

12:20

SUKIMOTO, GRACE AKIYE

1948-1961

78/177

c

8/17/45

TO MR. WAYNE M. COLLINS:

*mm*

The undersigned GRACE AKIYE SUKIMOTO wishes to be included in the mass suit to restore my United States citizenship.

ACTIVE LIST

Grace Akie Sukimoto  
Signature

Name Grace Akie Sukimoto

Present address YAMASHITA, TAMANA GUN, TAKAYICHI MURA, KUMAMOTO KEN JAPAN

Date of birth NOVEMBER 1 1922  
Month day year

Place of birth SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
Township State

Place of citizenship renouncement TULE LAKE RELOCATION CENTER  
NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

Note: State whether or not received a letter of approval on citizenship renunciation from the Attorney General.

*Yes, I have received ~~my~~ a letter of approval on citizenship renunciation on Sept. 11, 1945*

AIR MAIL

March 18, 1955

Mrs. Grace Akiye Sukimoto  
Aza Yamashita Tamana Gun  
Takamichi Mura  
Kumamoto Ken, Japan

Dear Mrs. Sukimoto:

You have been successful in the administrative remedy pursued in your case. The Justice Department has reached the conclusion that you personally renounced citizenship because of fear, coercion and duress. Therefore, it is willing to withdraw the offer of proof it made against you in the mass class equity suits whereupon a judgment can be entered in your favor in the U. S. District Court cancelling your renunciation on the ground of duress and declaring you to be a citizen of the United States

As soon as a large enough number of persons have been cleared administratively such a judgment will be entered for you. When the judgment is entered I shall let you know by letter and I shall send you a certified copy of the judgment which you can keep for future use.

I am enclosing a copy of the transmittal letter of the Justice Department (Attorney General) which was sent to the Department of State (Passport Office). You should take the enclosed copy of that transmittal letter promptly to the United States Consul in Japan nearest you and there apply for a U.S. passport if you have not already done so. The U. S. Consul will issue a U.S. Passport to you which will show on its face that you are a citizen of the United States.

When you receive the U.S. passport from the U.S. Consul you can make your own arrangements to return to the United States. You should write and let me know your U.S. address and the time you expect to return to the U.S.

If you have children born in Japan such children are U.S. citizens and you will be able to bring them back to the United States with you.

If you have a spouse (wife or husband) who is an alien such person can enter the United States as a "nonquota immigrant" because you are a U.S. citizen. An application can be made to the nearest U.S. Consul in Japan for a non-quota immigrant visa for such spouse.

If your spouse (wife or husband) is a renunciant who does not recover U.S. citizenship administratively through the Justice Department or by court trial, or does not wish further to try to recover U.S. citizenship, such a spouse, nevertheless, can elect to be an alien and can obtain a nonquota immigrant visa from the nearest U.S. Consul and can return to the U. S. because he or she is the spouse of a U.S. citizen.

If your spouse is an alien or a renunciant who does not recover citizenship but becomes an alien who returns to the United States as a nonquota immigrant he or she here becomes eligible to apply to an office of the U. S. Immigration Service to become naturalized, that is to say, to become a U. S. citizen by naturalization.

It is my conclusion that in due course of time Congress will enact a new law authorizing the return of property or its approximate value to aliens whose property was seized and confiscated during the war under the provisions of the Trading With The Enemy Act.

If you intend to remain in Japan for a while you must be careful not to commit any act whereby you might lose U. S. citizenship. You were informed by me in previous letters of various acts of expatriation whereby U.S.citizenship can be lost.

If you have dual citizenship you can denounce (renounce) Japanese nationality. This can be done by signing a renunciation form before a Japanese consular officer in the United States or before an authorized Japanese government office in Japan.

Very truly yours,

P. S. The transmittal letter referred to in the foregoing letter is not now enclosed. I have made a request therefor to the Justice Department and upon receipt, I will send it to you - which should be in a week or two.

Enc.

WEB:CMR

146-54-543

93-1-1320

CS

Lloyd H. Burke, Esquire  
United States Attorney  
422 Post Office Building  
Seventh & Mission Streets  
San Francisco 1, California

MAR 9 1955

*W. L. H. S.  
Eth. D. J.*

11/1/22

Re: Grace Akiye Sukimoto

Your ref: Abo, et al v. Brownell, et al.  
Furuya, et al v. Brownell, et al. (Consolidated  
actions - Civil Nos. 25294 and 25295).  
Renunciation of Citizenship, Title 8 USC 801(i).

