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AKIYAMA, Soji Tom

to [unclear]

1945

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AKIYAMA, SOJI TOM ✓ (MRS TANE AKIYAMA, MOTHER)

, JACK YOSHIMI

ans by Form letter, 9-11-45

, YONE

, YUKUYE

, BETTY ASAE

3701 A

Tule Lake, Calif.

September 6, 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig, Director  
American Civil Liberties Branch  
216 Pine Street  
San Francisco, Calif.

SEP 11 1945

Dear Sir:- RE: RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF  
SOJI TOM, JACK YOSHIMI, YONE, YUKUYE,  
AND BETTY ASAE AKIYAMA

I am the mother of the four mentioned above. I am, also, the mother of George Zentaro Akiyama, T/Sgt Company F, 442nd Division, who was killed in action in Italy, July 3, 1944.

George was inducted before our family was evacuated. It was ever the wish of my husband and of myself to keep our family intact while we waited for the war to end and bring our eldest son back to us again.

But on July 3, 1944 we received word of the death of son in action. I was grieved beyond comfort. My husband who was of advanced years, was stricken with a hopeless malady shortly after evacuation and confined to the hospital. He was too ill to be told the news. Words cannot express the agony, the anguish, the utter desolation of my heart.

My husband's condition became worse and on October 4th of the same year, he passed away not knowing that George had gone before him. Then I lost all perspective. I forgot how gladly George had gone to serve his country. I only knew that the rest of my children must be kept with me.

So when rumors spread through the colony that evacuees, other than aliens, would be ousted from the center, I was panic-stricken. I nagged the children to renounce their citizenship. They reasoned with me that it was not necessary to give up their birthright, that it would be possible to go to Japan even if they retained their citizenship. But I was frantic and urgent. It was their concern over my health, and over my sanity, and the love they had for me who had so lately lost two, which finally drove them, against their will and better judgment, to do my bidding.

Now, I have the children with me but they are like so many strangers--they resent me--what I made them do has alienated them. And thinking rationally, I have come to realize the enormity of the wrong I had done them to restore their citizenship, I will gladly do it. Will you, in your kindness, give me advice. Any light you may shed upon this problem will be gratefully accepted by a perturbed mother.

Very respectfully

*Tane Akiyama*

MRS. TANE AKIYAMA

SEP 18 1945

3701-B  
Newell, California

September 15, 1945

Civil Liberties Union  
216, Pine Street  
San Francisco, California

Gentlemen:

The following is the letter which I sent to Mr. Ennis in Washington, D.C.

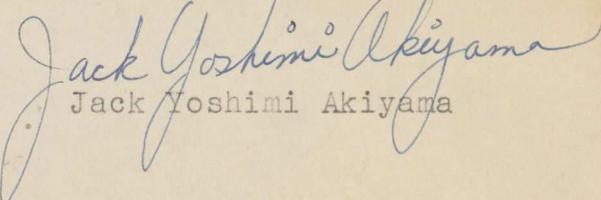
I do hereby humbly request that my rights as American Citizen be reinstated of such is permissable.

I now sincerely regret for having renounced my rights as citizen of the United States which motive was prompted by my mother due to the loss of my brother (T/Sgt. Zentaro George Akiyama of 442nd Infantry) in action in Italy, and the loss of my father shortly thereafter in the same year. Her sole desire was to have me accompany her to Japan, nor do I understand their ways. However I have complied with her request which I now wish to have it reversed, and my citizenship restored. I request you to give me another hearing that I may explain my case in detail.

Your kind indulgence will be greatly appreciated.

Your opinion on this letter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours respectfully,

  
Jack Yoshimi Akiyama

September 27, 1945.

Mr. Jack Yoshimi Akiyama,  
3701-A,  
Tule Lake Center,  
Newell, Calif.

Dear Mr. Akiyama:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th setting forth your recent letter to Mr. Ennis requesting a restoration of your citizenship. My criticism of the letter is that it is not strong enough. My suggestion to renunciants has been that they absolutely repudiate their renunciations.

It seems to me, however, that the persons affected are relying too heavily upon possible administrative relief. My information is that renunciants will be removed to internment camps for eventual shipment to Japan. The latter action will be summary. If those affected are unable to contest the government's program individually, they ought to pool their resources in order to secure competent attorneys. Tetsujiro Nakamura told me he would organize a Defense Committee, and, although I have not heard from him, I hope it is being done.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Besig, Director.

Brother killed in action.

Sept 13, 1945  
5314 - B.  
Tullake, Calif.

American Civil Liberties Union  
216 Pine St.  
San Francisco, Calif.

SEP 17 1945

Dear Mr. Ernest Besig,

Renouncing my citizenship was a great mistake. In this camp they all said they be forced out if you dont renounce it, so with our large family nothing on hand, and no money to support ourselves, we have to go without food, no house to live in. so I thought it was alright to renounce it for the duration. I know it was a great mistake now but the rumor seem so true, that everybody was doing it, so I did it too, also my brother and sister my father was ill in hospital, and I didnt know have small brothers and sister that have to attend school. Mother to look after. I was headed of the family and I didnt know what to do so I got in the rumor and did what it was not right.

My brother served in Army 3 1/2 years and was killed in action July 3, 1944. If he was still alive, maybe he could of support us. But since he's gone, there wasn't any body to look after us, so we wanted to stay in the camp until the war was over.

If those Hashi Dow + Seiner Man. didnt cause us any trouble, maybe there wasn't such thing as renouncing it. But I guess it is to late now. But is there any hope for me. I just wrote to say that I want to renounce it. but I still have my citizen papers. But is that any good for me? I havent receive the answer about whether I still am citizen or not.

Please forgive me what I done to the U. S. that wasn't right.

I am married now.  
(and my new name is Y.H. Tsuji)

Your truly,  
Yukage Shachy Akijama

September 27, 1945.

Mrs Y. D. Tsuji,  
8314-G,  
Tule Lake Center,  
Newell, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Tsuji:

I have your recent letter concerning your renunciation problems. Just today I have written to your brother again pointing out the gravity of the situation. Renunciants are scheduled to be moved from Tule Lake to internment camps and thereafter shipped to Japan.

We just do not have the means to represent everyone in these cases. As I have suggested before, we'll be glad to recommend attorneys, and if individuals have little money, they ought to pool their finances in order to hire an attorney. However, if the renunciants at Tule Lake delay much longer they will suddenly find themselves in an even more isolated camp far from the reach of competent attorneys.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Besig, Director.