

12.17

SHITANDA, BEN TSUTOMU

1947-1960

78/177  
C



and more

SHITANDA, BEN  
BUTOMU

3464 Nishi, Okugaita  
Aki-gun, Hiroshima-ken  
Japan.

Mr. Hayne M. Collins  
Attorney at Law  
Mills Tower  
220 Bush St.  
San Francisco 4, Calif.

order  
2/1/48

Dec. 17, 1947.

Dear Mr. Hayne M. Collins:

I was informed that I could  
be included as a party plaintiff in equity  
suit No. 25-294-G which is pending in the  
U. S. District Court in San Francisco. Is  
it true? If so I wish to be included  
in a party plaintiff.

Birth Place & Date: March 2, 1917, Douglas, Alaska.

Address at the time war started: 1060 E. Vernon Ave.,  
Los Angeles, Calif..

Occupation: Operating restaurant at 1060 E. Vernon  
ave., Los Angeles, Calif..

During the war: Manzanar Relocation Center  
Tule Lake Center.  
Santa Fe, N. M..

Place where renounced citizenship:  
Tule Lake Center.



date reached Japan: Dec. 6, 1945.

I have no Japanese citizenship.

" " not allegiance to Japan.

" " not entering or serving in the armed force.

" " not accepting or performing the duties of any office post or employment under the government of Japan.

" " not voting in political election.

" " not making a formal renunciation in Japan.

I have wife and daughter at Los Angeles, Calif..

All expense will be paid in U.S. by my wife.

Your very truly

Ben Tsutomu Shitanda



970 South Normandie  
Los Angeles, California

February 10, 1948

Department of State  
Special Project Division  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention of D. W. Corrick  
Acting Assistant Chief

Dear Sir:

My husband, Ben Tsutomu Shitanda, is a stateless person. His present address is 3464 Nishi, Okugaita Village, Aki-gun, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan. He was born at Douglas, Alaska, March 2, 1917. He voluntarily went to Japan December 6, 1945, to see his parents.

I ask for his return to the United States. I have one child, Mitsuyo Shitanda, 2½ years of age. I am working in a restaurant. I have a home in Los Angeles. I need him to help raise this girl child and to help my support. Please help and allow his return.

Yours sincerely,

*Shizuyo Shitanda*

(Mrs.) Shizuyo Shitanda

Airmail



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

**SPEEDLETTER**

In reply refer to  
DS 394.0015/2-1048

Date: March 9, 1948

This form of communication is used in the interest of speed and economy. If a reply is necessary, address the Department of State, attention of the Division mentioned below.

**SPEEDLETTER**

To: [

Mrs. Shizuye Shitanda,  
970 South Normandie,  
Los Angeles, California.

]

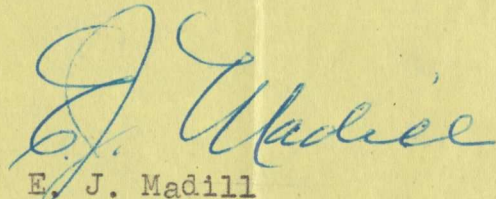
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]

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Reference is made to your letter of February 10, 1948 concerning your husband, Ben Tsutomu Shitanda, in Japan.

The Department's representative at Yokohama has been requested to obtain information regarding your husband and to report concerning the possibility of his return to the United States. Upon the receipt of a reply you will be notified.



E. J. Madill  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Division of Protective Services





# Maryknoll

Phone  
ANgelus 6349

426 S. Boyle Ave.  
LOS ANGELES 33

March 15, 1948

Dear Mr. Collins,

I am enclosing a letter sent to the wife of Ben Shitanda. She came to me to ask if there is any way in which you could help in the matter to get her husband back to the United States.

Enclosed also is a copy of the letter she sent to the State Department and also a copy of the department's reply to her. May I ask you to send back the two latter enclosures?

Thanking you kindly and hoping to hear from you, I am

Sincerely,

*Hugh Lavery*  
Father Hugh Lavery, M. M.



3464 Nishi, Okugaita,  
Aki, Hiroshima Ken,  
Japan,  
June 1, 1948.

Mr. Hagne M. Collins,  
Attorney at Law,  
Mills Tower,  
220 Bush St.,  
San Francisco, Calif..

My dear Sir:

I've read in a newspaper  
that you're assisting nisei nonnanc-  
ees to regain their U.S. citizenship.

I'm a nisei nonnancer,  
also. I wish to be included in  
the party plaintiff in equity suit  
No. 25294-L-G. Will you kindly  
add my name in the list, please?

My brief data as  
follow.

Name	: BEN (TSUTOMU) SHITANDA
Present Address	: 3464 Nishi, Okugaita-mura, Aki-gun, Hiroshima-ken, Japan.

joined 3/48  
7 pm letter  
sent 5/27/48



Date of Renounce : <sup>January</sup> 1945 - <sup>NOT SURE</sup> ~~(May 3)~~  
Place of Renounce : 8213-C, Fule Lake Center, Newell, Calif.

Received a letter from Assistant Attorney General on Oct. 13, 1945 at Santa Fe, New Mexico. I was sent to Santa Fe in March, 1945 and left there Oct., 1945 for Japan. Landed at Unaga Japan on Dec. 6, 1945.

I've wife & daughter at 970 So. Normandie Ave., Los Angeles 6, Calif.  
(SHIZUE SHITANDA & MITSUYO SHITANDA).

If you need more information about me, please correspondent to me on my wife I'll be glad to answer.

Yours Very Truly,

Ben Satomi Shitanda

P.S.

For reference please write to:

Mr. Felix May, Douglas, Alaska (District Judge)  
Mr. Alex Gair, Douglas, Alaska  
Mr. Irvin Fleck, Douglas, Alaska  
Mrs. Julia Batti, San Diego County, Santa Ysabel, Calif.

Miss Florence L. Ryan, 618 East 73rd, Seattle, Wn.



*Air Mail*  
**AIR MAIL**



Mr. Hayne M. Collins  
attorney at law,  
Miller Tower  
220 Bush St.  
San Francisco, Calif.  
U. S. A.

(4)

航空郵便



From Ben Tsutomu Mitomata  
3464 Nishi, Okugaita  
Aki, Hiroshima-ken,  
Japan.

6/1/48.



JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
OF LOS ANGELES  
258 E. FIRST STREET  
LOS ANGELES 12, CALIFORNIA

Joined March 1948  
checked  
and filed M

TO MR. WAYNE M. COLLINS:

The undersigned Ben Tsutomu Shitanda wishes  
to be included in the mass suit to restore my United States  
citizenship.

Mrs. Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
Signature

Name Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
Present address 3464 Nishi, Aki-Gun, Hiroshima, Japan  
Date of birth March 2 1917  
Month day year  
Place of birth Douglas Alaska  
Township State  
Place of citizenship renouncement Tulelake Center

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

yes. Received.

I, Mrs. Shizuye Shitanda, will send this  
to you now and he will send his in his  
earliest time.

He will live at 970 S. Normandie Ave.  
Los Angeles 6, California, after his return  
to United State.



% Mr. N. Ota  
#30-2 chome  
Azabu Ichibei-cho  
Minato-ku  
Tokyo - to  
Japan  
26 April 1954

new  
add  
noted

Mr. Hayne M Collins  
Mills Tower  
220 Bush St.  
San Francisco 4, Calif

Dear Sir:

All my renounce friends received their  
letters a month ago from you to fill in,  
but I've not as yet. Will you please ex-  
plain why so.? And if I can I would  
like to apply for passport to the U. S. as  
soon as possible. ~~I~~ Will you explain  
how & where to apply for it. Your kindness  
will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

Ben T. Shitanda

III

SHITANDA, BEN TSUTOMU

Affidavit not  
sent

INACTIVE LIST

SUIT FILED BY WIRIN

Affidavit  
sent 6/25/54

Paid \$100



4/30/54

SHITANDA, Ben Tsutomu Des. III, Paid--  
(Inactive list) \$100  
do not send letter list)  
Wirin filed suit (CC 13030) April 11, 1951

5/4/51 -- Motion to Dismiss Complaint in  
Abo case

6/12/51 -- Stipulation extending time to  
answer

Above information from Tex, 4/29/53

c. wada

Wm C. *will*  
*reply*



CROSS-REFERENCE

FILE OF: SHITANDA, Ben Tsutomu

CLASSIFICATION: Inactive List (Renunciants)

*Suit filed by Wain who dismissed action 8/11/53 -  
affidavit forms sent & returned*

REFER TO FILE: Tule Com. Letter

CLASSIFICATION: Tule Com. Corres. 1954

DATE: June 29, 1954



## COMMITTEE

T. AKUNE  
A. HAYASHIDA  
Y. HONDA  
K. IKEDA  
Y. KAKU  
L. KATAOKA  
J. KIMURA  
Y. KIYOHIO  
T. KONO  
T. KOSUGI  
M. MATSUMOTO  
K. MATSUOKA  
K. MORISHIGE  
T. NAKAMURA  
I. NAMEKAWA  
R. NARIMATSU  
T. OBATAKE  
H. OKITA

## TULE LAKE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Room 215, 124 South San Pedro Street  
Los Angeles 12, California  
Michigan 4728

July 14, 1954

## COMMITTEE

M. SASAKI  
Y. SHIBATA  
I. SHIMIZU  
R. SHIRAISHI  
T. SHONO  
K. TAKAHASHI  
M. YEGO  
H. TAKETAYA  
H. TAKEUCHI  
M. TOYOTA  
G. TSUETAKE  
H. UCHIDA  
B. WATANABE  
M. YAMAICHI  
T. YAMAMOTO  
M. UEDA  
K. UYENO

Mr. Wayne M. Collins  
1701 Mills Tower  
220 Bush Street  
San Francisco 4, Calif.

Re: Ben Tsutomu Shitanda

Dear Wayne:

The address of the above described plaintiff is as follow:

Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
c/o Mr. Naoto Ota  
2-30 Heiei-cho, Azabu  
Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Very truly yours,

*Tex*

*Positive*

*new address  
noted on card*



## COMMITTEE

T. AKUNE  
A. HAYASHIDA  
Y. HONDA  
K. IKEDA  
Y. KAKU  
L. KATAOKA  
J. KIMURA  
Y. KIYOHIO  
T. KONO  
T. KOSUGI  
M. MATSUMOTO  
K. MATSUOKA  
K. MORISHIGE  
T. NAKAMURA  
I. NAMEKAWA  
R. NARIMATSU  
T. OBATAKE  
H. OKITA

## TULE LAKE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Room 215, 124 South San Pedro Street  
Los Angeles 12, California  
Michigan 4728

June 24, 1954

## COMMITTEE

M. SASAKI  
Y. SHIBATA  
I. SHIMIZU  
R. SHIRAISHI  
T. SHONO  
K. TAKAHASHI  
M. YEGO  
H. TAKETAYA  
H. TAKEUCHI  
M. TOYOTA  
G. TSUETAKE  
H. UCHIDA  
B. WATANABE  
M. YAMAICHI  
T. YAMAMOTO  
M. UEDA  
K. UYENO

Mr. Wayne M. Collins  
1701 Mills Tower  
220 Bush Street  
San Francisco 4, Calif.

on INACTIVE  
LIST

Re: Ben Tsutomu Shitanda--Active Japan

Dear Wayne:

The above described renunciant was placed on our inactive list, as his wife retained the services of Chuman. His proceeding number was CC 13020.

I shall thank you to let me know whether his name was actually dismissed from the suit. I would like to know this fact as Mr. Mikio Seki has been asked by Shitanda to ascertain his status.

Checking all the stories, we find that Shitanda's wife took it upon herself to retain the service of Chuman. Later she divorced him. She is now remarried to another individual. On previous occasion she was stating that Shitanda was unfaithful to him, and was going to divorce him.

However, Seki indicates that he is a conscientious individual, and has been awaiting for our instruction to return. Shitanda indicated to Seki, that he gave to his wife a sum of money before his departure to Japan. Shitanda indicated that he did not care how his wife disposed of such sum, as she was taking care of his child. But he was aggrieved of the fact that she messed everything up so that he could not return to the United States.

Seki has indicated that he will make the payment for Shitanda. We have indicated to Seki that Shitanda is placed on an Inactive list, and in all probability he has been dismissed from the proceeding. In such an event it will be difficult to include him within the mass suit.

I shall thank you to inform me whether we could assist Shitanda. On the one hand I feel sorry for him, but on the other hand he could have at least communicated with us direct. This is one of the puzzling thing to me.

Very truly yours,

*Ex*



June 25, 1954

Tex Nakamura and T. Kono  
Tule Lake Defense Committee  
124 S. San Pedro Street, Rm. 215  
Los Angeles 12, California

Dear Tex and Kono:

Shizue Shitanda, wife of Ben Tsutomu Shitanda, is on the U.S. active but unpaid plaintiff's list in the mass equity cases. (I do not know whether she commenced an independent suit to cancel her renunciation.)

Ben Tsutomu Shitanda is on the Japan list and his case still is active. I do not find any record of any dismissal in his case entered in court by me. (I shall check to find out if Wirin filed a dismissal in the mass equity suits without my knowledge, and let you know.)

On April 29, 1953, you informed me that Ben Tsutomu Shitanda had brought a suit in Los Angeles to determine his nationality, in proceeding CC-13030, which had been filed on April 11, 1951; that a motion was made therein by the defendant to dismiss the complaint and on June 12, 1951, a stipulation extending time to answer therein had been filed. I suppose that no further action was taken therein by Wirin and that his suit to determine nationality still may be pending in Los Angeles. If that is the case it may be that Wirin was paid for his services and that he may be bound legally to continue his services to conclusion. You might check the record in that action and see if the case still is pending and who the defendant is and whether or not Secretary of State Dulles now is the defendant.)

If Mr. Shitanda has not been dismissed from the mass suits here I shall be willing to send him the Affidavit forms in an endeavor to try to clear him administratively.

Very truly yours,



Wirin dismissed suit. And WMC  
sent affidavits - which have been  
filled out - ~~and are rejects~~



add  
page (Mr. N. Ota  
# 30-2 chome, Azabu Ichibei-  
cho  
Minato-Ku, Tokyo.

Aug. 25, 1954

Dear Sir;

Thanks a million for sending me the affidavit blanks which I received in the early part of Aug.. I hurriedly filled them and airmailed five copies to you on Aug. 24, 1954.

The questions are very difficult for me because of my poor English and I can't recall some of data the questions ask for. Those negative questions are rather difficult to answer, very tricky, it confuse me very much.

In June before I received the memo. & outlines from you, I went to the U.S. Consul to fill the affidavit and certificate to show when & where I worked since 1950. The answers for the Consul's affidavit are very close to one I did for your affidavit, some words are not exactly same. Question 7(B) and 7(C) I think I answered No instead of Yes.

I have a few changes to make on my status. That is when I started to work on the case, I was married and my former wife and a child were in L.A. but I'm separated now. Naturally my return address, the person who will pay the expenses will be changed also. I don't know whether I should report to the Consul immediately or wait



till later. What shall I do? If I have to report on changes & corrections of status and affidavit. Will you please give me your advice.

If I have to return to the U. S. for the trial I would. Providing, you get to give me some time to ~~raise~~ money for the expenses.

If I pass the clearance and a passport is granted I will stay here for a while to save up money to pay for the expenses and passage to the U. S.

I don't wish to become a Japanese citizen and stay here, I had enough. I want to go back to the U. S. in any possible way, sooner the better I like it.

