former Negotiating Committee members do not feel as Kai, Kuratomi and some others do. For instance, Mr. Kimura, he had often mentioned that Negotiating Committee should disband and It's not even too late now. Among the Negotiating Committee members, Kobayashi, Yamamoto, and few others had a sensible point of view. Of course they didn't come out with it because

they knew that it'll be useless anyway. Mr. Kimura is in an awkward position since he came from the same center as Kai and Kuratomi.

Akitsuiki: Let me say this, as a Committee, we have never, as far as we remember, talked abusively or have criticized the Negotiating Committee. Even if we did, people wouldn't believe it anyway.

o Shimizu: Mr. Morri had constantly warned Mr. Kai, but it was all in vain. Kai would immediately jump on him saying 'are you slipping?' Mr. Morri just gave up and re-signed as a block representative in November, I think. Mr. Morri's viewpoints, I noticed, are very moderate. Recently a group of young fellows yelled out in nasty language to some people who were passing. At this time, Mr. Morri politely cautioned and suppressed their impudence. So you can readily see what kind of a man Mr. Morri is.

Shimada: We are progressing slowly but surely and are still encountering some obstinate groups. The more obstinate they are the more stockade victims there will be. We certainly do not enjoy seeing such a thing. With the assistance of you men, we hope we can avoid such to a certain extent.

o Kozuma: We are not asking for your release, but, regardless of our release or continued detention, we are heartily willing to cooperate and help in any way possible from within the stockade. Besides, Army's attitude toward the Negotiating Committee hasn't changed in the least. My personal opinion is that the attitude we took involving 'giri' was certainly meaningless, even in spite of the Army's blunt statement of December 4th. To tell you the truth, I don't know for what reason we were all so stubborn.

Akitsuiki: { Mr. Shimizu, remember, at the last meeting you said that even for an hour or two, the Negotiating Committee should be released for the purpose of conveying message to the colonists. Was that your idea?

o Shimizu: Yes, it was. I thought perhaps if it were that kind of a plan, the Negotiating Committee would concede to.

Shimada: And that request you six made regarding unconditional release en masse of all the detainees, I've talked to the authorities about it as I promised. Accordingly it was denied.

But, really, what I resent ~~is~~ this - I heard that the Negotiating Committee said that if Akitsuiki, Yamatani, myself and few others were picked up and placed in the stockade, the Negotiating Committee could transform this camp into a peaceful one in within 24 hours. I

was indeed disappointed when I heard this. I just gave up hope.

(Discussion followed in reference to the letter sent to Lt. Shaner by this group, including Kozuma, Shimizu and some 14 others, requesting for a meeting with the Co-ordinating Committee.)

- o Kozuma: I can assure you that whatever is written in this letter is true.
- o Shimizu: Let me warrant you that if those people on the list should fail in their promise or commit an offensive act against the will of the people and of course against the peace of the colony, we are willing to assume full responsibility. I am not just saying this to make you feel good. If those people do something when drunk, then please don't blame me. And this I can swear, we did not write that letter as a strategy or just because we wanted to put something over you.

Thereupon, the group decided to call together the 16 persons listed in the letter before the Project Director for the purpose of signing any statement which the Project Director or the Army may deem necessary, subsequent, of course, to their approval.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary of the
Co-ordinating Committee

MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608-A

Copy

February 2, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Receipt of Red Cross Gift

This will acknowledge receipt of 15 kegs of Kikko-man soy-bean sauce on January 30, 1944, which was part of the gift allotted to the Japanese Nationals of this Center from the Japanese Red Cross.

Upon being appointed by the WRA for the disposition of the gift we, the Committee, selected two Japanese Nationals as representatives from the Committee namely: Okamoto, Kumaharu, and Yamatani, Jirozo, who assumed the responsibility and made arrangements by holding a meeting with the Civic Organization staffs on January 29, 1944. The attached minutes of the meeting will be self-explanatory.

We have already notified the National Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C. of the partial receipt of the gift as shown per attached copy of the letter which was sent on January 31, 1944.

On behalf of the internees, we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation for your service.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

/s/ Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

Japanese National Representatives:
Okamoto, Kumaharu
Yamatani, Jirozo

MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608-A

February 2, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Nomination of Temporary Police Commissioners

According to the meeting held on January 28, 1944, the Committee submitted a list of six nominees to Mr. Schmitt of the Police Department. The attached minutes of that meeting will be self-explanatory. Today, however, we have made a recommendation to Mr. Schmitt again, suggesting that K. Nakamura, G. Yamatani, and J. Naydo be nominated and appointed as Police Commissioners because of the pending troublesome condition existing especially in Ward 6. According to the report we received, one Matsuoka, a janitor of block 49 (who is against status quo), was attacked by Hamano over the subject of back-to-work movement. As a result, all other fellow janitors, in sympathy with Matsuoka, refused to work today. Such occurrences will not only inconvenience the block residents, but will have bad influence on the colonists as a whole. It seems that evacuee police force was notified immediately. However, no action of maintaining order was taken. At this time, the Committee ascertained that it was not the fault on the part of function due to the absence of Police Commissioners. Hence, the Committee arrived at the conclusion that if the Police Commissioners be instituted immediately to formulate plans for prompt execution, it will be beneficial not only to the evacuee police force, but also for the maintenance of order within the Center.

We want to request for the Project Director's approval on this matter so that the plans may be executed immediately. It can also be considered that this is one of the ways of accelerating our step in bringing back normalcy, as well as expediting the election of prominent Commissioners by referendum votes of the colonists.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

/s/ Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608-A

February 2, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Creation of New Employment Opportunities

In spite of the existing friction between the pro and con status quo people, approximately 750 persons have applied for jobs up to date. In view of this fact that many are still on the waiting list, new applicants are aware that their chances of employment are remote, hence, a growing impatience is noted among them. We, the Committee, fear the result, least they be instigated by the pro status quo group who may aver that this back-to-work movement is beneficial only to those who had worked previously.

In order to relieve this situation, may this Committee again request for your special consideration on this matter of creating new employment opportunities such as general camp cleaning or sawing of kindling wood by crews of 20 to 30.

Subject: Expansion of Farm Acreage (recommendation)

As a result of the current incident the League-of-Nations tract, which was more than one-half of the Project's farm, has been lost. It is indisputable that the agricultural program is one of the most vital matter, and we, the Committee, upon due deliberation, hereby submit a recommendation for the expansion of farm acreage, not only from the standpoint of employment opportunities for colonists, but for the health as well as economy of the colonists.

As far as we know, Leage-of-Nations tract has been under the control of Reclamation Department. Is there any possibility of reclaiming the tract for Project use as heretofore?

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

/s/ Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 2, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Preparation for Referendum Votes prior to the Replacement of this Committee

The dice cast by the responsible men of all divisions on the morning of the 7th of January, with firm determination to liquidate status quo, hurtle the battle cries of back-to-work and restore-to-normalcy. Nearly four weeks have already passed.

