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GOISHI, MR MAC IWAO
MRS GERRY MASAE (WIFE)

ans by form letter, 9-4-45

5013-A

Newell, California
August 31, 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig, Dir.
American Civil Liberties Union
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, California

SEP 4 1945

Dear Sir,

Due to extreme pressure from the center residents, we were forced to renounce our American citizenship sometime ago. We regret very much at this time that we were forced into doing so.

Residents of Block 50 were almost all members of Japanese societies, and we who were not were made to suffer by their ridicules. They did not understand why we as Japanese would not also join the organization, as is with religion or anything else we had different ideas and stuck to them as much as possible. We were forced to renounce our American citizenship to avoid trouble for ourselves and our parents.

Due to the crazy societies many who were friends turned into enemies overnite as one thought differently from the other. There was and still is much discord among the two groups.

My wife and I are both very Americanized and we wish very much to remain in the United States. We as niseis prefer to stay here for, Japan is just as much a foreign country as Germany or China and we would not fit in with its customs and old ways, which seem awfully backward in comparison to the American life we are used to.

We have both been living in the United States all of our lives except for a short visit to Japan at an early age.

I attended East Florin Grammar School in the County of Sacramento, State of California. Even at this early age we were subject to discrimination for the school was for Japanese and Chinese only and apart from the Caucasians' school. We felt out of place and memories such as these remain deeply imbedded even at this time. We were not treated equally, we were inferior, and as children we felt lost and unwanted.

In 1935 I entered Elk Grove Union High in the County of Sacramento, State of California and for the first time in our life we were able to mingle with the Caucasians, but this was to a limited extent, because we already had 3 strikes against us,

as we were apart since grammar school.

We were also attending Japanes School. Our parents wanted us to receive a Japanese education as they intended to take us to Japan later. Oh, but how most of us hated to study the Japanese language. We barely got by. How good it feels to be out of school.

War and evacuation forced us American citizens to leave everything we had worked and slaved for. Yes, we were bitter, can you blame us, for we who are citizens the same as German and Italian Americans, were treated as enemy aliens. Many of us who still had faith in democracy were forced to expatriate as isseis were constantly telling us that there was no future in this country and etc.

Before evacuation I was employed as a sales clerk at the Three Star Produce Co. of Los Angeles, California. This firm was owned and operated by a Japanese issei. It was agreed that after 7 years of service I would be given a store of my own. If it weren't for this war I would be sitting on top of the world now. (Just about).

Now, I plan to relocate as soon as possible and start all over again, even if I have to start by digging ditches.

Trusting that something may be done in our behalf and sincerely hoping consideration will be given in our request for cancelling our renunciation.

Will be patiently awaiting an answer to our request at the earliest possible date.

Thank you,

Respectfully yours,

Mac Iwao Goishi
Gerry Masae Goishi

Mac Iwao Goishi

Gerry Masae Goishi

GOTO, JAMES S

*Form letter Sept 1
with R.S.*

4604-C
Newell, California

Ernest Besig, Director
American Civil Liberty Union
Northern California Branch
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, California

AUG 24 1945

Dear Mr. Ernest Besig,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote sometime ago to Mr. D. S. Myer as well as a copy of one sent to Mr. Ennis of The Department of Justice. I wonder whether your organization could undertake any effort on behalf of this case as outlined in these two documents.

A new development, in addition to my desire to serve in the Air Forces as outlined in the letters, is that I have been also offered a most responsible post-war position outside which will be lost, I am sure, if I am detained and my record not cleared. In view of the time element, I would appreciate your comments on the possibilities in my case as well as any suggested legal action.

Thanking you for your kind consideration,

Sincerely,

James S. Goto
James S. Goto

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AUG 24 1945

July 24, 1945

Mr. Edward J. Ennis
Alien Enemy Control Unit
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ennis:

In March of this year I renounced my citizenship and would desire to cancel this if it is possible under the law. Since my hearing, as I recollect, did not go into my case at all carefully, I would like to bring out these recollections of my personal history.

I have never been in Japan. In 1942, after war broke out between the United States and Japan, I volunteered twice, in August for Army Intelligence on the basis that some Nisei were being accepted for Camp Savage and the following month, in September, for the Army Air Force. I was ignored and assumed discrimination must be the cause. I was further annoyed that my registration under Selective Service did not result, and has not -- to this day -- resulted in any classification under that act.

Before evacuation, my father fell ill, and the management of his fish-store in Penryn fell to me to handle. I was evacuated to Tule Lake from Penryn and have remained here ever since.