I haven't paid you the balance as yet. I hope you understand my position. Since I'm in the financial difficult, I would like to pay you immediately but I haven't power to do so. Can I pay you the balance when I returned to the U. S. and start to draw wages? I'll promise to pay back every penny I owe you. I will appreciate very much if you could wait till then. Your kindness never be forgotten.

Sincerely Yours,

Ben S. Kitanda



WEB:OC  
146-54-926  
93-1-1320

ejf

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

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

JUL 22 1955

Re: Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
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 December 17, 1954, enclosing affidavit of the above-named subject for a determination as to whether his 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.

You are advised that an affidavit of this subject was previously submitted to this Department by the Department of State with a similar request for our views. On October 18, 1954, we advised that Department that in the event of litigation involving an issue of the validity of subject's renunciation, this Department would be unable either to stipulate that his affidavit be accepted as evidence in lieu of oral testimony, or to concede that his case comes within the coverage of the above decision. The reasons for the Department's position in this respect, among others, are:

This subject was born March 2, 1917 in Alaska, and resided in Japan from 1922 to 1932. The majority of his education was received in Japan. Pertinent records of the War Relocation Authority indicate that this subject gave negative answers to Questions 27 and 28 of the Army-WRA registration form. He applied for repatriation on January 18, 1944 and again on October 2, 1945. In this latter application he stated that he desired to be repatriated with his family, including his wife and child, if possible, otherwise he would return alone, "unconditionally and without qualification". The Department records reflect that his wife and child did not accompany him, but remained in this country. Subject further stated on the form that he had always been

*R. H. / 58*  
*he*



File No. 146-54-926  
93-1-1320

- 2 -

loyal to Japan and had no intention of changing his loyalty to any other country, and wished to return and serve his country, Japan, in every way possible. The Department records reflect that this subject was a member of both the Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi-dan and the Hokoku Seinen-dan, and that he served as an officer of the latter organization. He made early and repeated requests to renounce his citizenship. At his renunciation hearing he affirmed that his loyalty was entirely to Japan. He made similar statements to an Immigration and Naturalization Patrol Inspector on April 24, 1945.

The additional reasons for renunciation, as set forth in subject's affidavit submitted by your letter, fail to counter-balance the facts above recited, and we therefore adhere to our views as set forth in our above-referred to letter to the Department of State, that this subject's case may not be considered as coming within the coverage of the decision in the Murakami case.

In accordance with our letter of September 21, 1953, we attach the original and three copies of this subject's affidavit for return to Mr. Collins.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH D. GUILFOYLE  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

By: Enoch E. Ellison  
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

Enclosure No. 103234

Affidavit and 3 copies.



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

August 5, 1955

Mr. Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
c/o Mr. Naoto Ota  
2-30 Heiei Cho, Azabu  
Minato Ku, Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Shitanda:

On July 22, 1955, the Department of Justice rejected your affidavits and denied you administrative clearance because it reached a conclusion that your renunciation of U.S. citizenship was not caused by fear, coercion or duress. It states that the reasons for its refusal to give you administrative clearance are as follows:

"This subject was born March 2, 1917 in Alaska, and resided in Japan from 1922 to 1932. The majority of his education was received in Japan. Pertinent records of the War Relocation Authority indicate that this subject gave negative answers to questions 27 and 28 of the Army-WRA registration form. He applied for repatriation on January 18, 1944 and again on October 2, 1945. In this latter application he stated that he desired to be repatriated with his family, including his wife and child, if possible, otherwise he would return alone, "unconditionally and without qualification". The Department records reflect that his wife and child did not accompany him, but remained in this country. Subject further stated on the form that he had always been loyal to Japan and had no intention of changing his loyalty to any other country, and wished to return and serve his country, Japan, in every way possible. The Department records reflect that this subject was a member of both the Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi-dan and the Hokoku Seinen-dan, and that he served as an officer of the latter organization. He made early and repeated requests to renounce his citizenship. At his renunciation hearing he affirmed that his loyalty was entirely to Japan. He made similar statements to an Immigration and Naturalization Patrol Inspector on April 24, 1945."

As soon as the processing of the affidavits of other renunciants in the cases has been completed your individual case can be scheduled for an individual court trial in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco and, if you consent to have such a trial, a statement from the Clerk of the Court showing the approximate time of your trial will be sent to you to present to the U.S. Consul in Japan to enable you to return to the U.S. on a "Certificate of Identity" for your trial.

Therefore, please wait patiently until you receive the next letter from me.

Very truly yours,

P.S. If your wife is a U.S. citizen or a renunciant whose citizenship has been restored or who obtains a U.S. passport you thereby become eligible to apply to a U.S. Consul in Japan as an alien for a "nonquota immigrant visa" and, if it is issued to you by the Consul, you thereupon would be able to return to the United States as an alien for permanent residence purposes provided you withdrew from the pending mass class equity suits. If you were to obtain a "nonquota immigrant visa" and return to the United States as an alien for permanent residence purposes you would become eligible for naturalization as a U.S. citizen.



#15/10, 2 chome  
Nagatamachi  
Makano ku Tokyo  
Oct 13, 1956

Mr. W. M. Collins  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.  
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Collins,

A few weeks ago, I met Mr. Kano, your representative and talked to him about my case & he gave me many informations which I appreciate very much. Since staying in Tokyo there is no communication or talk on our case & (my case) of course, time & time there was letters from you but just letters alone cannot solve my individual case. Besides maybe I'm selfish but my job calls for a long hours of working & I never did have time to write. It is tough in Tokyo to make live besides my self is special case not classified as a Japanese nor an American. it is a difficult to make living, so far I'm lucky to have a job. Well, after all that, anyway I thank you for include me in your list because I just discovered that my former relatives have been bothered you & your staff. May I take this opportunity to apologize for everything they have done to make you angry. Mr. Kano was talking about lawyer's fee should be paid. which I think he is right. I'm willing to pay my share when I get to the states with a reasonable term. I've heard that you'll be here within this year. When you come to Tokyo please stop in to have a nice juicy Japanese beef. at George's, that is my place, I mean I'm working for..



I always thought that you must be a great guy, after long years with a large group of Kisei to contact. not many persons would tackle this kind of case. A few years back. I've separated from Sumida, that is she filed for the suit. & can you imagine now they want me to reunited again. In your letter mentioned I should keep still, be patient & wait. You will find enclosed copy letter from Yokohama Consul. Will you give me instruction on next procedure.

Yours cordially,

Ben. T. Shitanda  
(BEN. T. SHITANDA)



Dec. 23, 1954

Sir:

The Department of State has informed this office that your application for a passport executed at this office on June 14, 1954, has been disapproved.

It is the opinion of the Department of State that the circumstances of your renunciation of United State citizenship do not come within the scope of the circuit court decision in the MURAKAMI case, which decision established that their renunciations were made under duress and that there was no evidence of disloyalty to the United States.

You are advised that you have the privilege of appealing to the Board of Review of the Passport Office, Department of State, with regard to this decision. Your appeal must be based on other than hardship or humanitarian grounds; otherwise, it cannot be entertained.

If you have new or additional evidence to submit, or if you have legal grounds for believing that your case merits reversal of decision, you may present the appeal through an American Foreign Service Office or a duly authorized attorney or agent who need be made but a statement should be submitted, preferably under oath, giving the grounds of appeal and should be supported by such documentary evidence as may be available.

Very truly yours,

For the Consul in Charge:

Marcia L. Martin  
American Vice Consul



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

MAR 22 1957

Dear Plaintiff-Renunciant:

Pursuant to an agreement with lawyers for the Justice Department the affidavits you heretofore sent to me for administrative processing and upon which that Department denied you administrative clearance are being returned to that Department for review and for reconsideration.

This new chance for you to obtain administrative clearance and, perhaps, to recover your citizenship may take a few months time for a final determination. The Department of Justice is acting with more speed in the processing of affidavits and has adopted a new and more liberalized policy towards renunciants and, in consequence, there is a good chance that it will grant you clearance.

Therefore, you should wait patiently until you learn from me of the decision of the Justice Department as to whether it will agree that your renunciation of U.S. citizenship will be cancelled. You will be notified by me promptly when the Justice Department informs me of its decision in your case.

Very truly yours,



*Reject - 2nd time*

da

GCD:CMR  
146-54-926  
93-1-1320

MAY 1 1957

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

Re: Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
Your ref: Abo et al v. Brownell et al.  
Furuya et al v. Brownell et al. (Consolidated  
actions - Civil Nos. 25294 & 25295). Renunciation  
of Citizenship, Former Title 8 U.S.C. 801(i).

Dear Mr. Burke:

On October 17, 1954, you forwarded an affidavit of the above-captioned individual for a determination as to whether his case might 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. Thereafter, on July 22, 1955, we advised you that in the event of litigation involving an issue of the validity of the subject's renunciation we would be unable either to stipulate that his affidavit be accepted in lieu of oral testimony, or to concede that his case came within the coverage of the Murakami decision. Our letter sets forth the reasons for our views in this respect. Under date of April 4, 1957, you resubmitted the subject's affidavit for reprocessing and further consideration.

In accordance with your request we have reviewed the affidavit, together with the pertinent files in this case, in the light of the new liberalized standards, and you are advised that we find we must adhere to our views, as set forth in our above-referred to letter of July 22, 1955, that this subject's case may not be considered as coming within the coverage of the decision in the Murakami case.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure:  
4 copies of affidavit

GEORGE COCHRAN DOUB  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

By:  
Enoch E. Ellison  
Chief, Japanese Claims Section



May 8, 1957

Mr. Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
1510, 2-chome, Nagata Machi  
Nakano-ku, Tokyo  
Japan

Dear Mr. Shitanda:

On May 1, 1957, the Department of Justice upon a review and reconsideration of your case again rejected your affidavits and denied your administrative clearance because it reached a conclusion that your renunciation of U.S. citizenship was not caused by fear, coercion or duress. It states that the reasons for its refusal for the second time to give you administrative clearance are the same as those set forth in its prior letter of July 22, 1955, which are as follows:

"This subject was born March 2, 1917 in Alaska, and resided in Japan from 1922 to 1932. The majority of his education was received in Japan. Pertinent records of the War Relocation Authority indicate that this subject gave negative answers to questions 27 and 28 of the Army-WRA registration form. He applied for repatriation on January 18, 1944 and again on October 2, 1945. In this latter application he stated that he desired to be repatriated with his family, including his wife and child, if possible, otherwise he would return alone, "unconditionally and without qualification." The Department records reflect that his wife and child did not accompany him, but remained in this country. Subject further stated on the form that he had always been loyal to Japan and had no intention of changing his loyalty to any other country, and wished to return and service his country, Japan, in every way possible. The Department records reflect that this subject was a member of both the Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi-dan and the Hokoku Seinen-dan, and ~~that he served as an officer of~~ the latter organization. He made early and repeated requests to renounce his citizenship. At his renunciation hearing he affirmed that his loyalty was entirely to Japan. He made similar statements to an Immigration and Naturalization Patrol Inspector on April 24, 1945."



As soon as the processing of the affidavits of other renunciants in the cases has been completed your individual case can be scheduled for an individual court trial in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco and, if you consent to have such a trial, a statement from the Clerk of the Court showing the approximate time of your trial will be sent to you to present to the U.S. Consul in Japan to enable you to return to the U.S. on a "Certificate of Identity" for your trial.

Therefore, please wait patiently until you receive the next letter from me.

Very truly yours,

P.S. If your wife is a U.S. citizen or a renunciant whose citizenship has been restored or who obtains a U.S. passport you thereby become eligible to apply to a U.S. Consul in Japan as an alien for a "nonquota immigrant visa" and, if it is issued to you by the Consul, you thereupon would be able to return to the United States as an alien for permanent residence purposes provided you withdraw from the pending mass class equity suits. If you were to obtain a "nonquota immigrant visa" and return to the United States as an alien for permanent residence purposes you would become eligible for naturalization as a U.S. citizen.



WAYNE M. COLLINS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
MILLS TOWER, 220 BUSH STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE GARFIELD 1-1218

December 13, 1957

Mr. Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
98 Yamato-cho, Nakano-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Shitanda:

Enclosed find your copy of the Affidavit,  
the original of which was sent air mail. You  
should keep this copy for future reference.

Very truly yours,

WMC  
Enc.



WAYNE M. COLLINS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
MILLS TOWER, 220 BUSH STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE GARFIELD 1-1218

December 13, 1957

Mr. Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
98 Yamato-cho  
Nakano-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Shitanda:

I am returning herewith via air mail the original of the affidavit which I have prepared for you from your answers to my questionnaire. I would thank you to read the answers therein and if you find them to be true, you should take the original to a U. S. Consul in Japan and there sign and swear to it. Thereupon you should return it to me promptly by air mail for processing to the Justice Department.

A copy for you to keep for future reference is being sent via regular mail.

If you should make any additions or corrections in the affidavit, please inform me of the changes in a letter enclosing the affidavit.

It is imperative that you take care of this important matter immediately because the Justice Department intends to stop accepting affidavits for administrative processing at the end of this year.

Very truly yours,

P.S. The Justice Department has again rejected your affidavit and denied you administrative clearance. However, I think the enclosed new affidavit may be successful.

WMC



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

---

Telephone GARfield 1-5827

January 3, 1958

Mr. Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
98 Yamato-cho, Nakano-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Shitanda:

The affidavit forms you recently returned to me have been examined and compared with the records in my office. The forms appeared to me to be in good order. In consequence, I have delivered them to the U.S. Attorney's office for processing through the Justice Department.

On February 21, 1957, Assistant U.S. Attorney General George C. Doub, assured me that the Department would view renunciants cases with more liberality in granting administrative clearance than heretofore.

Because a fairly large number of affidavits of other renunciants also are being processed it may take several months before a final decision in your case is made by the Justice Department.

Therefore, I suggest that you wait patiently for the decision in your case which I shall relay to you just as soon as I receive information from the Department.

If the Justice Department clears you by this administrative method a judgment cancelling your renunciation and declaring you to be a U.S. citizen will be entered in the mass suits.

If the Justice Department does not clear you by this administrative method, your case then can be set down for an individual court hearing.

Very truly yours,

*Wayne M. Collins*



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

July 2, 1958

Mr. Ben Tsutomu Shitanda  
98 Yamato-cho, Nakano-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Shitanda:

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.

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 the 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 United States.

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 nonquota 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 non-quota 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 in course of time becomes eligible to apply for naturalization as a U.S. citizen.

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 a 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 U.S. or before an authorized Japanese Government office in Japan.

Very truly yours,

*Wayne M. Collins*

Enc.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

*Approved  
Japan*

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

JUN 26 1958

146-54- 936  
93-1-1320  
146-54-504

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

Re: San Yutoma Shitanda

Your ref: Abo et al v. Brownell et al. Furuya Rogers et al.  
et al v. Brownell et al. (Consolidated actions -  
Civil Nos. 25294 & 25295). Renunciation of  
Citizenship, Former Title 8 U.S.C. 801(i).

Dear Mr. Burke:

This is in response to your letter of January 6, 1958,  
enclosing an affidavit for a determination as to whether the  
case of the above-named renunciant 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.

We have examined the affidavit, together with pertinent  
Governmental files and are of the opinion that the case of the  
subject affiant 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 present view  
by letter, three copies of which are enclosed herewith. If you  
disagree with our action please so advise us promptly in order  
that we may recall our clearance from the Department of State be-  
fore action is taken thereon. If you do not disagree, please  
forward two of the copies to Mr. Collins, and 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, as modified by this Department's letter to you dated June 9,  
1955. We shall appreciate your forwarding to this office a copy



of the stipulation and judgment when record entry of the same has been accomplished.