In spite of the existing frictions between the pro and con status quo people, approximately 1,000 ex-employees up to date have returned to work and about the same number of new work applicants have been noted. This is one of the illustrations which exemplifies the fact that the condition of this Center has definitely improved.

At this time, in view of many agenda which embody the future plans regarding the management of this Center, we, the Committee, felt and decided that the road was open for the preparation of referendum votes for the purpose of replacing this temporary Committee. By taking such steps, the Committee believed that the prevailing pro and con feelings among the colonists could be eradicated and overcome, since they will be given opportunity to have a voice in the future management of the Center. In this way, their opinions will be centralized for a common purpose. Psychologically, socially, and economically, we think the time has come whereby representations from the colonists be selected democratically. We want to avoid further public misconception that "we are the whole cheese and running the Center as dictated by our own wills."

With this understanding, we, the Committee, would feel more free to work. A recommendation of this nature must be submitted to you sooner or later, why not now?

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

/s/ Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

M E M O R A N D U M

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 10, 1944

TO: Mr. Hayward, Chief Steward
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Request for Clarification of Okamida, Ayano case

Okamida, Ayano has been employed as a Cook since September 1, 1942 in Mess 23 with \$19 rating. However, for the past two months, she received only \$16 checks without any notification regarding 'cut' in her pay, from the Employment Office.

Notwithstanding, Chief Cook Toda has promoted two girls, namely,

Mitsu Yuwamaye
Yoshi Toyota

to \$19 ratings. Will you please investigate this case in order to avoid future occurrence of such a nature?

Co-ordinating committee

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM

Co-ordinating Committee 1608 - A
February 11, 1944

Request granted 2/12/44

TO: Colonel Verne Austin and Project Director Best
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Request for Releasement of I. Shimizu and Tatsuo Inouye

A
Since this Committee interviewed two stockade detainees, namely, Kozuma and Shimizu, we have discussed and considered seriously the matter, as we deemed that the releasement of such persons will have great influence upon the welfare of the colonists; thus, we have arrived at a conclusion that without any risk on our part, the Committee will profit immensely by their releasement. Since the Committee, after investigation through fielders, has gathered all necessary information that there is a possibility of enlisting the detainees' (who are to be released) assistance for the reestablishment of the Center's normalcy, we feel that such persons' releasement would bring the finishing touches to the work which the Committee could not otherwise undertake. In other words, they will be instrumental in tackling this tough 'bunch'.

B
We, the Committee, fully recommend Iwao Shimizu and Tatsuo Inouye for releasement and may we request for your special consideration on this matter and if possible, your approval for their release.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

BA:mi

J. Nakao

K. Okamoto

G. Yamatani

J. Naydo

I. Namekawa

M. Shimada

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A
February 12, 1944

215A

TO: Mr. Harry Black, Ass't Project Director
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Problem of Block 49 -- Recommendation for its Solution

A. As we have stated in the memorandum of February 2, 1944, with regard to the problem of Block 49, we have been making extensive investigation directly by contacting block residents and indirectly by residents of neighboring blocks. Since existing friction, subsequent to the segregation, was due to the lack of understanding among residents and lack of opportunities to get acquainted with each other which was due to the Dai-hyo Sha's incident, we, the Committee, feel that it is quite impossible to settle the existing frictions locally. Therefore, we, the Committee, recommend, if possible, since it is minority who are placed involuntarily in the position of 'social outcasts', that the only solution of this matter would be to induce those minority to move elsewhere.

This Committee fully understands the housing facility problem, at the present time, not mentioning the contemplated arrival of the Manzanar group, which is quite a headache on the part of the Administration, we realize. We were rather hesitant about making this recommendation but whatever vacancies created by this evacuation on the part of minority could be replaced by those in league with the majority of the block. In other words, evacuation would involve the matter of merely exchanging.

We, the Committee, are fully aware of the fact that there are other blocks which are facing the same problem but by proper approach to induce such parties involved to exchange their quarters with those of Block 49, the problem can be solved. Instead of taking majority operations, it is advisable, this Committee feels, to solve it by local operations; that is, exchanging of minority in block 49 with the minority of other blocks. "After that, let them work it out by themselves."

B

Co-ordinating Committee

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

February 12, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: All Division and Section Heads
FROM: R.R. Best
SUBJECT: Evacuee Employment

It seems advisable to return immediately to our original placement procedure and it is requested that you follow the established procedure in making request for all kinds of evacuee labor.

Requests should be made on regular Standard Request for Enlistees Form, giving the number of workers desired, name of person to report to, division, section, date wanted, and description of duties. These will be filled through the Placement Officer. No individual is to be selected or requested by either the Division or Section Head.

Whenever it seems advisable for a worker to be transferred from one division to another, full details as to the reason for transfer should be stated on the bottom of the transfer.

Before terminations are accepted, they must be signed by the Division Head and approved by the Personnel Officer, with the temporary pass attached to the termination. No termination is effective unless the pass accompanies the termination.

Compliance with the above instruction will assist the Placement Office in giving employment to the many unemployed who have registered for work and are awaiting assignments.

/s/ R.R. Best
R.R. Best
Project Director

MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 12, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Problem of Disposition of Ashes in Each Block

This Committee has been asked by the hospital personnel, as well as by the block residents, with regard to the disposition of ash pits, since, due to negligence, even human lives have been involved for which you may already be aware of. A child of three years of age stumbled in an ash pit some feet deep, which was filled with hot ashes, and suffered, as a consequence, third-degree burn. Even though the best of care was taken by the doctors, the child died this morning.

This question of ash pits have been discussed among residents previously, however, due to the lack of cooperation to which we would like to implicate, inimical feeling aggravated after the referendum and people are totally losing their sense of humanity.

Since the colonists will be disposing hot ashes for at least 8 - 10 weeks, disposition must be taken care of without possible delay. Our suggestion is to station a man to take care of extinguishing fire by the use of waste water. This man can also do some block cleaning during his spare time. We recommend, at the same time, abolishment of private ash pits.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

ba:mi

February 14, 1944

FROM: Block 9 residents

We, the undersigned residents of Block 9, herewith petition you for your special consideration on the release of the following detained by the Army:

We, the block residents of Block 9, feel that the releasement of the above-mentioned persons ill bring about the solution to the problem of the block. Therefore, please consider this matter for the future maintenance of peace amooq residents. We will assume responsibility to see to it that these parties will not be involved in politics of any kind after their release.

B

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A
February 16, 1944

To: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director
From: Co-ordinating Committee
Subject: Army Patrols' Entrance into Women's Latrine

X
The Committee has been called attention to the fact by the residents of Block 7 (especially women) that Army Patrols have entered the women's latrine on February 15, 1944 at 9:00 p.m. Three women were taking shower at this time and they were greatly embarrassed when they saw one of the Patrols smiling and looking in.