Dear Mr. Burke:

This is in response to your letter of September 23, 1954, enclosing affidavit of the above-named subject for a determination as to whether her case may be considered as coming within the coverage of the ruling of the Court of Appeals in the case of Acheson v. Murakami, 176 F. 2d, 953, in accordance with a letter from this Department dated September 21, 1953, to Mr. Wayne M. Collins.

Following a review of the pertinent files in this case, together with the affidavit, we are of the opinion that this case may be considered as coming within the ruling of the Court of Appeals in the above case.

We have informed the Department of State of our view by letter, three copies of which are enclosed herewith. Unless you disagree, please enter into the arrangements necessary to dispose of the case in accordance with the procedure outlined in the above-mentioned letter of September 21, 1953. If time will permit, we should appreciate an opportunity to inspect the papers before they are filed.

The original and one copy of the subject's affidavit are returned to you herewith.

Yours very truly,

WARREN E. BURMER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

Encl. No. 97092

Original and copy of Affidavit.  
Three copies of letter to  
Department of State.

By:  
Enoch E. Ellison,  
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

March 30, 1955

Mrs. Grace Akiye Sukimoto  
Aza Yamashita Tamana Gun  
Takamichi Mura  
Kumamoto Ken, Japan

Dear Mrs. Sukimoto:

Enclosed please find copy of the transmittal letter of the Justice Department which was sent to the Department of State (Passport Office). You should take the copy promptly to the United States Consul in Japan nearest you in making your application for a U.S. passport, as explained in my air mail letter to you of March 18, 1955.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

WEB:CMR  
146-54-543  
93-1-1320

CS

March 9, 1955

Department of State  
Winder Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mrs. Ruth B. Shipley  
Director, Passport Office

Re: Grace Akiye Sukimoto  
F130

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to the agreement entered into with Mr. Wayne M. Collins, Attorney, to stipulate to the introduction of satisfactory affidavits submitted by plaintiffs in the case of McGrath v. Abo, 186 F. 2d, 766, as set forth in the Department's letter of September 22, 1953, to the Department of State, we attach affidavit of the above-named renunciant, together with copy of our letter to Lloyd H. Burke, Esquire, United States Attorney, Northern District of California, in which we express the opinion that this subject's case may be considered as coming within the coverage of the ruling of the Court of Appeals in the case of Acheson v. Murakami, 176 F. 2d, 953.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to Mr. Collins, and in accordance with the above agreement, may be presented by the above-named subject in lieu of the usual supplemental affidavit required of renunciant applicants for documentation as American citizens.

Yours very truly, *W*

WARREN E. BURGER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

By:

Enoch E. Ellison  
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

Encl. No. 97301

Affidavit and copy of letter.

March 18, 1955

Department of Justice  
Department of Justice Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attn: Enoch E. Ellison, Esq.  
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

Gentlemen:

Re: Kazuji Okimoto; Your Letter - 3/4/44,  
File: WEB:CMR; 146-54-1171; 93-1-1320, and  
Grace Akiye Sukimoto; Your Letter - 3/9/55;  
File: WEB:CMR; 146-54-543; 93-1-1320.

In your letters to Lloyd H. Burke, Esq., United States Attorney, at San Francisco, you gave notice of administrative clearance of Kazuji Okimoto, born Dec. 28, 1920, and Grace Akiye Sukimoto, born Nov. 1, 1922, who presently are in Japan. The letters were not accompanied by copies of any letters to the State Department. I would be grateful if you would forward to me copies of the letters to the State Department so that I may transmit them to the respective parties in Japan for presentation to the U. S. Consul.