For your information, a similar affidavit of this subject was submitted to this Department by the Department of State on February 12, 1958.

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

Yours very truly,

GEORGE COCHRAN EOUS  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

By:

Roch E. Ellison  
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

Enclosures:

Original and copy of  
affidavit,  
Three copies of letter  
to Department of State.



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

JUN 26 1958

OOD:OC  
146-54-5644  
146-54-926  
93-1-1320

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

Attention: Miss Frances Knight  
Director, Passport Office

Re: Ben Tsutomu Mitanda  
Your ref: FI/LF130

Dear Sirs:

You recently forwarded to this Department an affidavit of the above-named subject and requested an expression of our views as to whether his case may be considered as coming within the coverage of the decision in the Murekani case.

You are advised that a similar affidavit of this subject was recently submitted to this Department pursuant to the agreement entered into with Mr. Wayne M. Collins, Attorney, as set forth in the Department's letter of September 22, 1953, to the Department of State. We have reviewed the affidavits and it is the view of the Department that this subject's case may be considered as coming within the coverage of the decision in the Murekani case. We attach copy of affidavit submitted pursuant to the above agreement, together with copy of a self-explanatory letter to Lloyd H. Burke, Esquire, United States Attorney, Northern District of California.

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,

GEORGE COCHRAN DANE  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

By: Enoch E. Ellison  
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

Enclosures:

Copy of affidavit  
Copy of letter to Lloyd H. Burke, Esquire



DATA SHEET

Hash test 5/24/60 a/l

Name: SHITANDA, Ben Tsutomu

Judgment: 7/2/58 Aff. Japan  
(Date & kind)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: ✓

W: Shizuye Sumida  
divorced in '53

Bel E - L. A.

Address Information:  
(Phone bk., C/D, etc.)  
Japan

Born: Douglas, Alaska

not in La J/D  
... La ph/bk

Letters, contact, judgment  
order, etc.:

US -  
friends Mr Seki in L.A. (miki) - not in J/D La vie

Payment information, billing:

Sto of W - in says he will live at  
970 S. Normandie Ave.  
L. A. 6

Sto of Tex in '54 - refers to  
Mikio Seki  
who would make payment

File has US refs -  
in Alaska Caucasians  
Seattle, etc names

Cross reference:

Shizue Shitanda - FJ  
called 4 times -  
no reply

La J/D

Miki Seki  
106 1/2 N. San Pedro St  
La

Miki Seki  
3942 Dozier  
La



# 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>Ben Tsutomu Shitanda</i>		Date of Birth <i>March 2, 1917</i>	
2. If born prior to December 1, 1924	(A) Have you ever renounced Japanese nationality? <i>Yes</i>	When <i>March 2, 1934 approved on May 11, 1935</i>	Where <i>Douglas Alaska U. S. A.</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:			
Date		Purpose	
From	To		
<i>1922</i>	<i>1931</i>	<i>Came to Japan with parents for visit (2 yrs) My brother and sisters became ill and they passed away while they were ill, I was sent to schools.</i>	
5. Give details concerning any formal education in Japan:			
School		Period of Attendance	
<i>Okugaita Grade School, Nerishima-ken</i>		From	To
<i>Shudo Middle School, Nerishima-city</i>		<i>1923</i>	<i>1928 (6 yrs)</i>
		<i>1929</i>	<i>1931 (2 1/2 yrs)</i>
Specify subjects studied (attach additional sheet if necessary).			
<i>In general (no choice)</i>			
6. Have you ever made application for repatriation to Japan? <i>Yes</i> If so, give date <i>March 2, 1934</i> , and your reasons for so applying: <i>Being a consciousness and resentment of unfair discrimination made against me on account of my ancestry, plus a long period of interned without prospect of liberation as well as various family considerations such as the presence of father, mother, brother and sister in Japan. My uncle, the guardian who was detained with very poor health (himself) he strongly insisted on accompanying me. While I was exposed to strong pressures of fear from Japanese persons detained. Result of fear by the coercion, and intimidation.</i>			
7. (A) Have you ever expressly indicated that you would not swear unqualified allegiance to the United States?		Have you ever declined to answer when asked whether you would swear unqualified allegiance?	
<i>No</i>		<i>No</i>	
Or have you ever given a qualified answer to such question asked at War Relocation Centers? <i>No</i> If so, give your reasons: <i>At that time answered "No" reason for this answer being not loyalty to Japan or desire to renounce allegiance to America but because of doubt which were present in my mind as to the meaning of the question, adding I fear that an affirmative answer answering allegiance <del>to</del> at that time and place would constitute an admission on my part that I then or before that time did in fact owe allegiance to the government of Japan where as this condition I knew didn't exist since all ties with the government of Japan had been formally ended by renunciation of Japanese nationality in 1940. That if the question as to allegiance had been so phrased as to obtain a fair statement of my desire and intention, I would have (To be continued on separate sheet)</i>			
(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? <i>Yes</i> If so, state when you changed your mind and your reasons therefor: <i>I'm uncertain about that. I was given no further opportunity to restate my position or elaborate there on. However if I was discriminated against me and I believe that I could have been relocated in the U.S. without danger to me or I could have been freed from the terror and fear arouse from camp conditions.</i>			







(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: *After the pressures decreased I protested that I had no desire to continue with the organization and made such protest to the leaders. My agreement to become a member was result of fear that I would be deported to Japan and I believed the leaders in charge wished me to become a member so that I would learn Japanese language, culture and custom so prepared for life in Japan when deported and that I didn't know the organization had any other purposes. I never involve in any riot troubles or resist against the guards in the camps.*

(F) If you at any time wished to discontinue membership, activity, or office and were prevented from so doing, explain fully:  
Just before I was transferred to Santa Fe, the leader wanted me to work with culture section because almost all active members were transferred and I was oldest. I strongly against it and I told him "I didn't like the idea and also I had work to be done" Since then I never talked to him and kept away from the organization.

9. (A) When did you decide to apply for forms upon which to renounce your United States citizenship? On about January 1945.  
Give reasons for so doing: When I was in American schools, I was taught as an American with the rest. I was proud of it. That is why I renounced Japanese citizenship. We paid American taxes, voted in elections, gave donations to the Red Cross and the Community Chest and etc. Reported to the local board. Bought the War Bonds. Until I was ordered to relocate to the center by the Lt. Gen. J. H. D. Witt. He issued the civilian evacuation orders for the persons of Japanese blood only. It made me give up my business and personal properties. The general doctrine was "It makes no difference whether a Japanese is an American citizen or not. He is still a Japanese an enemy race and we must worry about the Japanese all the time until he is wiser off the map." I was discriminated against and was evacuated and interned without prospect of liberation simply because of my Japanese ancestry. I was classified and treated as though I was an alien enemy simply because my Japanese ancestry and was deprived of all my citizenship rights and I believed the government had repudiated my citizenship. I had no reasonable opportunity in the U.S. and feared mob violence in the event of being relocated. Expecting to be removed to Japan involuntarily. I feared the Japanese in Japan would take reprisals against me if I had not renounced U.S. nationality before arrive there. I feared I would be indefinitely or permanently interned and that there was no escape from internment except renouncing citizenship. I believed renunciation was necessary to insure continued internment because I was impoverished and had no place to go in the event I was released from internment and I feared mob violence if I was forced out of the center. The conditions prevailing in the center kept me and my family in a constant state of fear of the future and for our safety. I feared that my alien family members would be deported to Japan and that if I didn't renounce we would be separated forever. My uncle, the guardian expected to be deported to Japan and compelled me to renounce in order to accompanying him. I was living in Ward 8 and alien pressured group leaders coerced me into renouncing. After over two years behind wire and watchful guards mental fear and coercion depriving me of the free exercise of my will.

(B) If reasons given in answer to preceding question differ from reasons given to officer who held renunciation hearing, give your explanation for difference: *If reasons differ it's due to I was and have been exposed to strong pressures from pro-Japanese person detained therein. They coached to give some will answer. Lived with mental, intimidation and coercion for the long period in the center.*

(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: *Some as stated in 7A). Plus, since I got married I didn't want to be separated from wife's parents and brothers and also I didn't want to be separated from my uncle, the guardian. I feared family separation. The threats, riots, beatings by gangs and individual mobsters caused many of citizens and alien to fear that plurality was endangered unless renounce. I was in the middle of the strong pressure and always quarrel and check on persons who didn't renounce. Prior to that I lived in where many riots occurred such as Manganer riot, killing 2 boys and injured many persons. A large group of persons were put in stockade, strikes, Army came in with tanks, searched houses in Sule Lake. One boy was shot dead, and Nitomi was stabbed to death, pro-Japanese groups fights near by black and etc. were happened main causes were friction between pro and non-pro Japanese. Long period of camp life made me panic, unsettled, fear, hysterical and lost control of myself to stop to think what I'm doing. To protect my wife and my own at that time made me so. To prevent from forced out camp where believed life and safety would be endangered. Remain together will be safe and be protected, I thought. Parents and guardian pressures prevent me from thinking also. Evacuation made me, lost of home, isolation from outside communication and concentration in an enclosed guarded over populated camp built a fear, anxiety, resentment, uncertainty hopelessness and loss fights. Hysteria and mad was my condition.*

(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:

~~Because of the pressure~~ <sup>against</sup> ~~group and guardian~~ <sup>it</sup>, I thought ~~best~~ <sup>for my safety not</sup> ~~to do anything~~ <sup>to leave as it is</sup>. To protect family separation and for safety. There was riots between pro and non pro Japanese and guards made me feared if do anything but to keep mum.

(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: *That within a few months after I came to Japan I took step to obtain readmission to the U. S. and reversion of my American nationality having made application and had conference at various times with American Consulate at Yokohama and Embassy in Tokyo. And have been working through Mr. W. M. Collins for almost nine years.*



continued from Page 1, 7AD

then maintained and verified my allegiance to the United States and similar lack of allegiance to the government of Japan which had existed since 1934.

I believe, I would went to the U.S. Army when I received a notice from local board in Bishop, Calif.. I was classified 4C, which means I was treated as an alien. I feared that if I didn't sign No I would be subject to violence mobsters. I was afraid that I would be forced sent to relocate in communities hostile to them. Result of fear by the life in center.

Ben T. Shitanda

I enlisted (or was drafted) on.....		in the.....		; my Serial number is.....	
State the date		State the Branch of Service			
I am in such service.....		; I was released from active duty on.....		and received my Discharge	
Answer Yes or No					
on.....					
(B) 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. <i>Just after I released to Manzanar camp I received a card and letter from local board at that time my duty to report and I consulted Mr. Isurutan, lawyer and I had a card to explain my situation. but later I was classified 4C.</i>					
(C) State why your offer of such service was rejected, if the reason was made known to you.					
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 the rejection is known to you.					
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 the name of such person, the branch of service and serial number of such person:					
Relationship		Name			
Branch of Service		Serial Number			
JAPAN CITY OF TOKYO EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA					
5 SS: <i>Ben Tsutomu SHITANDA</i> (Signature of applicant)					
Subscribe and sworn to before me this <u>24th</u> day of <u>August</u> , A.D., 19 <u>54</u> .					
<i>John W. Simms</i> John W. Simms Vice Consul of the United States of America duly commissioned and qualified					
Service No... <u>7219</u> Tariff No... <u>32</u> No Fee Prescribed.					
This Oath may be executed before any person authorized to administer oaths.					



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. After many years of searching, I had my chance to return to the U.S. with my uncle in 1931. I left my folks and friends for freedom. Prior to 1942 I settled down and acted as an American. I lived among Russians, Alaska Indians, Colored People and a few Jews. During that time I didn't even speak Japanese, in fact almost forgot the language. Only Japanese intermingled were my uncle and a few employees. My idea or aim was strictly for America. I did my best effort to serve for the communities, such as schools, Christian churches, his (Uncle's) volunteer and other activities. I disliked none of them. I'm peace loving person. The relocation changed my life. I was forced to give up the communities I loved and also the people, business, and properties which took me to years to build. Caged in without freedom for what reasons just because Japanese blood in me. The J. Edgar Hoover doctrine made me sick. "O Jap. is always a Jap." Nobody in my life called me by that, besides, until then. I began to wonder what happened to my Constitutional Rights, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and other American privilege. As local board classified 4-C. As days passed by I didn't know what to do. No friends the loneliness made me fear worry, anxiety, tension, unsettled, hysterical and discouraged for future. Disgusting for camp life made me start painting and drawing in which I tried to search for the light of freedom but I never did. In Tule Lake was a great headache by put me in the middle of the pro-Japanese group. They were told by strangers to me. Not only that I had to work with them in the kitchen all day. I requested to be moved to some other room but there was no vacancy at that time. Long period among those people I became panicky for wife's security and my own safety. During working hours, at resident meetings, so other spare time, almost everyone was talking about riots, troubles, gossip and rumors, were daily routine. Nothing made me happy or to give courage and hope. Resultant worries, distress and fears, these things became in my mind drove me into despair and deprived me of all sense of reality.

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

Same as stated in both question. Plus, I'm the oldest in the family I felt I should do something to my parents who lived in Hiroshima when the Atomic Bomb was dropped. My uncle who was with me in the same camp begged me to accompany him. He needed someone to be with him because he was very weak mentally and physically from a long period interned. He insisted to return with him and kept telling me about my folks need me especially when and after the Atomic bomb was dropped and kept telling me my folks are having hell of time, also.

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

State nature of action taken and reasons therefor.

That since I return to Japan I have taken no action to resume or acquire Japanese citizenship in any way nor have I voted in elections or any other way manifested an allegiance to the government of Japan. I'm registered as an alien # 650133. That I at all time and now as an American citizen and all acts or statements made while detained which in any way with that status were result of duress or mistake.

If you have served or are serving in the military or naval forces of the United States fill in the following:

Recruited (or was drafted) on \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_; my Serial number is \_\_\_\_\_;

State the date

State the Branch of Service

In \_\_\_\_\_ service \_\_\_\_\_; I was released from active duty on \_\_\_\_\_ and received my Discharge

Answer Yes or No

(B) If you were 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 and the place where you volunteered. Just after I relocated to Manganer camp I received a card and letter from local board at that time my duty to report and I consulted Mr. Sauratani, lawyer and he told me to explain my situation. But later I was classified 4-C.

(C) If you were offered 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 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, name of such person, the branch of service and serial number of such person:

Relationship

Name

Branch of Service

Serial Number

JAPAN  
CITY OF TOKYO  
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ben Tsutomu SHITANDA  
(Signature of applicant)

Ben Tsutomu SHITANDA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of August, A.D. 1954.

John W. Simms  
Vice Consul of the United States of America  
duly commissioned and qualified

Service No. 7219  
Tariff No. 32  
No Fee Prescribed

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



SHITANDA, Ben Tsutomu

(b. 3/2/17, Douglas, Alaska)

Cleared by Affidavit 7/2/58

Former wife: Shizue Shitanda  
(now married to another)

She has been billed 4 times and  
no reply. Her address is

970 Normandie Ave., L.A.

Jap. Directory shows:

Miki Seki

106-1/2 N. San Pedro St.  
L.A.

Miki Seki

3942 Dozier

L.A. Phone: AN 1-1504

*still in Japan*

His file gave as a U.S. reference a friend, Mr. Seki in L.A. His file also shows a letter from Tex in 1954 when Mr. Mikio Seki inquired for Mr. Shitanda and indicated he would make payment for him. Try to locate Mikio Seki in Los Angeles and find out the address for Ben Tsutomu Shitanda. In 1948 we received a letter from Father Hugh Lavery, M.M. of Maryknoll (Catholic Foreign Mission Assn.) 426 S. Boyle Ave., L.A. telephone Angelus 6349. You might call Father Lavery to see if he knows the location of Mr. Shitanda.