This Committee feels that the Patrols entered the latrine in the line of duty, as most latrines are often-times used as meeting places of trouble-makers. However, since we have women fielders assigned to look into women's latrines, Patrols are thereby relieved of such trouble. Insofar as women-gatherings in the latrines are concerned, the situation is well under control. Therefore, we, the Committee, recommend that hereafter Army Patrols should refrain from entering women's latrines, unless it is absolutely necessary.

B
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

M E M O R A N D U M

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 16, 1944

TO: Colonel Austin, Commanding, and Lieutenant Forbes
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Army Patrols' Entrance into Women's Latrine

The Committee has been called attention to the fact by the residents of Block 7 (especially women) that Army Patrols have entered the women's latrine on February 15, 1944 at 9:00 p.m. Three women were taking shower at this time and they were greatly embarrassed when they saw one of the Patrols smiling and looking in.

This Committee feels that the Patrols entered the latrine on the line of duty, as most latrines are often-times used as meeting places of trouble-makers. However, since we have several women fielders assigned to look into women's latrines, Patrols are thereby relieved of such trouble. Insofar as women-gatherings in latrines are concerned the situation is well under control. Therefore, we, the Committee, recommend that hereafter Army Patrols should refrain from entering women's latrines, unless it is absolutely necessary.

Co-ordinating Committee

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

M E M O R A N D U M
Co-ordinating Committee 1608 - A

February 16, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Receipt of Spanish Consul's Letter and Request for
your Approval to publicize the Memorandum

The letter dated February 12, 1944 and the attached memorandum from the Department of State have been received. by the two representatives of Japanese Nationals of this Committee namely: G. Yamatani and K. Okamoto. We have mailed out a letter acknowledging receipt of the same to the Spanish Consul Senor F. de Amat of San Francisco, today.

We, the Committee, wish to publicize the content of the memorandum from the State Department regarding the reunion of the internees and his family, which no doubt will be of a great assurance and interest to those concerned, as soon as the translation is completed. We hereby request for your approval for the publication of the same by this Committee.

Co-ordinating Committee

Byron Akitsuki

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MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

220
February 16, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best
Project Director

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

A SUBJECT: Formation of an Arrangement Committee prior to General Election

We, the Co-ordinating Committee, feel that the utmost has been accomplished in the Committee's primary object of restoration of normalcy to the Center by the liquidation of status quo. Since the ice is broken and the way to the colonists has been opened, what would be the next step for this Committee to pursue?

We feel that to be involved in such personal matters as of the mess employees, farm, hospital, internal security, social welfare, would not be advisable for the future interest and plan of this organization. Viewing great improvement of the Center to normalcy, this body should not, by any means, lose this ripe opportunity of dissolution, which was made public in our previous statement; otherwise, colonists' misunderstanding and misconception toward this Committee will accrue. It is imperative that this organization's standpoint be clarified, as announced previously, whereby the Committee may be replaced by election by means of secret votes. The successor will thereon continue to settle the problems among colonists and simultaneously cooperate fully with the Administration for the betterment, peace, and order of the community.

Apparently great deal of difficulties will be faced; nevertheless, our step and object should be the formation of a Central Committee. As an immediate step toward the realization of our ultimate object, we wish to recommend a plan whereby some Arrangement Committee be appointed.

1. Arrangement Committee be headed by Aizo Takahashi, whom we fully recommend as one who could be relied upon for such an undertaking. As to his character and his past, please refer to the attached memorandum.
2. Upon completion of an Arrangement Committee, this Co-ordinating Committee, as previously understood as a temporary one, will duly dissolve.

3. Even after the dissolution, it does not mean that this Committee will not assist and cooperate for the betterment of the Center.

This Co-ordinating Committee wishes to make this recommendation as we feel that we should not let pass this opportunity of retirement while the welcome is still afresh. We have no other selfish desire than to maintain peace in the Center by an utmost cooperation with the Administration. Therefore, we are hereby submitting this recommendation.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

B

/s/ Byron Akitsuki
Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 16, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director
The Advisory Council

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

C SUBJECT: In reference to Mr. Aizo Takahashi's Character and Past

Mr. Aizo Takahashi, age 63
Resident of Palo Alto, California, prior to evacuation for 20 years
Regarded as Leader of Japanese community and held a post of President
of Japanese Association and Chairman of Language School Board
Respected by all

Mr. Takahashi is an unusual character among Issei Japanese. He has a quality of a great man. At the time of the Daihyo-Sha's activities, although he was named to fill an important post, he never lost his equilibrium of sense of justice. At that time of the incident many a times he was intimidated because of his non-cooperation with the Negotiating Committee. Nevertheless, he held stubbornly to his own conviction which was justice to all his followers.

His characteristic is such and the following are few of the qualities that we can point out. He feels with the people but does not follow them; he maintains his independence of thought no matter what public opinion may be. He thinks clearly, speaks intelligently, and lives simply. His ethics are of the future, not traditional and of the past nor conventional and of the present. He has no vanity, seeking no praise, he is never offended, he cannot retaliate for he cannot descend to the level of them that love to do harm. He lives in a certain self-sufficient aloofness, so that your praise or blame does not seem to reach him. Yet his isolation is warm and not cold.

He changes his opinion easily when he sees his error. He cares not for consistency which is the fetish of little minds, but for truth, which is the sum of great souls.

Upon such conviction, we, the Committee, recommend him as the most capable leader of the colony. With his assistance, we, the Committee, feel more certain of attainment of its primary object not only the restoration of normalcy to this Center, but also the happiness and contentment of all those concerned. These are the reasons why we recommend him as an official Co-ordinating Committee Advisor upon your approval.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

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Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

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(Translation)

February 16, 1944

COLONEL AUSTIN: Lt. Shaner, Mr. R. Best

A I am the wife of Tokutaro Sakazaki, who has been picked up by the M.P. on February 4, 1944 around 1:30 p. m., and since he has not been released up to date I am very much concerned about his health.

My good husband Tokutaro Sakazaki left Tacoma, Washington, on May 17, 1942 for the Pinedale Assembly Center and spent two months there. In the same year on July 19, my husband and I arrived in this Center. Subsequent to our arrival, (which was the end of September) my husband applied for a job in the lumber yard maintenance crew. Since August of last year finally, he has been at his present occupation as a boiler-man of the block in which we live. He has been working diligently up to the time of his arrest and he was in a pleasant mood especially on that day. Ever since he obtained this pleasant job, he seldom went out of the block, even if he did, it was once or twice to get mail from the Post office or to buy fish from the Canteen. He always confined himself to his work in the boiler room where he did talk out in a deafening voice and entertained other people. Even on his day-off he would tinker with his tools for making ornaments, etc. This shows the fact that my husband has done nothing, whatsoever, in the past that may be detrimental to the peace of the block residents, as well as the colonists of the Center.