Very truly yours,

WEB:CMR  
146-54-543  
93-1-1320

COPY FROM  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
CIVIL DIVISION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAR 9 1955

*Extra Copy*

*File*

cs

*Final Judgment*  
*ent*

Department of State  
Winder Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mrs. Ruth B. Shipley  
Director, Passport Office

Re: Grace Akiye Sukimoto  
F130

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to the agreement entered into with Mr. Wayne M. Collins, Attorney, to stipulate to the introduction of satisfactory affidavits submitted by plaintiffs in the case of McGrath v. Abo, 186 F. 2d, 766, as set forth in the Department's letter of September 22, 1953, to the Department of State, we attach affidavit of the above-named renunciant, together with copy of our letter to Lloyd H. Burke, Esquire, United States Attorney, Northern District of California, in which we express the opinion that this subject's case may be considered as coming within the coverage of the ruling of the Court of Appeals in the case of Acheson v. Murakami, 176 F. 2d, 953.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to Mr. Collins, and in accordance with the above agreement, may be presented by the above-named subject in lieu of the usual supplemental affidavit required of renunciant applicants for documentation as American citizens.

Yours very truly,

WARREN E. BURGER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

By:

Enoch E. Ellison  
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

Encl. No. 97301

Affidavit and copy of letter.

WAYNE M. COLLINS  
Attorney At Law  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street  
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA

GAfield 1-5827

October 12, 1960

*bill sent  
here was me 7/28/61*

NO ANS

NOV 30 1960

*7/15/61  
resent to  
2522 Kansas  
Santa Monica*

Mrs. Grace Akiye Sukimoto  
c/o Mr. Togami, 224 W. St. Paul  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Sukimoto:

It is time that you paid your obligation to me for legal services rendered to you and for which on July 11, 1957, you signed promissory notes to pay ~~\$800.00~~ \$300.00 plus interest at the rate of 6% per year. Your obligation to me is long overdue.

You were able to pay your own transportation expenses and those of members of your family back to the U. S. either with your own money or with borrowed funds. Inasmuch as you were able to do that it seems to me that you should make immediate arrangements to pay your obligation to me.

*10/28/61* If you will remit to me the sum of \$ 300.00 on or by December 11, 1960, I will accept that sum in lieu of the sum due on the notes upon which interest has accumulated and thereupon cancel the notes.

I expect you to answer this letter and let me know what your intentions are respecting this matter. A self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your reply.

Very truly yours,

*W.M. Collins*

Enc: env.

WAYNE M. COLLINS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
MILLS TOWER, 220 BUSH STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA



USE ZONE  
FOR BETTER  
MAIL SERVICE

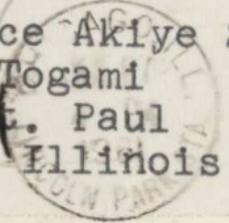


*Return to sender*

*UNCLAIMED 1402*

RETURN  
TO WRITER  
UNCLAIMED

Miss Grace Akiye Sukimoto  
c/o Mr. Togami  
224 W. St. Paul  
Chicago, Illinois



*MR 8/1/61*

15 CHICAGO  
JUL 25  
5<sup>30</sup> PM  
1961  
ILL.

USE ZONE NOS.  
FOR BETTER  
MAIL SERVICE

7/28/61  
Located address  
at in p/b

2522 Kansas  
Santa Monica

November 9, 1961

Mr. Fred Yoshiteru Sukimoto  
Mrs. Grace Akiye Sukimoto  
2522 Kansas Ave., Apt. 2  
Santa Monica, Calif.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sukimoto:

In reply to your recent letter I wish to inform you that if the two of you will pay me the sum of \$600.00 on or by June 1, 1962, I will treat such payment as being in full of your obligation to me in the sum of \$1100.00.