Ben Shitanda of Tokyo, Japan  
for Mr. Wayne M. Collins  
paid on account  
received from The Iro Maxwells



**RECEIPT**

Date

*Jan 28* 19*64*

No.

**5966**

Received From

*Ben Shitanda*

Address

*4, Isao Masuda**One Hundred and no/100 -*

Dollars \$

*100.00*

For

*on account for Wayne M. Collins*

ACCOUNT

HOW PAID

AMT. OF  
ACCOUNT

CASH

*Tranche check*

AMT. PAID

CHECK

BALANCE  
DUEMONEY  
ORDER

By

*Wayne M. Collins*  
*Wayne Nakamura*

Rediform



Typed 12/13/57, RS  
read

Born Tsutomu Shitanda  
~~Born in Tsutomu Shitanda~~

March 2, 1917.

2, pp 4 and 5 copy affidavit.

6. Yes. 1944 and 1945.

9X  
In May of 1942 I had to evacuate from Los Angeles, Calif., where I operated a restaurant near East Vernon, to the WRA Center at Manzanar. My parents, 2 brothers and sister were living in Japan. My uncle Yoshio Shitanda who was an alien had been confined in Missoula, Montana. In July or August of 1942 my uncle Yoshio Shitanda was transferred to Manzanar. In the Manzanar Center I lived with Mr. Sam Hamada and Mr. Kimura in Block 15. I was transferred to the Tule Lake Center in October of 1943 where I lived <sup>first</sup> in Block 5 ~~and later in Block 82~~ with Mr. Muto, Mr. Nakata, Mr. Morinaka and Mr. Ito, and later, after my marriage in August of 1944, with my wife in Block 82.

Tule Lake Center

On January 18, 1944, at the ~~Manzanar Center~~ I signed an application for repatriation. There was talk in ~~the camp~~ that center that those who had answered No to questions 27-28 would be sent to Japan anyway especially if they were Kibei and had ~~some~~ close family members living in Japan. Many persons told me that I was certain to be deported to Japan sometime and Mr. Ikeda who was block manager of our block 5 said I should make the application as I would be deported anyway and that it was better to make the application and be sent earlier to Japan and avoid being kept in camp indefinitely ~~and~~ be deported later. My uncle had advised me that deportation was inevitable and as he was not in good health he wanted to be sent to Japan so he wouldn't be confined ~~for a long time~~ indefinitely. He was an alien and preferred being sent to Japan than staying in camp for a long period of time. I didn't wish to be sent to Japan but believed that my deportation was only a matter of time and ~~that~~ so father than be confined for a long period of time and then getting deported I had to make up my mind to sign for



deported I believed it was the best thing to sign for repatriation and be sent to Japan earlier and also was told by a number of persons that I would be accepted in Japan if it appeared that I had applied to be repatriated. There was also a lot of talk in Tule Lake at the time that the making of an application for repatriation would insure me against the possibility of being relocated if we were not to be deported. ~~It was the general belief that~~

There were many stories going around camp that leaving the Center to relocate would involve risks of not being able to get work to make a decent living, that we wouldn't be given any financial assistance and that Caucasians didn't wish us let out of camp to settle in their communities and that many Japanese had received rough treatment in various areas. I was afraid of thinking about being forced to relocate and preferred to stay in the Center and be ~~sent~~ sent to ~~Japan~~ Japan if ~~that was~~ it was true that the Government intended to send me to Japan.

In August of 1944 while I was in the Tule Lake Center I married Shizuye ~~Shimada~~ Sumida. On March 12, 1945, I was sent with a group of Dan members to the Santa Fe Alien Internment Camp. My wife was in the Tule Lake Center. Our baby was born in the Tule Lake Center. ~~Internees~~ Being held in Santa Fe after I had renounced citizenship ~~as an intern~~ I was an internee and it was the general talk right along in Santa Fe that internees would be sent to Japan and that there was no chance to escape internment for a long time except by being repatriated to Japan. My wife was in Tule Lake and had applied for repatriation and I believed that she would be going to Japan and that the only ~~way we could be reunited~~ way I would be able to be reunited with my wife and baby was through being repatriated. I didn't know at the time but my wife changed her mind at the last minute and



didn't repatriate and, in consequence, I ~~xxxxxx~~ was sent to Japan while my wife and baby remained in the U.S. Also at Santa Fe my uncle Yoshio Shitanda who was an alien and was not in good health wanted to be repatriated and he said I had no choice but to repatriate as otherwise I wouldn't be reunited with my wife and baby and would be kept interned for a long period and finally might be deported anyway. This was the general talk among the internees in Santa Fe as we believed that even though the war was over internees wouldn't have a chance to get released and even if that did happen we would have no chance to get reestablished because of our losses and the public was still opposed to Japanese. I had lost everything because of being evacuated and had no home or ~~xxxxxx~~ prospect of a job. Thinking that only by repatriation I would be joined with my wife and baby I signed another application for repatriation on October 2, 1945, at the Santa Fe Alien Internment Camp, asking that my wife, baby and I be repatriated if possible, otherwise by myself alone, "unconditionally and without qualification". I made such application in the firm belief that only by so doing would my wife, baby and I be reunited and believed that I would not be sent without them and my wife had made the application for repatriation at Tule and I believed for sure we would be reunited. I did ~~dm~~ not wish to be sent to Japan alone even if it says so on that form. Believing that ~~in~~ my wife, baby and I would be sent to Japan I signed that form saying I ~~may~~ was loyal to Japan and had no intention of changing my loyalty to any other country and wished to return ~~mm~~ and serve Japan in every way possible simply because I was desperate and thought repatriation was necessary to reunite my family and not because of any disloyalty to the U.S. and not because of any loyalty to Japan. I wasn't loyal to Japan at all and had no intention of serving Japan. The war was over and Japan ~~mm~~ was a defeated country ~~and did not have any army~~



*She was registering and taking over baby and going with her parents. I didn't know she changed her mind at the last minute and was staying in the US. She had written to me she was registering but she changed her mind at the last minute and we were never reunited as the result*

and I had no intention of serving Japan and there wouldn't have been any way in which I could have served her as she was a completely defeated country and her armies had all surrendered to General MacArthur. All I wanted was to be reunited with my wife and baby and I would ~~have~~ have said ~~and~~ anything to *bring about our reunion. I had understood at Lake Lake that my wife was to register in Japan as her parents insisted on it. When I was in Tokyo I believed* ~~being about our reunion.~~ I wasn't loyal to Japan. I had registered for the draft in Los Angeles in 1940 and was classified 4-F as physically unfit for service. If I had been accepted in the draft I would have served loyally.

7(A) Yes. No.

No.

I registered for the draft in Los Angeles, Calif., in October 1940 and had been rejected for being physically unfit for service and was classified 4-F. If I had been drafted before evacuation I would have served as a loyal soldier. I was evacuated and lost my restaurant and nearly everything I had. I had to go to Manzanar and be kept in camp like a prisoner even though I was a citizen. I had already been rejected by my draft board where I registered in 1940 at Los Angeles as being physically unfit for duty and was classified ~~4-F~~ 4-F. There was much agitation in the Manzanar Center about answering questions 27 and 28, many saying that a "yes" answer to question 28 would mean citizens would be told to leave the Center and be relocated wherever the WRA wanted to send us and that it would be like taking our own lives in our hands to leave the Center when the public had been inflamed against us by publicity <sup>which</sup> and had caused violent actions to be taken against so many persons who were in the middle west and eastern States. Having lost ~~everything~~ my restaurant business ~~and~~ and nearly everything else and not having relatives to whom I could go and get help and being



5

afraid to face the hostility of Caucasians I was too fearful to request to be relocated or to take a chance on relocating. Also there were rumors that we might be deported anyway by the Government ~~because~~ especially the aliens and those of us who were Kibei and who had family members in Japan and I thought this was a risk too. At this time all I wanted was to be able to stay in Manzanar while the war lasted and then be able to return to Los Angeles and get started over again. ~~xxxxxxx~~ When we first got to Manzanar the WRA said we could stay in the Center for the duration of the war and then go home but at the time of the WRA-Army registration everybody said the government policy changed and that the Government was trying to force us out and would do so if we answered Yes to question

28. <sup>Mr.</sup> Sam Hamada who was an alien and ~~an~~ <sup>Mr. Kimura</sup> who was an alien, cooks who worked in Block 15 Marshall with me and others also told me it was either answer No to 28 or be relocated and be exposed to hostility on the outside. They said if I was going to be deported someday I'd be in for trouble from the Japanese military if I answered Yes to either 27 or 28.

7(B) <sup>Yes</sup>

~~I would have changed my mind if I had not worried about relocation and about deportation.~~



7(C) Mountain

I didn't want to be subjected to outcasts during the war time.

P(A) <sup>"yes"</sup> to Hokoku Seinen Dan About 3 to 4 months  
<sup>"yes"</sup> to Seikyo Hokoku Koki Dan

P(B) After I married Shizuko Sumida in Aug. 1944 at the Lake Park I left Block 15 and my wife and I were moved into Block P2. This was a block where the Dan movement was very strong. We were visited by Mr. Kenzo Wakayama who was a Kibei and Mr. Miyaki who was an alien and they tried to get me and Shizuko to join for several months and we said we were not interested. But there was no way of putting them off forever as the leaders ~~put~~ put pressure on everyone in the block to join. The ~~older~~ group of older men mostly made up of aliens <sup>was</sup> called the ~~Seikyo Hokoku Koki Dan~~ and the younger men groups called Kibei and Jisei was called the Hokoku Seinen Dan.

Being told by Mr. Wakayama, Mr. Miyaki and Mr. Kuwahara that we were just about the only ones who hadn't joined and that we better do it if we didn't want to be regarded as outcasts and treated as inus. We put off joining until the pressure of the group became too much for us and we ~~finally joined~~ joined and then



7

much from me I feared I would be hated  
by a mob of them if I didn't agree to join.  
So about sometime in Dec. 1944 I became a  
member and so did my wife. Members of the group  
in Block 82 and membership was a guarantee  
against harm and also would be of help and care  
we were sent to Japan.

8(C) I didn't participate in any activities  
except I went to morning exercises a couple  
of times because some <sup>Senior</sup> members came into the  
mess hall and said I should attend. I discontinued  
after going twice as I had to work and I didn't  
care to take exercises. I didn't go to any of  
their meetings.

After the third group of members were sent  
to North Dakota about Feb. 11, 1945, Kumakura  
who was a Kibei in Block 82 told me I was  
to be made cultural chairman of Block 82  
~~but I said I didn't want the job. He told~~  
to replace the one who was sent to North  
Dakota. I said I didn't want the job but he  
said I was appointed anyway and there  
was nothing I had to do. I had told him before  
I didn't want to be a member and got mixed  
up in any trouble because Mr. Bunking had  
criticized the officers but he said he thought



And also it could mean trouble for  
me when I arrived in Japan.

I better not say anything about it because  
some of the members might not like the idea  
of my resigning and might take it out on me.  
I was afraid of getting beaten by some of the  
younger men who were in various Street Gang  
gangs so I didn't have courage enough to go  
to the office and resign and I didn't dare  
go to the WAF Administration office to say  
anything as this was during the time of the  
roundup and there was a lot of trouble  
going on.

~~S(D) Grog Off.~~

~~S(E) ✓ ✓ Continued~~

~~S(F) ✓ ✓~~



9

9(A) About December 1944

I was married to Shizuko Sumida in the  
Tule Lake Center in August 1944. My father in  
law and mother in law were aliens and they  
intended to be repatriated to Japan and had applied  
for repatriation. The aliens who were officers of the  
Kosho Dan and the officers of the Suma Dan were  
agitating for citizens to apply to renounce citizenship  
saying that if we didn't we would arrive in Japan  
as American citizens and would be put in concentration  
camps or prisons ~~and so everyone should join~~  
~~the Dan and renounce citizenship~~. They said we  
would be deported anyway so we better be ~~repatriated~~,  
renounce citizenship and be sent as a group to Japan  
and if we did so we would be accepted in Japan  
without being investigated. They agitated about  
what the Japanese military and Kempo-tai would do to  
us if we arrived in Japan as American citizens,  
saying we would be considered to be disloyal  
to Japan or as spies for America. My father in  
law and mother in law said American citizenship  
was sure to get me persecuted in Japan and that  
I must renounce to avoid trouble in Japan and  
family disgrace. They said I'd probably be deported  
anyway and that my wife and our expected baby  
and I must go with them to Japan and not be left  
behind in the line or camp and sometimes, outside



10

when the public discriminated against Japanese  
and we had neither a home nor money left and this  
would be danger to us. Mr. Genzo Wakayama,  
Kibei leader of the Tenmei Dan, and Mr. Muzichi,  
Nishi leader of the Kibei Dan, and ~~Mr. Kume~~  
came into the kitchen where I worked and told  
me several times I should apply to renounce my  
~~citizenship so that he wouldn't lose my faith in~~  
~~him and neither in law nor would he~~  
~~citizenship or it would mean real trouble for me~~  
in moving in Japan. They said deportation was  
inevitable and I had to renounce if I didn't want  
to be thrown into jail or prison camp in Japan and  
also that the black residents would treat us as  
dogs if we didn't renounce. Kibei Okuno and  
Shioyama said we'd be considered to be dogs  
if we didn't renounce and the pro-Japanese groups  
would make things hot for us in the block if we  
didn't decide to renounce our citizenship. With  
the incidents of violence happening in Tokyo during  
this period I was worried ~~about~~ about being attacked  
~~if I didn't renounce my citizenship so that I wouldn't~~  
be attacked if I didn't. From all the talk and  
rumors I thought the bunch from San Pedro  
would surely beat up on me if I didn't. A group of  
4 to 5 men came around, and talked from  
apartment to apartment and in the mess hall,  
agitating for citizens to renounce. ~~but anyone was~~  
and saying anyone who refused was a dog anyone was



scared of getting harmed. Mr. Wakayama, Mr. Mizuki and my father in law said I should renounce as there was no telling what would happen to me if I didn't and they said also that it was the only way to avoid government and family disgrace when we landed in Japan. They told me all the time to send letters to the Justice Department saying we wanted to renounce and they prepared letters for us too and said we should keep on asking to renounce. The above are the reasons I made several requests to renounce my citizenships

9(B) The reasons why my answers differ are because if I didn't say what I did to the hearing officer I would have been exposed to the hatred and revenge of the pro-Japanese pressure groups and my in-laws would have been very angry and the black residents would treat me as an enemy and as my in-laws had all along said my wife must accompany them to Japan I was afraid it would result in my being separated from her. Leaders of the Horikawa and Sumida Poles and number of them who were from San Pedro in ~~Block 82, and my father in law said~~

Block 82 said we must say we were not loyal to the US, that we were not treated as citizens and that we were loyal to Japan and wished the renounce our citizenship and be sent to Japan or else our renunciations might not be accepted.



12

9(C) There wasn't any way to get away from the influence and the pressure of the agitators in the Hukbisan and the Tsinan Dan, and it was worse during this period than before. Being in a block filled with leaders and members and everyone watching to see what everyone was doing and all the agitation going on and everybody worried and fearing what was going to happen to us if we didn't I believed I had to renounce and it was the only way I could live in peace. Besides fearing violence if I didn't I believed I'd be sent to Japan and that arriving in Japan with U.S. citizenship would mean a concentration camp or prison for me because Jassie and Hefei were talking about that for a long time. And my father and I and my mother and I am talked about it also.