I myself without hesitation vouch for his act of non-commitment. If he be given the opportunity of a hearing whereby he be cleared, I definitely believe that he will be released. His termination for his job is still being withheld and awaiting his safe return everyday, that, I beseech the authorities' special consideration for his releasement by immediate check on all his records.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Tsui Sakazaki

B

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

1608 - A
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

February 16, 1944

Senor F. De Amat
Consul of Spain
Spanish Consulate
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter dated February 12, 1944 and the attached memorandum from the Department of State in regard to the reunion of internees and his family. As it was addressed spokesman for residents of the Tule Lake Center the letter was received by the Project Director, Mr. R.R. Best, and upon his appointment, the following persons namely: George Yamatani and Kumaharu Okamoto, have been appointed as the representatives of Japanese Nationals to receive and duly publicize it to the colonists.

The above-mentioned Japanese Nationals' representatives are Committee members of this Co-ordinating Committee, which has been officially recognized by the Army, as well as the WRA authorities. The formation of this Committee was actuated by the colonists' desire to restore normalcy within the center since the incident of some three months ago. We are happy to inform you that the condition of this Center has greatly improved and light of normalcy, peace, and contentment of Center life are in view.

In the future if there is anything that this Committee could be of service to you, we shall be happy to do so and in the meantime, on behalf of the whole colonists of this Center we beseech you to do your utmost for the betterment and welfare of all Japanese people concerned.

Yours truly,

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

Japanese Nat'l Representatives

George Yamatani

Kumaharu Okamoto

B

(Translation of a letter written by Mrs.
Tsui Sakazaki)

February 19, 1944

A
LIEUTENANT COLONEL VERNE AUSTIN:

LIEUTENANT SHANER:

I wish to know if you have read my letter dated February 16, in which I have ascertained that my husband has always desired a peaceful community and not a sort of a person who would make troubles in the block, which I could swear to you before God, as I know him better than anyone else in the whole world.

My husband has an evil-looking features and has a very loud voice that even though he is truly conversing pleasantly (to himself) he may have given the impression to others as if he were provoking, thereby, he may have made enemies unintentionally. But I assure you that he has an agreeable disposition. I shall see to it that upon his releasement, there will be no worry about his ever being involved in any matter which tends to disturb an Army stockade, for no one knows how long, I, as his wife, could not bear the thought of his mental suffering.

I appeal to you once again to give special consideration on the matter in releasing him as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Tsui Sakazaki

B

MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1808 - A

February 18, 1944

TO: ADVISORY COUNCIL

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Peace Movement Headed by I. Uchi of Block 53, Ward 6

Delegation headed by Iwao Uchi 5307 - C, Mrs. June Sasaki 2819 - F, and Mrs. Matsuda for a direct consultation with the Advisory Council members, in order to let known their object of activities and subsequent agreement to meet with this Committee upon Advisory Councils suggestion, did not materialize as we anticipated.

Since this Committee through the fielders have abbe aware of their activity prior to and since the referendum votes, the Committee wishes to inform you of their object of activities for your future reference. Because in view of the greatly improved conditions of this Center, the Committee's work for the immediate future has great connection.

I. Uchi of 5307 - C has been greatly connected with the pro status quo group movement in order to destroy the Committee's work up to date. This movement has been originally headed by one Shimonishi of 8705 - E, who prior to his detainment in the stockade on November 27 has been a confidential messenger of Kai, who was hiding at that time. Shimonishi was released around January 5; the reason of his release is unknown to this Committee. He has been indirectly supervising the movement of his followers and this status quo group and the apparent sending of secret instructions of Kai, which he received, at that time of releasement. His statement is responsible for the rumors that all those detained in the stockade will ultimately be released without condition. There is evidence of his connection with Uchi of Ward 6 and Tamura of Block 28, who is the parent of Mrs. Sasaki. At that time Kai-Kuratomi gave up, it is definitely known that four persons assigned to carry on Dai-hyo Sha activities during the leaders' absence (except one) were residents of Ward 6. These are the contributing factors for the result of the referendum in that ward. As you know, pro status quo over-whelmingly defeated con status quo; specifically 387 against, 700 for status quo, and 67 blank votes.

On January 30, it was reported by the fielders that in Blocks 27, 28, 29, 49, 52, and 53 signatures of several residents were obtained by these parties under pretense that those who sign will have priority on the next exchange boat and partial treatment by the Japanese Government upon return to Japan.

As far as known to this Committee, connection with Tamura and Sasaki are entirely originated by personal feeling -- Jealousy. They, Tamura and Sasaki families, repeatedly claimed that

they wanted to see once again the Dai-hyo Sha in power, which will be a satisfaction to their vain prestige. As for Mrs. Matsuda, we, the Committee, refer you to the Army for her reputation.

This Committee, as you know, has been formed with the sole purpose of restoration of peace in the Center so that every colonist will be released from this sickening atmosphere which existed. With that purpose this Committee's work has been straightforward to invite any suggestions or recommendations from anyone regardless of pro or con status quo. Up to date, we have publicized three times by bulletins and several times verbally through many channels to invite them to come for consultation. This Committee feels that if such delegation should be interested in the same accomplishment of object as this Committee, why should and could they have not come to us first for consultation? The fact that these parties did not come to us even at the suggestion of the Advisory Council, we, the Committee, could not understand and trust their sincerity or their so-called peace movement.

This Committee has been making extensive study and investigation through fielders for any plot and movement of this nature almost daily. The fact that this delegation had enough courage to approach the Advisory Council for consultation and the Council granted such opportunity this Committee feels that such grant was due to the lack of understanding of Japanese psychology and our object. But from the Committee's viewpoint such consultation will tend to bring complete destruction of accomplishment up to date because such opportunity of consultation encourages them. The Committee has been exerting their utmost for our object of restoration of normalcy. - We are fatigued mentally and physically and could no longer invite and increase our burden. The reason why we resent, is that we feel that such frivolous action on the part of the Advisory Council will give an impression that the Committee has been discredited and also noncommitment statement are often interpreted in a wrong sense and in favor of those who are against us. We have been up-to-date obliged to exhaust our efforts to rectify such rumors spread by misunderstandings.

We, the Committee, have utmost faith in the Project Director, the Advisory Council, and the Army. We believe that we have been given free rein for the solution of the matters of this nature. We also believe that the Advisory Council members had in mind the sole purpose of aid to the Committee that with their commitment-making, no harm could be done but we wish to make it clear to you, at this time, that even though the informal consultation with such parties might tend to the continuation of existing faction among colony.

If the delegations sincerely desire peace and order, but could not cooperate with this Committee, they should at least confine their efforts for the betterment of their own particular ward or block in which they live. The fact of existing conditions in those blocks from which these delegates came are, as you know, considered the worst incompatible ones. Referendum result was: Block 53, Against only 30, for 110; Block 28, against 48, for 87; and Block 43, against 53, for 71.

226 A.

This Committee has no intention to ask you to stop altogether such interviews or consultations, however, hereafter, please bear in mind that such opportunity given to such delegations will give an impression that anyone can consult the Administration directly on this matter, thereby ignoring the Committee's position and curtailing its work.