As time went on, I became more and more irritated at the fact of discrimination indicated in my case by evacuation, lack of classification like any other American citizen under Selective Service, and continual rebuffs every time I attempted to volunteer. I had never been in Japan. I was an American citizen and it was difficult for me to understand why I should have been removed from my home and placed in a relocation center. Ever so, I was still willing to serve in the Armed Forces. The combination of circumstances made it appear to me that the United States Government did not consider me to be a citizen of the United States. I was young enough to serve in the Army and I was anxious to serve in the Army yet all of this was ignored. Having finally made up my mind that I would never be accepted as a loyal citizen of the United States, I refused to register at the time of the General Registration at Tule Lake, (Incidentally, I might even then have registered but for the fact that I would have been the only person in my block to register and my lot at Tule Lake would have been extremely difficult had I defied the tradition of my block in the matter of this registration.)

At the time of the segregation movement, in September of 1943, I was given an opportunity to register. At that time, however, it was the desire of my parents to remain at Tule Lake and I informed the WRA officials that I desired to remain here. In addition to the fact that my parents were going to remain I was faced with the fact that the United States Government had refused to accept me as a loyal citizen and permit me to serve in the Armed Forces. It seemed to me at that time that my only recourse lay in going to

Japan, since after all, I am of Japanese ancestry. This thought remained with me constantly and in March of this year I renounced my American Citizenship and the Attorney General has approved the renunciation.

Time has served to mellow my thinking and I can see no future for myself in Japan. The only future I can possibly make for myself is in the United States and I desire to do anything possible to regain my citizenship. It occurs to me that if I serve in the Armed Forces I might still be able to become, eventually a naturalized citizen of the United States. This seems to me to be a practical approach to my problem. As a result of service in the Army I might not only be able to regain my citizenship but I shall also have the satisfaction of having honorably served my country, something which I tried to do shortly after the beginning of the war between the United States and Japan. I am in excellent health and am totally willing to serve in the Air Force.

I therefore hope I can be paroled in order to follow this course consistent with my two earlier attempts to volunteer. I would then volunteer immediately for the Air Force. I believe I could pass the physical.

I do hope you will consider this application for parole and allow me to continue this plan.

Sincerely yours,

James S. Goto
Family No. 24378
4604-C
Newell, California

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AUG 24 1945

July 24, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

I am writing this letter in the hope that you can and will assist me in getting into the U. S. Air Forces so that I may have the opportunity of proving my loyalty and if possible, of regaining my American citizenship.

I am 23 years of age, was born in the United States and have never been in Japan. Prior to evacuation my home was at Penryn, California. I was graduated from high school in Auburn and spent slightly more than year as a student at Placer Junior College. At that time, however, my father became ill and it was necessary for me to support the family. Accordingly, in 1941, I took over the operation of my father's fish market in Penryn. I was so occupied at the time of evacuation. I was evacuated to the Tule Lake Relocation Center in June of 1942.

In August of 1942 I wrote to my Draft Board in Auburn, California expressing my desire to volunteer for service in the Armed Forces of the United States, indicating that I should like to engage in intelligence work for the Army after the required training at Camp Savage. I received no reply to that letter. In September, 1942, I again attempted to get into the United States Army, this time volunteering for service in the Army Air Forces. Again I received no reply. I had, of course, registered under the Selective Service Act but never received a Selective Service classification. I was genuinely disturbed over the fact that I had never been classified under Selective Service and as time went on became more and more irritated over the disposition of the authorities to ignore my two offers to volunteer for service. Furthermore, I suppose it was not unnatural that I should be disturbed as a result of having been evacuated. My loyalty to the United States had never been questioned. I was an American citizen, had never been in Japan, and it was difficult for me to understand why I should have been removed from my home and placed in a relocation center. Even so, I was still willing to serve in the Armed Forces. The combination of circumstances made it appear to me that the United States Government did not consider me to be a citizen of the United States. I was young enough to serve in the Army and I was anxious to serve in the Army yet all of this was ignored. Having finally made up my mind that I would never be accepted as loyal citizen of the United States, I refused to register at the time of the General Registration at Tule Lake. (Incidentally, I might even then have registered but for the fact that I would have been the only person in my block to register and my lot at Tule Lake would have been extremely difficult had I

defied the tradition of my block in the matter of this registration.)

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Time has served to mellow my thinking and I can see no future for myself in Japan. The only future I can possibly make for myself is in the United States and I desire to do anything possible to regain my citizenship. It occurs to me that if I serve in the Armed Forces I might still be able to become, eventually a naturalized citizen of the United States. This seems to me to be a practical approach to my problem. As a result of service in the Army I might not only be able to regain my citizenship but I shall also have the satisfaction of having honorably served my country, something which I tried to do shortly after the beginning of the war between the United States and Japan. I am in excellent health and am totally willing to serve in the Air Force.

(This letter is written to you in the hope you may discuss with the appropriate officials of the War Department the possibility of my being accepted for Air Service. I hope that you will do everything possible for me in this connection so that I may be inducted at the earliest possible moment.)

Sincerely yours,