During this time the WRA Directors put out notice that the Centers were going to be closed. And everybody was scared as the recent citizens might be forced out of Tule and be sent outside the relocate wherever the WRA said. Then all the talk was that only aliens who were to be repatriated could stay in Camp until sent to Japan on the exchange ships and that the only way citizens could stay in Tule was by renouncing citizenship and be held as internees by the War Relocation Authority until time came for repatriation. The Dan officers used the notice to bring more pressure on citizens to



convince us that renunciation was necessary and the only way  
citizens could avoid being forced to relocate without ~~home~~  
~~money~~ a home to return to and without funds. We were in no  
condition to face forced relocation as I had lost my ~~restaurant~~  
restaurant ~~in~~ near Vernon ~~in~~ in Los Angeles and had no home we  
could go to and we didn't have any financial means to face  
life outside and ~~money~~ I didn't have ~~any~~ a job and was afraid  
of how I could earn a living for my wife who was expecting our  
baby. Besides if we were forced out of camp while my wife's  
parents stayed behind in Tule to be repatriated it would  
involve a permanent separation of the family and my father in  
law and mother in law insisted we must renounce and stay in  
camp with them and be repatriated with them. We were worried  
about such a separation and our position was very desperate  
~~money~~ all this time. Many persons said we would be forced  
to relocate if we didn't renounce our citizenship. Mr. Miyaki,  
Mr. Okuno, Mr. Kuwabara and practically everybody in the  
block including Mr. Kaneko, Mr. Mukaida, Mr. Kubota and many  
others talked about it constantly. Also there were just as  
many rumors that Kibei/who had answered No to questions 27-28  
and ~~Nisei~~ and had applied for repatriation would ~~be~~  
probably be deported anyway because the Government didn't  
intend to let us remain. My father in law and mother in law  
said I must renounce or else I would be separated from my  
wife who had to accompany them to Japan and that it was the  
only way we could remain together and that it was the only  
~~way we would be accepted in Japan. My mother who was in~~  
~~San Francisco communicated with her mother and her mother's~~  
~~repatriation~~  
way we would be accepted in Japan. With pressure all around me  
and worried about what would become of us and worried about  
having to live in such a place with everybody fearing what

The white population  
didn't want us  
out of camp  
and we  
must  
move  
anywhere  
and many  
Japanese  
wanted more  
oppression  
discrimination  
and  
violence.



14

might happen any day and worried about separation from my wife and worried about what would become of us if we ~~renounced~~ were relocated during the war and worried about what would happen to us in Japan if we didn't renounce citizenship and worried about the reaction of the Dan members if my renunciation was not accepted the only way I could get peace of mind and live without fear in camp to repatriation time was by going ahead with my renunciation. The leaders and members of the Dan in Block 82 kept insisting we must renounce citizenship and they checked to see who was and who wasn't and anyone who didn't go ahead was considered an inu by the block people and was exposed to their hostility. There was no other way out for me.

9(D) ~~Copy affidavit.~~

9(E) ~~Copy affidavit.~~

9(F) ~~Copy affidavit.~~

10(A) I was sent to the Camp at Santa Fe on March 12, 1945, from the Tule Lake Center. My wife and baby remained in the Tule Lake Center. My father in law and mother in law had decided to return ~~to Japan~~ to Japan and insisted that my wife must go with them and had said all along that I must go along too or we'd be separated. I believed all the time I was in Tule and in Santa Fe that my wife was going to repatriate with her parents and she wrote me from Tule that she was repatriating to Japan. I didn't wish to be separated ~~from~~ from my wife and baby. My uncle who was in Santa Fe and Mr. Moriwaki, an Issei who was a friend of my father's said I must repatriate and be joined with my wife and baby and that I should return to Japan and see my father again and that it was the only thing I could do. My uncle said that as I was the eldest in the family



~~mxmwaxmkne~~

I owed a duty to see my parents and help them. He was with me in camp and was in ill health and begged me to accompany him to Japan and he needed someone to watch out for him too. He ~~maxxnmphy~~ was physically ill and in mental despair from long internment and was old and kept telling me my folks needed me and even after the atomic ~~bompm~~ bomb was dropped on Hiroshima he kept telling me I must go to see my folks who were in a worse condition ~~than~~ than we were. ~~Andxmywifexwrotexmexsayingshexm~~  
~~wasgoingtoembexrepatriatedxfromTulelake~~

Believing that repatriation was inevitable for me and that it was the only way my wife and I could be reunited I told the Immigration and Naturalization Patrol Inspector in Santa Fe on April 24, 1945, that I was loyal to Japan and wanted to be sent to Japan. The reason why I did that was that I was of the belief it was necessary to make such a statement so I would be sent to Japan and be reunited with my wife who was in Tule Lake at the time and that it was the only way we would be together again. It turned out though that my wife changed her mind about repatriating at the last minute and wasn't sent to Japan but stayed in the U.S. and, as the result, I have been separated from my wife and baby ever since. If I had known that she was going to change her mind I would have done everything possible to stay in the U.S. and be united with my wife and baby again.

10(B) No.

Since being repatriated to Japan I have not taken any action to resume or acquire Japanese citizenship in any way and I haven't voted in any Japanese elections ~~mm~~ and I haven't in ~~anyway~~ any way given or manifested any allegiance to Japan. I have always claimed to be a U.S. citizen and I am registered as an alien in Tokyo, Japan, as an alien, my registry number



being No. #650133.

mhm

mx

11(B) Copy affidavit.



# 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 <b>Ben Tsutomu Shitanda</b>		Date of Birth <b>March 2, 1917</b>	
2. If born prior to December 1, 1924	(A) Have you ever renounced Japanese nationality? <b>Yes</b>	When <b>March 2, 1934</b> <b>Approved on May 11, 1935</b>	Where <b>Douglas, Alaska</b> <b>U.S.A.</b>
3. If born since December 1, 1924	(A) Was your name ever registered with a Japanese Consulate for the purpose of reserving your Japanese nationality?		
If so, did you thereafter renounce your Japanese nationality?	When	Where	
4. State periods of visits to Japan and purpose of each visit:			
Date		Purpose	
From	To		
<b>1922</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>Came to Japan with parents for visit (tour)</b> <b>My brother and sisters became ill and three passed away. While they were ill, I was sent to schools.</b>	
5. Give details concerning any formal education in Japan:			
School		Period of Attendance	
<b>Okugaita Grade School, Hiroshima-ken</b>		From <b>1923</b>	To <b>1928 (6 yrs.)</b>
<b>Shudo Middle School, Hiroshima-City</b>		<b>1929</b>	<b>1931 (2½ yrs.)</b>
Specify subjects studied (attach additional sheet if necessary).			
<b>In general (no choice)</b>			
6. Have you ever made application for repatriation to Japan? <b>Yes</b> If so, give date <b>1944 and 1945</b> , and your reasons for so applying:  <b>See attached sheet</b>			
7. (A) Have you ever expressly indicated that you would not swear unqualified allegiance to the United States? <b>Yes, see attached sheet</b>		Have you ever declined to answer when asked whether you would swear unqualified allegiance? <b>No</b>	
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:  <b>I would have changed my mind if I had not worried about relocation and about deportation.</b>			



(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:

Uncertain. I didn't want to be relocated outside during the wartime.

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)			
Heimusha 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)			
Kibei Seinen Kai (Association of U. S. Citizens of Japanese Ancestry who have returned to America after studying in Japan)			
Nanka Teikoku Gunyudan (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	Yes		About
Hokoku Joshi Seinen-Dan			3 to
Sokoku Kenkyu Seinen-Dan			4 months
Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi-Dan	Yes		

(B) Give reasons for becoming a member:

See attached sheet

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

See attached sheet

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

In about Feb. 1945 many leaders were transferred to the other camps and I wanted to withdraw but the leaders rejected. Later, I kept calm. I tried not to associate with them because they are from different section (all strangers to me). I was not in favor of organization so I tried not to go too close to them. I thought all the activities were approved because a great majority of people were doing it. But when they began to be transferred to other camps, I felt that I should keep still.



6:

In May of 1942 I had to evacuate from Los Angeles, Calif. where I operated a restaurant near East Vernon, to the WRA Center at Manzanar. My parents, 2 brothers and sister were living in Japan. My uncle, Yoshio Shitanda, who was an alien had been confined in Missoula, Montana. In July or August of 1942 my uncle, Yoshio Shitanda, was transferred to Manzanar. In the Manzanar Center I lived with Mr. Sam Hamada and Mr. Kimura in Block 15. I was transferred to the Tule Lake Center in October of 1943 where I lived first with Mr. Muto, <sup>in Block 5</sup> Mr. Nakata, Mr. Morinaka and Mr. Ito, and later, after my marriage in August of 1944, with my wife in Block 82.

On January 18, 1944, at the Tule Lake Center I signed an application for repatriation. There was talk in that Center that those who had answered No to questions 27-28 would be sent to Japan anyway especially if they were Kibei and had close family members living in Japan. Many persons told me that I was certain to be deported to Japan sometime and Mr. Ikeda who was block manager of our Block 5 said I should make the application as I would be deported anyway and that it was better to make the application and be sent earlier to Japan and avoid being kept in camp indefinitely and be deported later. My uncle had advised me that deportation was inevitable and as he was not in good health he wanted to be sent to Japan so he wouldn't be confined indefinitely. He was an alien and preferred being sent to Japan than staying in camp for a long period of time. I didn't wish to be sent to Japan but believed that my deportation was only a matter of time and so rather than be confined for a long period of time and then getting deported I believed it was the best thing to sign for repatriation and be sent to Japan earlier and also was told by a number of persons that I would be accepted in Japan if it appeared that I had applied to be repatriated. There was also a lot of talk in Tule Lake at the time that the making of an application for repatriation would insure me against the possibility of being relocated if we were not to be deported.

There were many stories going around camp that leaving the Center to relocate would involve risks of not being able to get work to make a decent living, that we wouldn't be given any financial assistance and that Caucasians didn't wish us let out of camp to settle in their communities and that many Japanese had received rough treatment in various areas. I was afraid of thinking about being forced to relocate and preferred to stay in the Center and be sent to Japan if it was true that the Government intended to send me to Japan.

In August of 1944 while I was in the Tule Lake Center I married Shizuye Sumida. On March 12, 1945, I was sent with a group of Dan members to the Santa Fe Alien Internment Camp. My wife was in the Tule Lake Center. Our baby was born in the Tule Lake Center. Being held in Santa Fe after I had renounced citizenship I was an internee and it was the general talk right along in Santa Fe that internees would be sent to Japan and that there was no chance to escape internment for a long time except by being repatriated to Japan. My wife was in Tule Lake and had applied for repatriation and I believed that she would be going to Japan and that the only way I would be able to be reunited with my wife and baby was through being repatriated. I didn't know at the time but my wife changed her mind at the last minute and didn't repatriate and, in consequence, I was sent to Japan while my wife and baby remained in the U. S. Also at Santa Fe my uncle, Yoshio Shitanda, who was an alien and was not in good health wanted to be repatriated and he said I had no choice but to repatriate as otherwise I wouldn't be reunited with my wife and baby and would be kept interned for a long period



6 continued:

and finally might be deported anyway. This was the general talk among the internees in Santa Fe as we believed that even though the war was over internees wouldn't have a chance to get released and even if that did happen we would have no chance to get reestablished because of our losses and the public was still opposed to Japanese. I had lost everything because of being evacuated and had no home or prospect of a job. Thinking that only by repatriation I would be joined with my wife and baby I signed another application for repatriation on October 2, 1945, at the Santa Fe Alien Internment Camp, asking that my wife, baby and I be repatriated if possible, otherwise by myself alone, "unconditionally and without qualification". I made such application in the firm belief that only by so doing would my wife, baby and I be reunited and believed that I would not be sent without them and my wife had made the application for repatriation at Tule and I believed for sure we would be reunited. I did not wish to be sent to Japan alone even if it says so on that form. Believing that my wife, baby and I would be sent to Japan I signed that form saying I was loyal to Japan and had no intention of changing my loyalty to any other country and wished to return and serve Japan in every way possible simply because I was desperate and thought repatriation was necessary to reunite my family and not because of any disloyalty to the U. S. and not because of any loyalty to Japan. I wasn't loyal to Japan at all and had no intention of serving Japan. The war was over and Japan was a defeated country and I had no intention of serving Japan and there wouldn't have been any way in which I could have served her as she was a completely defeated country and her armies had all surrendered to General MacArthur. All I wanted was to be reunited with my wife and baby and I would have said anything to bring about our reunion. I had understood at Tule Lake that my wife was to repatriate to Japan as her parents insisted on it. While I was in Santa Fe I believed she was repatriating and taking our baby and going with her parents. I didn't know she changed her mind at the last minute and was staying in the U. S. She had written to me she was repatriating but she changed her mind at the last minute and we were never reunited as the result. I wasn't loyal to Japan. I had registered for the draft in Los Angeles in 1940 and was classified 4-F as physically unfit for service. If I had been accepted in the draft I would have served loyally.

7(A):

I registered for the draft in Los Angeles, Calif., in October of 1940 and had been rejected for being physically unfit for service and was classified 4-F. If I had been drafted before evacuation I would have served as a loyal soldier. I was evacuated and lost my restaurant and nearly everything I had. I had to go to Manzanar and be kept in camp like a prisoner even though I was a citizen. I had already been rejected by my draft board where I registered in 1940 at Los Angeles as being physically unfit for duty and was classified 4-F. There was much agitation in the Manzanar Center about answering questions 27 and 28, many saying that a Yes answer to question 28 would mean citizens would be told to leave the Center and be relocated wherever the WRA wanted to send us and that it would be like taking our own lives in our hands to leave the Center when the public had been inflamed against us by publicity which had caused violent actions to be taken against so many persons who were in the middle west and eastern states. Having lost my restaurant business and nearly everything else and not having



## 7(A) continued:

relatives to whom I could go and get help and being afraid to face the hostility of Caucasians I was too fearful to request to be relocated or to take a chance on relocating. Also there were rumors that we might be deported anyway by the Government especially the aliens and those of us who were Kibei and who had family members in Japan and I thought this was a risk too. At this time all I wanted was to be able to stay in Manzanar while the war lasted and then be able to return to Los Angeles and get started over again. When we first got to Manzanar the WRA said we could stay in the Center for the duration of the war and then go home but at the time of the WRA-Army registration everybody said the government policy changed and that the Government was trying to force us out and would do so if we answered Yes to question 28. Mr. Sam Hamada who was an alien and Mr. Kimura who was an alien, cooks who worked in Block 15 messhall with me and others also told me it was either answer No to 28 or be relocated and be exposed to hostility on the outside. They said if I was going to be deported someday I'd be in for trouble from the Japanese military if I answered Yes to either 27 or 28.

## 8(B):

After I married Shizuye Sumida in August, 1944, at the Tule Lake Center I left Block 15 and my wife and I were moved into Block 82. This was a block where the Dan movement was very strong. We were visited by Mr. Kenzo Wakayama who was a Kibei and Mr. Miyaki who was an alien and they tried to get me and Shizuye to join for several months and we said we were not interested. But there was no way of putting them off forever as the leaders put pressure on everyone in the block to join. The group of older men mostly made up of aliens was called the Hoshi Dan and the younger men's group of Kibei and Nisei was called the Hokoku Seinen Dan.