Perchance that should you find these delegation more fitted for the work than the Committee, we are always ready to wash our hands on the matter anytime.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

B

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 18, 1944

TO: Mr. W. Schmidt, Chief of Police
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Request for Temporary Passes

The following are Co-ordinating Committee messengers and office staff, who are to unload 125 cases of Tea which just arrived from the National Red Cross Headquarters of Washington:

Iwohara, Tsugio	1814 - C
Keiunji, Masaru	2914 - C
Tsushima, Tsuneco	2917 - B
Tanaka, Minoru	5212 - D
Yamashita, George	5212 - D
Wada, Keiji	4114 - A

In view of the immediate unloading of the shipment, will you please issue temporary passes to the above-mentioned persons -- time to be 10:00 to 12:00 a.m.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 18, 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Gate 3

the issuance of passes to the following persons have been requested to Police Chief Schmidt for the unloading of the shipment of 125 cases of Tea from the National Red Cross Headquarters of Washington:

Iwohara, Tsugio	1814 - C	Tanaka, Minoru	5212 - D
Keijunji, Masaru	2914 - C	Yamashita, George	5212 - D
Tsushima, Tsuneo	2917 - B	Wada, Keiji	4114 - A

The matter has been requested through Chief Schmidt, who will vouch for their temporary passes.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki, Ex. Secretary

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MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 18, 1944

TO: ADVISORY COUNCIL

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Peace Movement Headed by I. Uchi of Block 53, Ward 6

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Since this Committee through the fielders have been aware of their activity prior to and since the referendum votes, the Committee wishes to inform you of their object of activities for your future reference. Because in view of the greatly improved conditions of this Center, the Committee's work for the immediate future has great connection.

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delegates came are, as you know, considered the worst incompatible ones. Referendum result was: Block 53, Against only 30, for 110; Block 28, against 48, for 87; and Block 43, against 53, for 71.

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CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 19, 1944

TO: Mr. Paul Robertson, Director in Charge of Operations
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Appointment of Motor Pool Division Head

On February 19, 1944 around 9 o'clock, Mr. Yamatani, one of the Committee members, had a chance to talk to Mr. Failing, who is in charge of the Motor Pool division. Their conversation was on the subject of appointment of evacuee Motor Pool division head, in order to clarify the misunderstandings of those ex-employees, who are not as yet recalled, and also for the efficient function of that division.

This Committee has been approached by some 25 - 30 ex-employees from that division, who has not been called back to work, requesting us to disclose the reason why their reassignments were delayed.

At that time of the formation of this Co-ordinating Committee, it was the understanding of the responsible men of all divisions that the work procedure will be such that division heads and assistants be called first and they will prepare the list of those ex-employees to be recalled. In view of the absence of a division head in the Motor Pool, such resumption of work procedure had been neglected. We, the Committee, wish to assist those employees who are not yet reinstated. Therefore, we wish to recommend that a division head for the Motor Pool be appointed so that ex-employees' reinstatement will be expedited and their understanding, which are misconstrued, may be immediately clarified. Ex-employees have approached us and have definitely stated that if they were not called upon institution of a evacuee division head they would have no complaint to make. However, since other divisions are working out the same resumption of work procedure, we think it only advisable and appropriate that the Motor Pool division pursue the same procedure.

Will you kindly confer with Mr. Failing and discuss the matter of appointment of division head?

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki, Ex. Sec.

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MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 19, 1944

TO: COLONEL AUSTIN, COMMANDING
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee, Executive Secretary
SUBJECT: Translation of the letter by Mrs. Sakazaki

Herewith attached is the translation of the letter which you received from Mrs. Tsui Sakazaki of February 16, 1944.

I have been requested by you and Mr. Best at the same time, but since the content of the letter was identical, one of the copies is herewith submitted.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 19, 1944

TO: Lt. Shaner
FROM: Executive Secretary
SUBJECT: Translation of the Letter by Mrs. Sakazaki

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I have been requested by you and Mr. Best at the same time, but since the content of the letter was identical, one of the copies is herewith submitted.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki, Ex. Secretary

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Newell, California

February 24, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: All Appointed and Evacuee Personnel
FROM: R. R. Best, Project Director
SUBJECT: COMPENSATORY OVERTIME

Some questions have been raised regarding the availability at this time of compensatory time accumulated by evacuee workers prior to the November 4, 1943, incident.

By reason of the action taken by the evacuees, it was necessary for the Army to assume control of the Center on November 4. All evacuee workers, as a result, were terminated as of the close of business on that date. The regulations specify that compensatory leave must be taken prior to the termination of a job. This was not done and as a result, any compensatory leave accumulated as of the close of business November 4, 1943, was cancelled.

I regret that this action was necessary, but the administration had no choice in the matter.

/s/ R. R. Best
R. R. Best
Project Director

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 24, 1944

TO: Mr. Lorne Huycke, Supervisor of Community Activities
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Request for Assignment of Mr. Aizo T akahashi

Co-ordinating Committee's recommendation - Mr. Aizo Takahashi as Advisor to this Committee and also to head the Arrangement Committee - has been duly approved by the Advisory Council at their meeting held on February 18, 1944. At that time, it was suggested that Mr. Takahashi be enrolled in the Community Management Division under Mr. Black. However, upon consultation, it was suggested that we should contact you for the disposition of this matter. We hereby request you to kindly prepare his assignment.

Attached is a prepared Request for Labor.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 24, 1944

TO: Mr. Failing, Supervisor of Motor Pool

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Explanation of your Statement to a Committee Member

On February 22, 1944, 4:30 p.m., Mr. Joe Nakao and John Nakao, Committee member and Committee office messenger, respectively, reported to the Committee your statement, upon delivery of a memorandum with regard to this Committee's work. "Damn, what the hell is this Committee always butting into other people's business? What does it stand for? I don't care to know, I can get along fine without your(Committee) advice, in fact, I can get along better. I don't take any orders from anyone." If you refer to the memorandum, submitted by Mr. Nakao on that day, you can readily see that the Committee had no intention of 'butting' in but was merely complying with the request made by 56 ex-employees assembled at that meeting. All 56 assembled at the meeting were ex-employees of Motor Pool, to which you are directly connected. They have been very anxious to be recalled to work at the earliest moment. They have been requesting the Committee's assistance, in order to clarify the reason why.

Since we are the Co-ordinating Committee, we cannot reject the request of even a single person. So far, we judged that their requests are within reasons and in view of the 56 people's request, we have no alternative than to convey you their message, and at the same time to give you the picture of the existing condition in the Colony at the present time. By the way, the same memorandums have been submitted to Mr. Best and Mr. Robertson on the same day you received yours.

If the Motor Pool division's systematic function be solely supervised by Mr. Robertson and if that fact was known that a man in your position or Mr. Marshall's cannot attend the meeting which was arranged two days previously without Mr. Robertson's permission, why did Mr. Marshall concede to our invitation that he will surely come? That was the reason why we, the Committee, took the trouble of notifying all those assembled; not a single person failed to attend. This alone exemplifies how much they are interested in the resumption of work, which was one of the object of this Committee, as well as object of the Administration, to which you are only one part of the responsible men.