Very truly yours,

WMC:ss

## AFFIDAVIT

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF AFFIDAVIT

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

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

1. Name <i>GRACE AKIYE SUKIMOTO</i>	Date of Birth <i>NOVEMBER 1, 1922</i>
2. If born prior to December 1, 1924	(A) Have you ever renounced Japanese nationality? <i>I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I HAD A DUAL CITIZENSHIP</i>
3. If born since December 1, 1924	(A) Was your name ever registered with a Japanese Consulate for the purpose of reserving your Japanese nationality?
If so, did you thereafter renounce your Japanese nationality?	When _____ Where _____
4. State periods of visits to Japan and purpose of each visit: <i>NONE</i>	
Date	Purpose
From _____ To _____	
From _____ To _____	
From _____ To _____	
5. Give details concerning any formal education in Japan: <i>NONE</i>	
School	Period of Attendance
	From _____ To _____
	From _____ To _____
Specify subjects studied (attach additional sheet if necessary).	
6. Have you ever made application for repatriation to Japan? <i>Yes</i> ..... If so, give date....., and your reasons for so applying: <i>I don't recall about the date when I made the application for Japan I was forced by my parents and other friends to make the request. My parents wanted me to make the request because he wanted the family together in case he was deported to Japan.</i>	
7. (A) Have you ever expressly indicated that you would not swear unqualified allegiance to the United States? <i>I do not remember</i>	Have you ever declined to answer when asked whether you would swear unqualified allegiance?
Or have you ever given a qualified answer to such question asked at War Relocation Centers?.....If so, give your reasons:	
(B) If your answer to any of the questions in (A) is affirmative, then did you ever subsequently change your mind and express your willingness to swear an unqualified allegiance or would you have been willing to do so if an opportunity had been afforded you?.....If so, state when you changed your mind and your reasons therefor:	

(C) Did you ever indicate that you would not swear unqualified allegiance to the United States either expressly or by refusal to answer, or a qualified answer, knowing that by so doing you would be sent to the WRA Segregation Center at Tule Lake?..... If so, give reasons:

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

(B) Give reasons for becoming a member: *My father told me that I was a member of the Hokoku Joshi Seinen Dan and that I should attend meetings and other activities. But I never attended not one meeting or the morning drills which they had every morning. I didn't want to join any organization but I was forced by my parents so I just had to give in and become a member. I myself don't know what the organization is for.*

(C) State nature of your activity and offices you held: *None*

(D) If you voluntarily discontinued membership in any of the aforementioned organizations, give approximate date and reasons for so doing: *As I have stated in question 8 B - I was a member of the Hokoku Joshi Seinen Dan in name only. Didn't attend meetings or any other activities. I think that if you were a member of any organization you should join them in their activities but I didn't consider myself a member of the Joshi Dan as didn't attend any activities or meetings.*

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

with the Hokoku Jishi Seinan Club. I felt nothing to do with it. My father had just put my name in without my knowing it.

(F) If you at any time wished to discontinue membership, activity, or office and were prevented from so doing, explain fully: I wanted to withdraw from the Hokoku Jishi Seinan Club, but was stopped by my parents and other friends. So I just let it go. I still didn't attend any meetings or participate in any activities they held.

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

around January 1945. Reasons for my renouncing U.S. citizenship was that I was afraid by my parents to renounce it and there was the fear that if I didn't renounce my citizenship as I was told to do I would be separated from my parents. Because I was told that my parents were sure to be deported to Japan. If I was separated from the parents I would have to go back to the community where people were hostile against you.

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

At the time of hearing I was afraid because I was forced to answer as they told me. I didn't answer the question as I thought I would because of fear that I would be found out and afraid what would happen to the family.

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

My parents were afraid they were going to be sent to Japan and that they were going to be separated from the family. That's why they pushed me to renounce my U.S. citizenship. When upon arrival in Japan, after the deportation, we were told that if we had not renounced our U.S. citizenship the Japanese Government would punish our parents.

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

I didn't withdraw my renunciation after the approval because my parents wouldn't let me. They were afraid they would be found out from the upper officers of the organization.

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

Didn't cancel my renunciation.

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

*There are no other facts besides the answer I gave in question 9 A.*

10. (A) If you now are in Japan, give your reasons for having returned to Japan. *I really didn't want to come to Japan but I was forced by my parents to do so, my father had made all the arrangements made before I could do anything.*

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

11. (A) If you have served or are serving in the military or naval forces of the United States fill in the following:  
I enlisted (or was drafted) on..... in the.....; my Serial number is.....  
State the date State the Branch of Service  
I still am in such service.....; I was released from active duty on..... and received my Discharge  
Answer Yes or No  
on.....

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

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

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

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

Relationship	Name
Branch of Service	Serial Number

Japan  
Prefecture of Fukuoka  
City of Fukuoka  
Consulate of the United States of America

*Seoichi Shimizu*  
(Signature in full of applicant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of May, 1954.



*Matthew D. Smith, Jr.*  
Matthew D. Smith, Jr.  
American Vice Consul

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