Being told by Mr. Wakayama, Mr. Miyaki and Mr. Kuwabara that we were just about the only ones who hadn't joined and that we better do it if we didn't want to be regarded as outcasts and treated as inus, I had to join. We put off joining until the pressure of the group became too much for us and I feared I would be beaten by a mob of them if I didn't agree to join. So about sometime in Dec., 1944, I became a member and so did my wife. Members of the group in Block 82 said membership was a guarantee against harm and also would be of help in case we were sent to Japan.

## 8(C):

I didn't participate in any activities except I went to morning exercises a couple of times because some Seinen Dan members came into the messhall and said I should attend. I discontinued after going twice as I had to work and I didn't care to take exercises. I didn't go to any of their meetings.

After the third group of members were sent to North Dakota about Feb. 11, 1945, Kuwabara who was a Kibei in Block 82 told me I was to be made cultural chairman of Block 82 to replace the one who was sent to North Dakota. I said I didn't want the job but he said I was appointed anyway and there was nothing I had to do. I had told him before I didn't want to be a member and get mixed up in any trouble because Mr. Burling had criticized the officers but he said he thought I better not say anything about it because some of the members might not like the idea of my resigning and might take it out on me and also it could mean trouble for me when I arrived in Japan. I was afraid of getting beaten



8(C) continued:

by some of the younger men who were in various Seinen Dan gangs so I didn't have courage enough to go to the office and resign and I didn't dare go to the WRA Administration office to say anything as this was during the time of the renunciations and there was a lot of trouble going on.

8(E):

After the pressures decreased I protested that I had no desire to continue with the organization and made such protest to the leader of WARD 8. My agreement to become a member was the result of fear that I would be deported to Japan and I believed the leaders in charge wished me to become a member so that I would be leader in Japanese language, culture and custom and so be prepared for life in Japan when deported. I didn't know the organization had any other purposes. I never involved in any riot troubles or resisted against the guards in the camp.

8(F):

Just before I was transferred to Santa Fe the leader wanted me to work with culture section because almost all active members were transferred and I was oldest. I was strongly against it and I told him, "I didn't like the idea and also I had work to be done." Since then I never talked to him and kept away from the organization.

9(A):

I was married to Shizuye Sumida in the Tule Lake Center in August, 1944. My father-in-law and mother-in-law were aliens and they intended to be repatriated to Japan and had applied for repatriation. The aliens who were officers of the Hoshi Dan and the officers of the Seinen Dan were agitating for citizens to apply to renounce citizenship saying that if we didn't we would arrive in Japan as American citizens and would be put in concentration camps or prisons. They said we would be deported anyway so we better renounce citizenship and be sent as a group to Japan and if we did so we would be accepted in Japan without being investigated. They agitated about what the Japanese military and Kempeitai would do to us if we arrived in Japan as American citizens, saying we would be considered to be disloyal to Japan or as spies for America. My father-in-law and mother-in-law said American citizenship was sure to get me punished in Japan and that I must renounce to avoid trouble in Japan and family disgrace. They said I'd probably be deported anyway and that my wife and our expected baby and I must go with them to Japan and not be left behind to live in camp and sometime be sent outside when the public discriminated against Japanese and we had neither a home or money left and there would be danger to us. Mr. Kenzo Wakayama, Kibei leader of the Seinen Dan and Mr. Miyaki, alien leader of the Hoshi Dan came into the kitchen where I worked and told me several times I should apply to renounce my citizenship or it would mean real trouble for me on arriving in Japan. They said deportation was inevitable and I had to renounce if I didn't want to be thrown into jail or prison camp in Japan and also that the block residents would treat us as dogs if we didn't renounce. Kibeis Okuno and Shiroyama said we'd be considered to be dogs if we didn't renounce and the pro-Japanese group would make things hot for us in the block if we didn't decide to renounce our citizenship. With the incidents of



## 9(A) continued:

violence happening in Tule Lake during this period I was worried about being attacked if I didn't. From all the talk and rumors I thought the bunch from San Pedro would surely beat up on me if I didn't. As groups of 4 to 5 members came around, and talked from apartment to apartment and in the messhall, agitating for citizens to renounce and saying anyone who refused was a dog, everyone was scared of getting harmed. Mr. Wakayama, Mr. Miyaki and my father-in-law said I should renounce as there was no telling what would happen to me if I didn't and they said also that it was the only way to avoid punishment and family disgrace when we landed in Japan. They told us all the time to send letters to the Justice Department saying we wanted to renounce and they prepared letters for us too and said we should keep on asking to renounce. The above are the reasons I made several requests to renounce my citizenship.

## 9(B):

The reasons why my answers differ are because if I didn't say what I did to the hearing officer I would have been exposed to the hatred and revenge of the pro-Japanese pressure groups and my in-laws would have been very angry and the block residents would treat me as an inu and as my in-laws had all along said my wife must accompany them to Japan I was afraid it would result in my being separated from her. Leaders of the Hoshi Dan and Seinen Dan and number of them who were from San Pedro in Block 82 said we must say we were not loyal to the U. S., that we were not treated as citizens and that we were loyal to Japan and wished to renounce our citizenship and be sent to Japan or else our renunciations might not be accepted.

## 9(C):

There wasn't any way to get away from the influence and the pressure of the agitators in the Hoshi Dan and the Seinen Dan and it was worse during this period than before. Being in a block filled with leaders and members and everyone watching to see what everyone was doing and all the agitation going on and everybody worried and fearing what was going to happen to us if we didn't I believed I had to renounce and it was the only way I could live in peace. Besides fearing violence if I didn't I believed I'd be sent to Japan and that arriving in Japan with U. S. citizenship would mean a concentration camp or prison for me because Issei and Kibei were talking about that for a long time. And my father-in-law and mother-in-law talked about it also.

During this time the WRA Director put out notice that the Centers were going to be closed. And everybody was scared as this meant citizens might be forced out of Tule and be sent outside to relocate wherever the WRA said. Then all the talk was that only aliens who were to be repatriated could stay in camp until sent to Japan on the exchange ship and that the only way citizens could stay in Tule was by renouncing citizenship and be held as internees by the Justice Department until time came for repatriation. The Dan officers used the notice to bring more pressure on citizens to convince us that renunciation was necessary and the only way citizens could avoid being forced to relocate without a home to return to and without funds. We were in no condition to face forced relocation as I had lost my restaurant near Vernon in Los Angeles and had no home we could go to and we didn't have any financial means to face life outside and I didn't have a job and was afraid of how I could earn a living for my wife who was



## 9(C) continued:

expecting our baby. The white population didn't want us let out of camp and we weren't welcome anywhere and many Japanese outside were experiencing discrimination and violence. Besides if we were forced out of camp while my wife's parents stayed behind in Tule to be repatriated it would involve a permanent separation of the family and my father-in-law and mother-in-law insisted we must renounce and stay in camp with them and be repatriated with them. We were worried about such a separation and our position was very desperate all this time. Many persons said we would be forced to relocate if we didn't renounce our citizenship. Mr. Miyaki, Mr. Okuno, Mr. Kuwabara and practically everybody in the block including Mr. Kaneko, Mr. Mikada, Mr. Kubota and many others talked about it constantly. Also there were just as many rumors that Kibei and Nisei who had answered No to questions 27-28 and had applied for repatriation would probably be deported anyway because the government didn't intend to let us remain. My father-in-law and mother-in-law said I must renounce or else I would be separated from my wife who had to accompany them to Japan and that it was the only way we could remain together and that it was the only way we would be accepted in Japan. With pressure all around me and worried about what would become of us and worried about having to live in such a place with everybody fearing what might happen any day and worried about separation from my wife and worried about what would become of us if we were relocated during the war and worried about what would happen to us in Japan if we didn't renounce citizenship and worried about the reaction of the Dan members if my renunciation was not accepted, the only way I could get peace of mind and live without fear in camp to repatriation time was by going ahead with my renunciation. The leaders and members of the Dan in Block 82 kept insisting we must renounce citizenship and they checked to see who was and who wasn't and anyone who didn't go ahead was considered an inu by the block people and was exposed to their hostility. There was no other way out for me.

## 9(E):

That within a few months after I came to Japan I took step to obtain readmission to the U. S. and reverification of my American nationality, having made application and had conference at various times with American Consulate at Yokohama and Embassy in Tokyo, and have been working through Mr. W. M. Collins for almost nine years.

## 9(F):

After many years of wishing I had my chance to return to the U. S. with my uncle in 1931. I left my folks and friends for freedom. Prior to 1942 I settled down and acted as an American. I lived among Caucasians, Alaska Indians, colored people and a few Nisei. During that time I didn't even speak Japanese. In fact, I almost forgot the language. Only Japanese I intermingled were my uncle and a few employees. My idea or ism was strictly for America. I did my best effort to serve for the communities, such as schools, Christian churches, Fire Dept. (volunteer) and other activities. I disliked none of them. I'm a peace loving person. The relocation changed my life. I was forced to give up the communities I loved, also the people, business and properties which took me many years to build. Caged in without freedom for no other reason than that we were of Japanese blood. The Lt. Gen. DeWitt's doctrine made me sick, "A Jap is always a Jap." Nobody in my life called me by that, luckily, until then. I began to wonder what happened to my Constitutional Rights,



9(F):

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and other American privileges. I was classified as 4-C at local draft board. As days passed by I didn't know what to do. With no friends, the loneliness made me fear, worry, anxiety, tiredness, unsettled, hysterical and discourage for future. Disgusted with camp life I started to paint and draw in which I tried to search for the light of freedom but I never did. In Tule Lake it was a big headache because they put me in the middle of the pro-Japanese group. They were total strangers to me. Not only that I had to work with them in the kitchen all day. I requested to be moved to some other room but there was no vacancy at that time. Spending a long period among these people I became panic stricken, for wife's security and my own safety. During working hours, at resident meetings, or other spare time, almost everyone was talking nothing but riots, troubles, gossips and rumors were daily routine; nothing made me happy or gave me courage and hope. Resultant worries, distress and fears, these things being in my mind drove me into despair and deprived me of all sense of reality.

10(A):

I was sent to the Camp at Santa Fe on March 12, 1945, from the Tule Lake Center. My wife and baby remained in the Tule Lake Center. My father-in-law and mother-in-law had decided to return to Japan and insisted that my wife must go with them and had said all along that I must go along too or we'd be separated. I believed all the time I was in Tule and in Santa Fe that my wife was going to repatriate with her parents and she wrote me from Tule that she was repatriating to Japan. I didn't wish to be separated from my wife and baby. My uncle who was in Santa Fe and Mr. Moriwaki, an Issei who was a friend of my father's said I must repatriate and be joined with my wife and baby and that I should return to Japan and see my father again and that it was the only thing I could do. My uncle said that as I was the eldest in the family I owed a duty to see my parents and help them. He was with me in camp and was in ill health and begged me to accompany him to Japan and he needed someone to watch out for him too. He was physically ill and in mental despair from long internment and was old and kept telling me my folks needed me and even after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima he kept telling me I must go to see my folks who were in a worse condition than we were. Believing that repatriation was inevitable for me and that it was the only way my wife and I could be reunited I told the Immigration and Naturalization Patrol Inspector in Santa Fe on April 24, 1945, that I was loyal to Japan and wanted to be sent to Japan. The reason why I did that was that I was of the belief it was necessary to make such a statement so I would be sent to Japan and be reunited with my wife who was in Tule Lake at the time and that it was the only way we would be together again. It turned out though that my wife changed her mind about repatriating at the last minute and wasn't sent to Japan but stayed in the U. S. and, as the result, I have been separated from my wife and baby ever since. If I had known that she was going to change her mind I would have done everything possible to stay in the U. S. and be united with my wife and baby again.

10(B):

Since being repatriated to Japan I have not taken any action to resume or acquire Japanese citizenship in any way and I haven't voted in any Japanese elections and I haven't in any way given or manifested any allegiance to Japan. I have always claimed to be a U. S. citizen



10(B) continued:

and I am registered as an alien in Tokyo, Japan; as an alien, my registry number being No. #650133.

11(B):

Just after I relocated to Manzanar camp, I received a card and letter from local board. At that time it was my duty to report so I consulted Mr. Tsurutani, lawyer, and sent a card explaining my situation, but later I was classified 4-C.



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

See Attached sheet

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

See attached sheet

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

About December, 1944

See attached sheet

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

See attached sheet

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

See attached sheet

- (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:

Because of the pressure of pressure group, I thought it best not to do anything to protect against family separation and for safety. There was riots between pro and non-pro-Japanese and guards made no fear of doing anything but to keep mum.

- (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:

See attached sheet



(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.

See attached sheet

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

See attached sheet

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

See attached sheet

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.

See attached sheet

(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

TOKYO

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES } SS.  
OF AMERICA

/s/ Ben Tsutomu Shitanda

(Signature in full of applicant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of December, 1957.

U.S. CONSULAR SERVICE SEAL

/s/ William L. Givens  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America duly commissioned and  
qualified.

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



Repeat and time - notified 5/8/57  
PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

233

Please read this questionnaire carefully and then print, type or write your answers legibly to the following questions.

- a. State your full name. Ben Futomu Shitanda SHITANDA
- b. Male? ☒ Female? ☐ Maiden Name? ☐
- c. Birth place? Douglas, Alaska Birth date? March 2, 1917
- d. Have you ever renounced Japanese Nationality? yes When? 1933  
Where? Douglas, Alaska
- Have you ever visited Japan? yes When? 1922 - 1932
- Did you attend school in Japan? yes When? July 1945 to present
- How long? 9 years What Schools? Imamura - 1923 - 1929
- Period of attendance: High School 1929 - 1932

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

1. Where did you live before evacuation? Los Angeles, Calif  
near East Union
2. What was your occupation before evacuation? operated restaurant
3. Who, if anyone, was wholly or partially dependent upon you for support at the time you were evacuated? none
4. Where did your father and mother reside at the time of evacuation? Japan
- Were they aliens? yes
- What were their ages at the time of evacuation? father 63; mother 57
- Were your parents both evacuated also? no Was either of them in ill health while in a WRA Center? ☐ Was either of them hospitalized while in a WRA Center? ☐ If so, when and in what Center? ☐
- Were you or any other members of your family in ill health while in a WRA Center? yes If so, state who was, and, if hospitalized, state when, for what period of time, and in what Center? I was operated at Manzanar for appendicitis by Dr Goto
5. When and where were you married? August, 1944 at Tule
- What is the name of your spouse? Shizuye Sumida  
divorced or about 1953 -

78  
15  
63



Is your spouse (wife or husband) a U. S. citizen, a renunciant or an alien? she was a renunciant

6. What are the names, birthdates and birthplaces of your children? Michi - <sup>Spring</sup> 1945 at Tule Lake
7. What members of your family were evacuated with you? (Wife, husband, children, father, mother, brothers, sisters, father-in-law, mother-in-law) none
8. State what members of your family (spouse, mother, father, brothers, sisters, children, father-in-law or mother-in-law) were in Japan during the war? father, mother, 2 sons 1 sister
9. Who of them, if any, were U. S. citizens? sister
10. Did any of them serve in the Japanese armed forces? \_\_\_\_\_
11. State what members, if any, of your spouse's family (your father-in-law, mother-in-law, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, or stop-children) were in Japan during the war and whether they are U. S. citizens or Japanese aliens? none
12. Did you suffer any property losses by reason of your evacuation? yes. Did you file a claim to recover losses you suffered by reason of your evacuation? none For what amount did you file your claim? none What amount did you receive in settlement of your claims? \_\_\_\_\_ Did your parents suffer any property losses by reason of evacuation? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, for what amount did they file claims? \_\_\_\_\_ What amount did they receive in settlement of their claims? \_\_\_\_\_
13. State whether your husband, father or any other member of your family was interned as an alien enemy after the outbreak of war in an Alien Enemy Internment Camp, for removal to Japan, and, if so, in what camp? my uncle - Yoshio Shitanda - he was confined at Minamida, Mantawa



When and where were you reunited with such member of your family? \_\_\_\_\_

He came to Mangunare around July or Aug, 1942.