Since you have attended the meeting of the Advisory Council

and this Committee held on January 19, 1944, you should at least recognize this Committee's standpoint as to how it was originated and what accomplishments this Committee, with its untiring cooperation with the WRA, made. At that meeting to which you attended, you were told by Project Director Best that in order to accomplish this great undertaking, utmost cooperation on the part of the Administrative personnel is most essential to which you agreed with the Director. You further agreed to reinstate Ben and for your reference the minutes of the meeting is herewith attached. Please refer to it to refresh your memory.

We regret that you have no understanding of all of the present existing conditions even though the condition of the Center has improved and the curfew law has been revoked. The WRA appointed personnel, as a whole, and the Army fully realized the importance of alertness, lest the condition be reversed as of middle of December. Such could be only prevented with sincere belief and utmost consideration on the part of the party concerned in the handling. As you know, the Motor Pool division is one of the most vital and most important post, inasmuch as your division involves nearly 4/5 of the Community Operations because of transportation. If you recall Mr. Best's statement made at a meeting held on January 19, 1944 to which you were present, that Motor Pool has always been a sore spot and that strong men who can control any obstinate pressure groups were wanted in there, you are in a position to realize this condition. Are you aware of the fact that the incident of November 4, 1943 centered in your division which means that utmost consideration must be taken by you with a possibility of recurrence of the past incident in mind.

The statement you have made is evinced by the fact that you are totally ignorant of the existing condition and we, the Committee, note that men in your positions to be ignorant of such importance, should be pitied, rather than reprimanded. Because of this pitiness we do not point out your mismanagement (other divisions are cooperating and conforming to the instructions of Mr. Best and you are not) indirectly of your division, whereby you are totally ignoring, not only the Project Director's instruction and warning but also illustrates the lack of ambition on your part even to take the trouble to understand the Committee's work by ignoring, thereby undermining our work, and insulting us by making such statement for which we greatly resent and we, hereby, expect a satisfactory explanation of your statement.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

February 26, 1944

TO: Mr. O'Brien, Internal Security

FROM: Byron Akitsuki, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Outline and Chart Buddhism

Herewith attached are a chart and outline of Buddhism for your reference.

I am sorry that I was unable to submit this sooner to comply with your request , due to the abundance of work I had.

Co-ordinating Committee

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM 2328 2/27

TO: Advisory Council

FROM: Aizo Takahashi, Advisor to Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the established ground work prior to the formation of Colonists' Central body

Formation of the colonists' Central body at this time is most appropriate from the standpoint of the Administration and I, Aizo Takahashi, hereby congratulate on your plan of undertaking and I wish to see that it materializes without delay.

It is undeniable that there are still some unrest and opposition existing among the colonists. Formation of such a body could not be accelerated without an established ground work. Otherwise, it will be an apparent failure. With this in consideration, not only myself, but those who have had great deal of experience among colonists will all agree. The reasons are: (1) About 50% of the colonists are still for status quo despite the liquidation of such by the effort of the responsible men of all divisions. Even now, with the aid of those detained, they are actively trying to support such a movement (pro status quo) to materialize their belief. On the other hand, the other half of the colonists in the Center, who are opposed to such a movement, they are less organized comparatively, their standing is very unstable, and their belief is not concrete as to the solution of the existing problem; they are reluctant to take active part to the opposition. As a whole, colonists are suppressed by the activity of the pro status quo. Fair-minded intelligent elements are being hesitant about being involved in such an inter-colonists friction and as a result they are assuming laissez faire position as much as they can. Such is the true picture of the existing condition in this Center. If we disregard such a condition and if we should proceed with the formation of a new central body, those prospective representatives from each block will refuse to assume office; thus, the formation of a central body will become a failure. (2) Because of the existing obstacles as above-mentioned, it is inevitably going to encounter the great storm that follows to those concerned in the formation, lest they bear such in mind before taking any initiative. I wish to make a suggestion at this time, that is, let the leaders of those more than half of the colonists who support pro status quo take the initiative to pacify their followers, in other words, the conversion of the leaders of status quo and make them see our point in the future. For this reason I have conferred with Mr. R. Best, Project Director some three weeks ago with regard to the releasement of those detained internees on condition that I, myself, will be responsible for their future activities and again I repeat my unchanged opinion, at this time.

Among those released in the past are men who are considered influential leaders. Mr. Iwao Shimizu has been expending his utmost effort for the conversion of the pro status quo group; how-

ever, there is a limit to a single person's effort on such a great undertaking. Therefore, my desire is the releasement of some of the detained internees with whom Mr. Shimizu could work together. Then I believe accomplishment would be expedited in reference to the formation of a central body, to which Mr. Shimizu has requested me to convey this message to you. If the Administration should accept our suggestion, I would like to have the Co-ordinating Committee, including myself, interview those detained internees prior to their releasement to assure that upon their releasement they would willingly cooperate with Mr. Shimizu's effort for the educational campaign among the colonists.

(3) My suggestion for the condition of their releasement will be aided with utmost importance. Leaders of those released up-to-date will issue a co-signed statement, to be distributed throughout the Center, that they are supporting Mr. Shimizu's movement which ultimately supports the work of the Committee. As to the above laid suggestion it is definitely arranged and agreed between Mr. Shimizu and several others who have already been released. By this statement which may be experimental factor as to its effective result, this will be our step toward the formation of such central body.

Now we enter the second step. I wish to see that the, with the exception of the some Negotiating Committee and those who had profound relations with them, majority of the block representatives and others released. I appeal to the Administration since success or failure of the formation of this new central body depend on them. If this is materialized the second step will be made public by those released and I believe, as a result, not only the status quo but also all the colonists, as a whole, will be impressed and recognize our righteous standpoint and thereby, profit by their utmost support. Then the friction in this center and the unsavory atmosphere will gradually be obliterated.

Formation of the new central body must be made with utmost care and determination or the center will be reversed to its former chaotic condition and there will be no one who would take the initiative even for the less constructive undertaking for the restoration of normalcy. That is why our plan should be studied, discussed, and considered before any initiative could be taken.

Secondly, one has to bear in mind that one cannot be too optimistic as to the formation of this new body which will bring peace and normalcy to this center simultaneously, if you consider what I have stated.

The most important thing to consider primarily for the undertaking of restoration of normalcy and perpetual peace is education and the willingness to recognize and cooperate. Such attitude in mind on the part of the colonists is the key to the solution of this vital problem. I have made extensive study and research since January of this year, watching and scrutinizing the psychology of those detained internees. I have arrived at the conclusion that the majority of those detained internees' transcendence of mental

attitude is their desire to restore normalcy and peace to the center. I can without hesitation express this belief and trust of those who have the possibility of being released in the near future.

If the Administration should accept my suggestion, I would more than gladly, with comrades hand in hand, expend utmost effort for the realization of this undertaking.