14. Did you apply for "short term", "seasonal work", "indefinite leave", "student's leave" or "relocation" while you were in a WRA Center? none

When did you make that application? \_\_\_\_\_

In what camp were you at that time? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you denied leave? \_\_\_\_\_ By whom? \_\_\_\_\_

What reasons were given to you for denying your application? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Did you go out for seasonal work or on any leave clearance? none When and where did you go and for what period of time? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of work did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you experience any discrimination or persecution while on leave? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, state the experience. \_\_\_\_\_

To what Center did you return? \_\_\_\_\_

16. State the names of any members of your family or any of your friends who went out on leave or relocation and experienced discrimination or persecution. none

What happened to them? \_\_\_\_\_

When did the occurrences take place? \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

Where did they happen? \_\_\_\_\_

From whom or what sources did you hear or learn those things? \_\_\_\_\_



Did you know or learn of any other persons on leave having been subjected to discrimination or persecution? \_\_\_\_\_ What were their names? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to them? \_\_\_\_\_

When and where did the occurrences take place? \_\_\_\_\_

Re: APPLICATIONS FOR REPATRIATION

17. To what Assembly Center were you evacuated? Mangonan - May, 1942

18. To what WRA Center were you next transferred? Tule Lake Center  
October, 1943

19. In what Block did you live there? Mangonan Bldg 15; Tule - 5, 82

With whom did you share quarters there? Mangonan - Sumi Hamada,

Kimura, Tule - Bldg 5 - Muto, Nakata, Morinaka, etc,  
Bldg 86 - with my wife

20. In what Camp were you when you applied for repatriation to Japan? \_\_\_\_\_

Tule Lake Center

21. Did you make that application before or after you answered the Army Questionnaire in February or March, 1943? after

When did you make that application? January 18, 1944

Did you personally make that application? yes. If not, who did? \_\_\_\_\_

Did any of the following persons also make applications for repatriation to Japan? Your husband? \_\_\_\_\_ Wife? yes father? \_\_\_\_\_ mother? \_\_\_\_\_

brothers? \_\_\_\_\_ sisters? \_\_\_\_\_ father-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_ mother-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_

brothers-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_ sisters-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_ When and in what Center were

they at the time they did this? when I was in Tule - I do not

Did they then fear that the government intended to deport all aliens to

Japan? \_\_\_\_\_; that it intended to deport all Kibei to Japan? \_\_\_\_\_; that

it intended to deport all Nisei to Japan? \_\_\_\_\_.

22. Did you make more than one application for repatriation to Japan, and, if so, when and where did you do so? another on Oct 2, 1945

at Ft. H. M.



How was it to be?

23. What members of your family pressured you into applying for repatriation to Japan? my uncle was in Jap & communicated with me  
 What did they say to you to get you to apply for repatriation? He wanted to repatriate & he wanted to take me along. He was not too healthy
24. Did anyone else, not a member of your family, pressure you into applying for repatriation to Japan? yes. Name the persons who did and state whether they were Issei, Kibei, or Nisei, and blocks where they lived.  
Fuku - Mr. Oheda - Kibei Rth 5 Rth Mgr - ; he said I could be deported anyway so I should make the request  
 If those persons were leaders or members of any organization state the name of the organization. at Jap - my uncle, Mr. Moriwaki Issei, urged me to repatriate & my uncle wanted to repatriate  
 What did those persons tell you to get you to apply for repatriation? he wanted me to take care of him. Moriwaki was my father's friend & I should come back & see my father again.
25. What did you then believe would happen to you if you did not make an application for repatriation to Japan? I never gave it any thought, and I feel I will be deported anyway  
 Were you fearful that if you did not apply for repatriation you would be separated from your husband? \_\_\_\_\_ wife? yes children? yes mother? \_\_\_\_\_ father? \_\_\_\_\_ brothers? \_\_\_\_\_ sisters? \_\_\_\_\_ or other persons? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Were those persons in the same Center with you at the time you applied for repatriation? no If any of them were not, state who was not and where they were at the time. she made an application at Fuku & I feel she was going to do so likewise when I was in Jap.
26. Did you believe that if you didn't apply for repatriation to Japan that sooner or later you would be forced to relocate in the U. S.? yes; in an area hostile to Japanese? yes; that you might be drafted into the armed forces? yes; as I was already uncle that you would be separated from alien members of your family you believed would be deported to Japan? yes -
27. Did you make application for repatriation because you believed the Government had no use for you and intended to deport you to Japan because you were Kibei? yes; of that it intended to deport you to Japan because your parents were there? yes; or because your parents were aliens here and that it intended to deport them on an exchange ship to Japan simply because they were aliens? yes and that they wanted you to be with them and not



be separated from them? yes

Re: QUESTIONS 27 AND 28

28. In what WRA Center were you at the time you answered the Army Questionnaire containing Questions Nos. 27 and 28? Manzanar  
In what Block were you living in that Center at that time? 25  
Was the Questionnaire you answered the Army Questionnaire or the WRA Application for Leave Clearance, if you remember? WRA Army
29. Did you give a negative answer to Question No. 27? yes; to Question No. 28? yes. Did you refuse to answer Question No. 27?       ; Question No. 28?
30. Did any members of your family pressure you or threaten you into giving a "No" answer to Questions Nos. 27 and 28 or into refusing to answer those questions? no. Who were the family members who did this?

What did they say to you to get you to answer "No" to those questions or to refuse to answer those questions?       

Did you give a "No" answer to those questions or refuse to answer them because your father? yes mother? yes brothers? yes sisters? yes or other family members?        were in Japan at the time and you feared they might get in trouble with the Japanese government if you were willing to serve in the U. S. Army? yes or were willing to swear allegiance to the U. S.? yes Did you give "No" answers to those questions or refuse to answer them because your father?        mother?        brothers?        sisters?        or other family members?        were in the U. S. but you believed they were to be deported to Japan and that they would get in trouble with the Japanese Government when they arrived there if you had answered "Yes" to those questions?       . Did you give a "No" answer to those questions because you believed that eventually you would be deported to Japan and you feared that if you gave a "Yes" answer to those questions you would get in trouble with the Japanese Government when you arrived in Japan?

- yes
31. Did any other persons pressure or threaten you into giving "No" answers



to those questions or into refusing to answer those questions? yes. What are the names of those persons and state whether they were Issei, Kibei, or Nisei and the Blocks in which they lived and the organization, if any, of which they were members? Sam Hamada Issei & Kunie Issei

cooks (worked at Alh is Marshall & friend of family

What did those persons say to you to get you to give "No" answers to those questions or to refuse to answer those questions? you have been treated like an alien so why should I sign Yes.

32. What did you fear would happen to you if you didn't give "No" answers to those questions or you didn't refuse to answer them? I feared to

relate and be exposed to hostility on the outside

33. What did you fear would happen to other members of your family if you didn't give "No" answers to those questions or you did not refuse to answer them? none

34. Did you refuse to answer those questions because you already had applied for repatriation to Japan and you understood that if you already had applied for repatriation you did not have to answer those questions? no

35. Did you give "No" answers to those questions or refuse to answer them because you resented being evacuated, confined to a WRA Center and treated like an alien? yes.

36. Did you give "No" answers to those questions or refuse to answer them because you already had applied for repatriation and believed that if you gave "Yes" answers your application for repatriation would be cancelled and you might be drafted into the armed forces? \_\_\_\_; or be forcibly relocated in the U. S. while the war still was going on? \_\_\_\_\_. Did you fear that if you were to be drafted you would be discriminated against and be persecuted in the armed forces? \_\_\_\_\_. Did you fear that if you were drafted? \_\_\_\_ or relocated? \_\_\_\_ you would be permanently separated from members of your family who were to be repatriated to Japan? \_\_\_\_; from what family members did you fear to be separated? \_\_\_\_\_

37. Did anyone else, not a member of your family, pressure or threaten you into giving "No" answers to those questions? no What were their names and state whether they were Issei, Kibei or Nisei and the names of the



organizations to which they belonged? \_\_\_\_\_

38. Did you fear that if you gave "Yes" answers to those questions that you would have to stay in camp and be separated from your parents or other family members who were to be deported to Japan because they were aliens or because they had asked to be sent to Japan and you did not want to be separated from them? None From what parent or family members did you fear separation? \_\_\_\_\_

39. Did you fear that if you gave "Yes" answers to those questions you eventually would have to relocate in this country during the war and would be in danger from hostile Caucasians? Yes

Who told you that this might happen to you? same people

40. Did you fear that if you gave "Yes" answers to those questions that it would mean you might be drafted into military service where you would be discriminated against or be persecuted by fellow soldiers or that you might be used as cannon fodder just because you had Japanese ancestry? Yes  
Who told you that this might happen to you? same people

41. Did you fear that if you gave "Yes" answers to those questions that you might be attacked and harmed by groups of Issei, Kibei or Nisei in camp?

Yes Name the group and its leaders or members from whom you feared this danger? Kibei groups

Did you give "No" answers to those questions as a protest against the mistreatment of evacuation and confinement to a camp? Yes

42. Were you, or any member of your family, or any friend or anyone else attacked by members of the pressure groups in that Center for showing loyalty to the U. S.? Yes or opposition to the pressure groups? Yes or for giving "Yes" answers to Questions Nos. 27 and 28? Yes If so, state the names of the persons who were attacked. Fred Toyama

When were they attacked? 7

By whom were they attacked? 8



43. Did you then believe that if you gave a "No" answer to those questions that you would be allowed to stay in the Center for the duration of the war and in this way you and your family would be free from danger of persecution by Caucasians? yes. Who told you this? rumors
44. Did you give "No" answers to Question Nos. 27 and 28 or refuse to answer those questions because you had been informed by the WRA or understood that because you already had applied for repatriation to Japan that you did not have to answer those questions? \_\_\_\_\_. Who told you this? \_\_\_\_\_
45. Did you ever give a "Yes" answer to Question No. 27? no; to Question No. 28? no; Did you change your answer to Question No. 27 or 28 to "No" at any time? \_\_\_\_\_. Did you change your answer to Questions Nos. 27 and 28 to "No" or refuse to give "Yes" answers to those questions by July 31, 1943 because you knew that "No" answers or a refusal to answer those questions would mean that you would be sent to Tule Lake or be segregated there with alien members of your family from whom you did not want to be separated? no.
46. When and where did you first register for the draft? Los Angeles, Calif. Oct. 1940.  
What classification did you first receive? 4-F physically unfit  
Did you ever receive a 4-C (alien enemy) classification? no. When did you receive that 4-C classification? \_\_\_\_\_  
In what Center were you when you received it? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you receive that 4-C classification before you answered the Army Questionnaire in February or March of 1943 while you were in a WRA Center or did you receive it afterward? \_\_\_\_\_
47. While you were in any WRA Center did you sign a petition addressed to the Attorney General, the President, the Army, the WRA or other governmental agency or agent stating in substance that if you were freed and returned to your home you would fight for the U. S. and give your life if necessary for this country? no. In what Center were you at the time? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you sign such a petition before you answered the Army Questionnaire in February or March, 1943 or afterward? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you sign such a



petition before you made a request for repatriation to Japan or afterward?

When were your parents first placed on the free list or notified that they could be relocated? \_\_\_\_\_

Were any other members of your family placed on the WRA free list for relocation purposes and, if so, who were they and when were they placed on the free list? \_\_\_\_\_

48. Would you have been willing to swear unqualified allegiance to the U. S. while you were in a WRA Center if the Government had allowed you to return to your home as a free citizen? yes Would you have been willing to return to your home alone? no; without the citizen members of your family likewise being freed from detention? no; without the alien members of your family also being freed? no. Would you have been willing only if the Government would assure you that you would be relocated safe from harm from Caucasians? yes; that the citizen members of your family would be relocated safe from harm? yes; and that the alien members of your family willing to return to their homes during the war if the Government would allow them? \_\_\_\_\_ Were they willing to be relocated elsewhere in the U. S.? \_\_\_\_\_.

49. Did you keep in touch with your Local Draft Board while you were in a WRA Center? yes. Did you report to your Draft Board after you were released from camp? \_\_\_\_\_. To what Draft Board? \_\_\_\_\_  
When? \_\_\_\_\_ After your release from camp did you volunteer for service in our armed forces? \_\_\_\_\_. Did you ever served armed forces? \_\_\_\_\_. When \_\_\_\_\_; into what branch? \_\_\_\_\_; what period of time did you serve? \_\_\_\_\_; where did you serve? \_\_\_\_\_; what was your social number? \_\_\_\_\_. Have you received an Honorable discharge from such service? \_\_\_\_\_; what is the date of that Discharge? \_\_\_\_\_

Re: MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS

50. (a) Did you ever sign a petition for resegregation (Saikakuri Seigan) while in Tule Lake? none When? \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) Were you at any time a member of (1) Sokoku Kenkyukai? \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Sokoku Kenkyo Seinen Dan? \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan? \_\_\_\_\_



yes (4) Hokoku Seinen Dan? yes (5) Hokoku Joshi Seinen Dan? \_\_\_\_\_

When did you become a member? February, 1945

How long were you a member? about a month

When did you stop being a member? never did resign and to JCS 3/21/45

In what Block did you live at the time you became a member? 82

What was the name of your Block Manager? Uchayama - Mrs. Miyaki

With whom did you share living quarters at the Tule Lake Center? Kuwabara

wife  
What organizations were active in that Block? Koshu dan & Seinen dan

What was the full name of the organization you joined? Joshi's Hokoku

What were the names of the leaders of the organizations in your Block? Koshu dan & Hokoku Seinen dan

Uchayama, Miyaki, Kuwabara

51. Were your father? \_\_\_\_\_ or mother? \_\_\_\_\_ or brothers? \_\_\_\_\_ or sisters? \_\_\_\_\_ or father-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_ or mother-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_ a member of any organization? \_\_\_\_\_ Did they persuade you to become a member? \_\_\_\_\_ What did they say to you to persuade you to become a member? \_\_\_\_\_

What other members of your family were members of the Hoshi Dan? \_\_\_\_\_

wife about same time  
Joshi Dan? \_\_\_\_\_

Seinen Dan? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did they become members? as I joined

In what Blocks were they living? 82

52. What are the names of the persons other than members of your family who persuaded or threatened you into becoming a member and state whether such persons were Issei, Kibei or Nisei and state the Blocks in which they lived? Uchayama, Miyaki - Issei, Kuwabara - Kibei Blk 82

53. What did they tell you to persuade you to become a member? They repeatedly

told me to join & Blk 82 was very strong & was the last group to join.  
What did they say would happen to you if you did not become a member?

It would be unsafe & actually few were beaten

54. What did you believe would happen to you if you did not become a member?

I feared I might be harmed



55. What office, if any, did you hold in the organization? \_\_\_\_\_

cultural chairman of ALK 82

What duties did you perform? \_\_\_\_\_

nothing

How did you become an officer? \_\_\_\_\_

I was appointed by Kuwabara as all the previous group had left in internment

When did you become an officer? \_\_\_\_\_

about Feb, 1945

From whom did you receive notice that you were an officer? \_\_\_\_\_

Kuwabara appointed me, & I refused, but he

What duties did you perform as an officer? \_\_\_\_\_

told me to do it.