Lastly, the delay, of the third exchange ship between Japan and the United States which was caused by the incident in this Tule Lake Center, is something I regret more than anything. However, upon mutual cooperation of the Administration and the Colony and if we accomplish restoration of peace and harmony between the concerned, there is a possibility of solution of this problem. All difficult problems could only be solved by the realization and understanding of the root of the point and cooperation for the solution of the problem.

With this belief I hereby submit to you my unreserved opinion.

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February 27, 1944

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 28, 1944

TO: Colonel Verne Austin, Commanding
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Request for an Interview with Stockade Internees

May this Co-ordinating Committee have an opportunity to interview the following stockade internees:

Akiyama, Masao	Naito, Sam
Yamanaka, Ryujiro	Yoshida
Kimura, Mitsuo	Saito, Shu
Ikeda, Kunakichi	Kozuma, Ernest
Yamamoto, Koichi	Komiya, S .
Fujimoto, William	Kobayashi, Yoshio
Asato, Susumu	
Tsuchiya, Yoshiyuki	

We, the Committee, unanimously agreed to meet with the above-listed persons on February 5, as a result of the meeting with Shimizu and Kozuma. Regardless of the outcome, we feel that such meeting should materialize. We herewith request for your approval to grant us such an opportunity.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Skitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 28, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Release

May the Co-ordinating Committee recommend the release of the following:

1. Nakao, Masaru	1019 - B	21. Shimamura, Hiroichi	2613 - A
2. Hayashida, Bob	2316 - A	22. Gushiken, Yoshitsune	4103 - C
3. Saito, Shu	6708	23. Gushiken, Yoshito	4103 - C
4. Ogata, Tanji	1205 - B	24. Aoki, Jin (Gene)	5103 - D
5. Yamamoto, Kazuo	5011 - EF	25. Kurashige, Kenichi	1704 - C
6. Wada, Shozo	4601 - C	26. Shimokawa, Tadayoshi	5716 - C
7. Komiya, Shunichi	6814 - C	27. Yabuki, Kikuji	5404 - A
8. Akiyama, Masao	4618 - A	28. Tahara, Tom	403 - D
9. Ikeda, Kumakichi	414 - A	29. Shingu, Tadashi (Fred)	1119 - D
10. Kimura, H.	2501 - D	30. Fujimoto, Tadao (Wm.)	7013 - F
11. Kozuma, Ernest	1805 - B	31. Tanabe, Yaichi	5201 - B
12. Yamanaka, Ryujiro	1416 - B	32. Takaoka, Yoshio	7315 - F
13. Yamanaka, Sumitake	1416 - B	33. Harauchi, Akio	7414 - C
14. Yamanaka, Kunitake	1416 - B	34. Morikawa, Shigeto	3306 - B
15. Hibino, Yusaku	4314 - D	35. Morikawa, Masao	3306 - B
16. Oki, Kakuma	4313 - B	36. Tarumoto, Sadaichi	3306 - B
17. Tsuchiya, Yoshiyuki	2319 - C	37. Kinoshita, Masaru	3306 - B
18. Kazama, Masami	5006 - A	38. Matsumoto, Mitsuru	3316 - A
19. Torii, Takeaki	5015 - E	39. Yamamoto, Koichi	902 - C
20. Nomura, Kanji	5114 - C	40. Murakami, Tomoichi	1416 - A
41. Shimada, Junichi	1713 - D	53. Kodama, Sempei	6613 - D
42. Furutani, Shoichi	504 - B	54. Otsuka, Tomio	6902 - CD
43. Nakahara, Tokushige	7016 - B	55. Takeshita, Chikanosuke	5813 - AB
44. Fujimoto, Teiichi	1806 - D	56. Tani, Dentaro	907 - A
45. Fujii, Yoshio	1806 - D	57. Nakada, Heizaburo	906 - A
46. Fujimoto, Hideo	1806 - D	58. Ishimaru, Goichi	903 - A
47. Fujihara, Sadao	1806 - D	59. Oku, Toshiaki	903 - A
48. Okata, Masaneo	1713 - D	60. Miki, Hisato	5715 - B
49. Masaoka, Hiro	3316 - A	61. Asato, Susumu	1405 - D
50. Matsumoto, Tsuneo	3316 - A		
51. Obara, Wataru	2606 - C		
52. Kamiya, Kazuji	3115 - D		

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

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CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

1608 - A

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

February 29, 1944

National Red Cross Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of the gift from the Japanese Red Cross which arrived here on February 18, 1944 as follows:

510 barrels	Soya Sauce
30 barrels	Bean paste (Miso)
5 cases	Drugs

Previously we have acknowledged receipt of 15 barrels of Soya sauce and one barrel of bean paste, making the total 525 barrels of Soya Sauce, 31 barrels of bean paste, and 5 cases of drugs. We have distributed all of them by February 19, 1944 as fair as possible to the Center's nationals through each Block Representative.

Enclosed you will find our message of thanks to the Japanese Red Cross, which, upon your approval and censorship, will you please favor us by sending it.

On behalf of the Japanese Nationals of this Tule Lake Center, we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your invaluable service which made possible for us to receive such wonderful gift at this time.

Very sincerely yours,

JAPANESE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

George Yamatani

Kumasharu Okamoto

TELEGRAM

JAPANESE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS

RECEIVED ALLOTTED GIFTS DISTRIBUTED FAIRLY TO NATIONALS

MANY THANKS

TULE LAKE CENTER JAPANESE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Kumaharu Okamoto
Jirozo Yamatani

M E M O R A N D U M
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

March 1, 1944

TO: L & Shaner
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

Herewith attached is a translation of the letter written
by Mrs. Tsui Sakaguchi of B lock 56.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

March 1, 1944

TO: Colonel Verne Austin, Commanding
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

Herewith attached is a translation of the letter written
by Mrs. Tsui Sakaguchi of Block 56.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

March 1, 1944

TO: Lt. Shaner

FROM: Byron Akitsuki

At the interview with the stockade internees on February 28, 1944, during conversation you may have noted that I instructed my secretary "Off the record" for which I wish to clarify the reason why I did so.

At that time, statement pertaining to the Army was about to be made and as for myself, being not well acquainted with those present, I at once thought it advisable to strike it off from the record. As to the content of the statement I trust that it was of little importance.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki,
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

March 1, 1944

TO: Mr. W. Schmidt, Chief of Police

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Request and Recommendation for the Release of Detained
Internees

May the Committee request for your special consideration in
order to expedite the release of the following detained internees:

1. Akiyama, Masao
2. Yamanaka, Ryujiro
3. Ikeda, Kumakichi
4. Fujimoto, William
5. Kimura, Mitsuo
6. Asato, Susumu
7. Tsuchiya, Yoshiyuki
8. Naito, Sam
9. Saito, Shu
10. Kozuma, Ernest
11. Komiya, Shyunichi
12. Kobayashi, Yoshio
13. Yamamoto, Koichiro
14. Yoshida

The reason for this request is, even though the condition of the Center has improved, especially after the revocation of the curfew restriction, there are still some unrest and opposition existing among the colonists, not only among the opposition but also among the supporters of this Committee for the fact that they cannot forget and are worried about those in the stockade.

The most important thing to consider primarily for the restoration of normalcy and peace in this Center is education of willingness to cooperate. Such attitude in mind on the part of the colonists is the key to the solution of this vital problem. In order to materialize this plan ultimately we, the Committee, wish to have the above-listed persons who are regarded as leaders by the colonists, especially by the opposition, released to take the initiative to pacify their followers. Messrs. Shimizu and Inouye, leaders recently released, have proven to us by their

utmost efforts for the conversion of the opposition (credit for the restoration of peace in blocks 49 and 52 are entirely due them). However, there is a limit to their efforts on such a great undertaking, and that is why we wish to have these men released so that Messrs. Shimizu and Inouye could work together. Then their accomplishments could be greater.

As to the above-listed persons, this Committee recommends that they are trustworthy as to their sincerity to help as assured by Mr. Shimizu and then by the interview with them the other day as specified in the attached minutes.

Your special consideration to expedite the work necessary for their releasement is greatly appreciated.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

B

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

CO -ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

March 3, 1944

TO: Advisory Council
FROM: Byron Akitsuki, Executive Secretary
SUBJECT: Resignation

A

It is with regret that I hereby submit my resignation, effective immediately, as member and Executive Secretary of the Co-ordinating Committee.

I fully realize the responsibility of my duty and work. Up to date, I have expended my utmost effort for the solution of the confronting problems of my duty to the Committee, as well as to my domestic life. Due to my wife's physical condition, my child 22 months, has been deprived of so much parental care and as father, I feel morally responsible for my domestic affair since the health of a child is involved.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation to all the Advisory Council members for the past numerous favors and full-hearted cooperation in all phases of service to all fellow evacuees. With the belief that you will continue to give whole-hearted support and cooperation to the Co-ordinating Committee for its great undertaking, in order to bring complete normalcy and peace in the Center, I hereby tender my resignation.

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary of the
Co-ordinating Committee

B

MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

March 9, 1944

TO: Advisory Council

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

A
SUBJECT: Request for your Attention on the Memo of March 1 (Recommendation
for the Releasement of Detained Internees

Doubtless, the condition of the center has improved and we, the Committee, feel that complete normalcy is still far away as already manifested by the distribution of pamphlets recently in the new area and the vandalism which occurred in the public school building. Such may be a prelude to a possible flare-up of the center, and unless immediate remedial measure is taken, erroneous informations of this nature may continue to be disseminated, which will not only strongly instigate those advocates of status quo but also is bound to deviate many neutrals or those still in perplexing predicament.

The Committee, by past experience, fully appreciates the service of releasees who have been a great factor in contributing toward our cause; because of their position it is possible for them to contact opposition freely. In order to solicit their service, which will expedite our work, the Committee invited leaders of recent releasees to a Zadan-kai on the night of March 8, 1944 as attached minutes specify.

In view of the sign of possible re-flare-up, the Committee earnestly feels that it could be prevented if detainees whom we have interviewed and recommended were released as soon as possible to work together with those already released. The attached minutes indicate that they have agreed to put out a statement stating their clear position.

We request for your special consideration to expedite the release-ment of the 14 detainees. Attached is a list of names of those 14.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

B

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A
March 11, 1944

TO: Mr. L. Huycke, Supervisor of Community Activities
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee
SUBJECT: Permission to use Recreation Halls for Judo Club

Attached herewith is a copy of a letter from the Chief of Police, W. Schmidt, approving the request for the re-organization of the Judo Club.

As this Committee wishes to fulfill the request of the Judo Club executives, will you kindly grant permission for the Club to continue the use of portions of the following Recreation Halls: blocks 8, 29, and 42, which have been in their use prior to November 3, 1944. In blocks 8 and 42, formerly used equipments are still available, although such have been removed from block 29 hall. Since there are over 40 experts and 350 members, they claim, it is necessary to have Dojo or training quarters throughout the center.

Your kind attention on this matter and your permission to use the above-mentioned Recreation Halls will be greatly appreciated.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

copy *St. Johns* *782A*

MEMORANDUM

GO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608-A
March 27, 1944 *add*

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director
FROM: Byron Akitsuki
SUBJECT: Block 18 Problem

A

Messrs. Black, Huycke, and Thomas invited me to a consultation with the Block 18 Manager, Quincy Cook, relative to the use of one of the apartments for a funeral parlor, which the block residents, as well as residents of neighboring blocks, resent bitterly. In view of a possible demonstration of violence, I reported to you over the phone yesterday.

Your delegates stated and made clear their viewpoints and stressed the necessity by enumerating reasons and advantages. However, the block manager, representing the block residents, hinted that it would encounter difficulties to materialize such a plan and due to the fact that the colonists' sentiment is being overburdened by the WRA Administration, the consultation did not bring any favorable result on this proposal. Finally, your delegates suggested for further consultation with the block advisory group with the block manager tonight. As far as I know it is anticipated that even a consultation will be of no avail because colonists in that block have stated that they will not concede to such a proposal under any condition. In other words, they do not want a funeral parlor established in that block.

I feel that inasmuch as this is a very delicate, as well as a vital matter, further study should be made, otherwise there is a possibility of the agitators to take advantage of the situation, which may cause a greater problem in the center and as a whole, such may result in a center-wide resentment.

Byron Akitsuki
Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

April 7, 1944

TO:

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: RESIGNATION

As the result of the election of January 11, 1944, the Army and the WRA have officially recognized the new body of responsible parties of various divisions and sections representatives entitled the Co-ordinating Committee, composed of:

Masao Shimada
Iwao Namekawa
John Naydo
George Yamatani

Kumaharu Okamoto
Joe Nakao
Byron Akitsuki
Aizo Takahashi

Since then we, the Committee, have expended our utmost in order to restore normalcy in this Center, in spite of threats, intimidations, bad names, such as 'dogs' -- literally we have exhausted ourselves physically and mentally for the good of the colonists by our utmost faith toward the Administrative personnel to attain our object.

As a result and reward of our effort, Proclamation #2 was revoked on March 21, 1944; in due time, some 2,000 ex-employees resumed work; and gradual return of normalcy of the Center has been definitely noted.

At this time, we, the Committee, feel that it is most proper and opportune for us to keep our promise, which we made at the time of the formation of this body, to dissolve and make way for the future responsible body, which will be selected by the entire colonists' vote. Prolonged existence of this Committee will wear out the welcome of the colonists, which is more concerned matter to us, that we, the Committee, hereby submit our resignation to be effective immediately upon due consideration.

M. Shimada
Masao Shimada

John Naydo
John Naydo

Kumaharu Okamoto
Kumaharu Okamoto

Byron Akitsuki
Byron Akitsuki

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Iwao Namekawa
Iwao Namekawa

George Yamatani
George Yamatani

Joe Nakao
Joe Nakao

Aizo Takahashi
Aizo Takahashi