I did not do anything as chairman.

As a member did you attend any morning calisthenic exercises? yes Approxi-

mately how often did you join in the calisthenics? \_\_\_\_\_

once twice

Did you attend any of the organization's lectures? \_\_\_\_\_

as I worked in mess hall

no Approximately how

many lectures did you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the nature of those lectures? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you participate in any of their marching demonstrations? no If so, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you attend any other meetings of the organization? no Where and how often? \_\_\_\_\_

56. Did you tell anyone you wanted to drop membership? yes State the names of the persons you told you wanted to drop membership. \_\_\_\_\_

I went to see Kuwabara, but he said I can't quit.

Did anybody warn you that you could not withdraw from membership? yes

Who gave you such a warning? (State their names, blocks, where they lived and whether Issei, Kibei or Nisei) \_\_\_\_\_

Kuwabara Kibei ALK 82

What did they tell you would happen if you dropped your membership or tried to drop membership? \_\_\_\_\_

I might be harmed if I should

try to quit.

Had you learned that anyone who tried to drop membership had been

threatened or had been beaten up for trying to drop membership? no Who, if you know, was beaten for trying to do it? \_\_\_\_\_

What group did you hear was responsible for beating persons who tried to withdraw from membership? \_\_\_\_\_



57. Were you in fear that you would be attacked and beaten up by members if you tried to drop membership? yes What groups did you fear might do this? by Feinen gang.
58. Were you told that if you tried to drop membership the organization would report this matter to the Japanese Government and that when you were deported to Japan you would get in trouble with the Japanese Government? yes Who told you this? Kuwabara & his group. Did you fear that if you dropped membership you would get in trouble with the Japanese Government when you were deported to Japan? yes.
59. Were you told that if you tried to drop membership the organization leaders would report this matter to the Japanese Government and that your alien parents would get in trouble with the Japanese Government when they were sent to Japan for not being able to control your actions? yes Who told you this? (State the names, blocks where they lived and whether Issei, Kibei or Nisei) \_\_\_\_\_
- Did you fear that if you dropped membership your parents who were to be sent to Japan would get in trouble there? yes.
60. Did you have your hair cut short or shaved? yes When? 2/1945. Who did it? backshop Did you wear any insignia of the organization and, if so, what insignia? huomam & Kishi
61. If you or any member of your family was placed in the "Stockade" at Tule Lake Center state who was, for what period of time and for what reason none
62. What was the nature of your employment and where did you work while you were in Tule Lake? cook - at mess hall - Blk 5 and 82. What were your working hours? none Were you working while you were a member of any organization at Tule? yes In what block? 5 & 82 What were the names of some of your fellow workers? Blk 5 - Mauida, Blk 82 - Kaneko, Mukaida, etc.



63. Were you, or any member of your family, or any friend attacked by any members of any of the pressure groups at Tule Lake? Yes Who was? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

By whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Alh 49 some one was beaten



## Re: REQUESTS FOR FORMS UPON WHICH

## TO RENOUNCE CITIZENSHIP

64. (a) In what Block did you live in the Tule Lake Center? 82
64. (b) When did you send a letter to the Attorney General or the Justice Department asking for forms upon which to renounce your citizenship?  
about December, 1944. I might have written more than one letter.
64. (c) Where did you get the forms? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_
64. (d) In what Center were you at that time? Tule Block  
Number: 82

(Note: On December 19, 1944, General Pratt removed the ban on the return of Japanese to the West Coast. On December 21, 1944, the Newell Star, the Tule Lake Center newspaper, announced that all the WRA camps would be closed in about one year. Notices of this also may have been posted in the block manager's offices, the mess halls and other places in camp.)

Therefore, if you sent a letter to the Attorney General or the Justice Department before December 21, 1944, asking for forms upon which to renounce citizenship you probably were not then in fear of the camp being closed and of being forced to relocate in a hostile area without funds or a home to which you could go. If you sent such a letter between December 21, 1944 and January 29, 1945, you probably were in fear of being relocated in such circumstances. On January 29, 1945, the WRA announced that Tule Lake would be kept open and that there would not be any forced relocations. If you sent your letter after January 29, 1945, the Justice Department will be inclined to believe you were not then in actual fear of being forcibly relocated in a hostile area without funds or a home to which you could go unless you convince it that you did not believe the January 29, 1945, announcement that the Tule Lake Center would be kept open and that no one would be forced to relocate.)

65. Did you send that letter to the Attorney General or to the Justice Department before that December 21, 1944 announcement that all the WRA Centers would be closed within a year? yes. Did you send it between December 21, 1944 and January 29, 1945? \_\_\_\_\_.
66. Did you send it after the announcement of January 29, 1945, that the Tule Lake Center would be kept open? \_\_\_\_\_.

If you sent in your letter to the Justice Department after the WRA's announcement of January 29, 1945, that the Tule Lake Center would be kept open and that there would not be any forcible relocations you probably did not send that letter requesting forms upon which to renounce your citizenship by reason of fear that the Tule Lake Center would be closed and that you and your family would be forced to relocate and therefore, you should answer the following questions:

- (a) From what source did you learn about that announcement of January 29,



1945: In the Newell Star? \_\_\_\_\_; from a notice on a bulletin board? \_\_\_\_\_; from the Block Manager? \_\_\_\_\_; from what other persons? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Did you believe the announcement? \_\_\_\_\_. If not, state why you did not believe the announcement. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Did anyone tell you that you could not trust that announcement? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, state who told you not to rely on that announcement and what they said to you to make you disbelieve it. \_\_\_\_\_

67. If the announcement of December 21, 1944, that all Centers would be closed within a year and the announcement of January 29, 1945, that Tule Lake Center would be kept open and there would not be any forcible relocations did not have anything to do with your decision to renounce your citizenship did you send the letter to the Justice Department asking for forms upon which to renounce citizenship because of any of the following fears, namely: (a) fear of separation from alien members of your family, such as father? \_\_\_\_\_ mother? \_\_\_\_\_ father-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_ mother-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_ step-father? \_\_\_\_\_ step-mother? \_\_\_\_\_ other aliens? \_\_\_\_\_ who you believed were to be deported to Japan? \_\_\_\_\_; (b) fear of being separated from citizen members of your family, such as your wife? yes husband? \_\_\_\_\_ children? \_\_\_\_\_ who you believed would have to relocate in the U. S.? yes or who you believed would be deported to Japan? yes; (c) fear of being deported yourself because you had given negative answers to Questions Nos. 27 or 28 and were considered a disloyal person? yes; (d) fear of treat or harm to yourself? yes or your wife? yes or husband? \_\_\_\_\_ or children? yes or mother? \_\_\_\_\_ or father? \_\_\_\_\_ or other members? \_\_\_\_\_ of your family from gangs in the Center? yes; (e) fear of mistreatment or physical harm from the Government or its agents? no.

68. Did the announcement of December 21, 1944, that all the WRA Centers would be closed within a year cause you to send that letter to the Justice Department? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you read that announcement in the Newell Star? \_\_\_\_\_; from a bulletin board? \_\_\_\_\_; or learn about it from the Block Manager? \_\_\_\_\_; or from other persons and, if so, name the persons: \_\_\_\_\_



69. Did you send the letter to the Justice Department asking for forms upon which to renounce your citizenship because you feared that December 21, 1944, announcement meant that you and the citizen members of your family would be forcibly relocated without money, a home or job in an area where people were hostile to Japanese while the war still was going on unless you renounced your citizenship? \_\_\_\_ Were you afraid of being relocated because you had heard that jobs were scarce? \_\_\_\_; that employers did not wish to hire Japanese and that you might not get work to support yourself and your family? \_\_\_\_; that the public was hostile to Japanese and you feared mob violence? \_\_\_\_\_. If you had been forcibly relocated what members of your family would you then have had to support? \_\_\_\_\_

Had you heard of any relocated persons being discriminated against? \_\_\_\_; refused work? \_\_\_\_; being insulted? \_\_\_\_; being attacked? \_\_\_\_; being shot at? \_\_\_\_; being persecuted? \_\_\_\_; whose homes had been burned? \_\_\_\_\_. When and where had these incidents taken place? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the names of the persons who had been mistreated and state what it was that happened to them. \_\_\_\_\_

70. Did you send that letter because you believed that if you sent for the forms and renounced your citizenship that you would be interned by the Justice Department and could stay in camp until the war ended and then be safely relocated when public hostility to Japanese died down? \_\_\_\_\_. Who told you that this could be done? \_\_\_\_\_

71. Did any members of your family fear or tell you that you would be forcibly relocated and run the risk of danger from hostile Caucasians unless you sent that letter and renounced your citizenship and, if so, what members of your family told you this? \_\_\_\_\_

72. (a) State what members of your family were in fear of what might happen to you or to them if you did not send such a letter and, if so, state of what or of whom they were in fear? \_\_\_\_\_



72. (b) In what Blocks were each of your family members living at that time?

82 in Lawton Block?

73. Did you fear that if you did not send the letter and request forms upon which to renounce your citizenship that you would be separated from alien members of your family? yes and, if so, from what alien members?

or from citizen members? yes, and if so, from what citizen members of your family? wife and her family

74. Name the members of your family who told you that you would be separated from your family if you did not send for the forms and renounce your citizenship? mother in law and father in law

75. Name other persons, not members of your family, who told you that you would be separated from your family if you did not send for the forms and renounce your citizenship and state whether they were Issei, Kibei or Nisei and the Blocks where they lived. Wakayama, Masaki

Kunabara - Kibei of Block 82 came to station, & their group constantly met

76. What members of your family (wife, husband, children, father, mother, brother, sisters, father-in-law, mother-in-law) were in the Tule Lake Center at the time you sent that letter to the Justice Department?

wife, mother in law, father in law, 3 brother in law

What members of your family pressured, threatened or persuaded you to send that letter? mother in law and father in law

What did they fear or say to you to get you to send that letter? after

we are deported to Japan & will not be good  
I have US citizenship

77. Did your husband? \_\_\_\_\_ wife? \_\_\_\_\_ father? \_\_\_\_\_ mother? \_\_\_\_\_ brothers? \_\_\_\_\_ sisters? \_\_\_\_\_ in-laws? \_\_\_\_\_ force you to send a letter requesting forms on which to renounce your citizenship so that you wouldn't be separated from them by being forced to relocate while they remained in camp or finally were deported to Japan? If such person or persons were



citizens of the U. S. state whether they already had sent for forms upon which to renounce their citizenship? They were alone

What did such person or persons say to you to force you to renounce your citizenship? \_\_\_\_\_

78. Did you send that letter requesting forms upon which to renounce citizenship because you heard that alien members of your family who had requested repatriation to Japan would have to stay in the Center until they could be exchanged or removed to Japan and that you ultimately would have to be relocated in this country and thus be separated from them unless you applied for renunciation? yes. Name the persons who told you this might happen if you didn't renounce your citizenship and state whether they were Issei, Kibei or Nisei and the Blocks where they lived \_\_\_\_\_

the same people Feb 82  
What alien members of your family already had asked for repatriation to Japan at the time you sent that letter? mother in law & father in law

Were the alien members of your family on the WRA free list and eligible to relocate at the time you sent your letter to the Justice Department asking for forms upon which to renounce your citizenship? none

79. Did you fear that if you didn't send for the forms and didn't renounce your citizenship that you, nevertheless, would be deported to Japan along with the alien members of your family because you had asked for repatriation to Japan and that you would get in trouble with the Japanese government when you arrived there? yes. Name the persons who told you this and state whether they were Issei, Kibei, Nisei, the Blocks where they lived and the organizations of which they were members. \_\_\_\_\_

same people

80. Did you decide to apply for forms upon which to renounce your citizenship because you believed your life was being frittered away uselessly in camp? yes; that you feared that you might be confined to camp until the war ended? yes; which might take many years? yes or that if the war did not come to an end you would be kept in camp forever? yes or that when and



if the war ended the Government might deport you to Japan? yes and that you wanted to get away from camp life? yes and feared that you had to go or be sent somewhere or anywhere, even to Japan, just so long as you were made a free man? yes

81. Did you send a letter to the Justice Department asking for the forms upon which to renounce because you were afraid that the Government had no use for you and didn't care what happened to you and that you were afraid this was true because it had deprived you of citizenship rights by evacuating you and putting you into a WRA Center behind barbed wires and then had armed troops guard you? yes; and then didn't give you any protection in the Tule Lake Center from the threats and violence of gangs? yes; and because the police didn't give any protection to the residents? yes; and you were scared by the soldiers moving in and driving the residents around and searching their quarters? yes; and no protection was given against such things as the murder of Mr. Hitomi, the knifing of Mr. Terasawa and others, and the clubbing and beatings of many persons; and that the Government didn't punish the soldier who shot Mr. Okamoto? yes and that you thought these things clearly meant the Government had no use for you and didn't want to give you any protection and that, to avoid all this violence and trouble, you had to renounce citizenship to insure your own safety? yes and the safety of your wife? yes, husband? \_\_\_\_\_, father? \_\_\_\_\_, mother? \_\_\_\_\_, children? \_\_\_\_\_, brothers? \_\_\_\_\_, sisters? \_\_\_\_\_, other members of your family? yes

82. Did you decide to send the letter asking for forms upon which to renounce your citizenship because you feared that you were going to be deported to Japan because you had given "No" answers to Questions Nos. 27 and 28 or had refused to answer those questions and were considered disloyal to the U. S. and that it was necessary for you to send that letter to the Justice Department and renounce your citizenship otherwise you would get in trouble when you arrived in Japan? yes. What trouble did you think you would get into in Japan if you didn't renounce U. S. citizenship? \_\_\_\_\_

Thrown into jail or segregated from Japanese  
State what members of your family told you this. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name the Issei, Kibei and Nisei who told you this and state in what Blocks



they lived at Tule Lake and the name of any organizations to which they belonged. my uncle Jim - mostly in Alh 82 members  
where Jim and dau gathered

83. Did you fear that if you didn't send for the forms and renounce your citizenship that you eventually might be drafted into our armed forces while you were in the Center and thus be separated from your citizen wife?

yes; citizen children? yes; or other citizen members of your family?

yes who were in the Center? yes. Did you fear that if you didn't send for the forms and renounce citizenship that you eventually would be re-

located and then might be drafted into our armed forces and then be separated from your wife? yes, children? yes, other family members? yes.

who would have relocated with you? Who told you these things might happen if you didn't renounce your citizenship? people seemed to know  
in Alh 82

84. Did you fear that if you didn't send for the forms and renounce your citizenship that you eventually might be drafted into the army while you were in the Center or after you were forcibly relocated which would result in separating you from alien members of your family who were to be sent to Japan because they had asked for repatriation to Japan and wanted to go there? yes or because they believed they would be deported to Japan after the war ended because they feared the Government intended to deport all alien Japanese to Japan? yes Who told you this would happen? Makayama, Miyaki, Kuwabara

85. Did your alien parents fear that if you didn't send for the forms and renounce your citizenship that you eventually might be drafted into the army and be separated from them when they were sent to Japan? yes. Did they tell you this? yes Name other persons who told you this. \_\_\_\_\_

Did your parents fear that if you served in the armed forces that they would get in trouble with the Japanese Government when they arrived in Japan? yes. Did they tell you this? yes Name other persons who told you this. \_\_\_\_\_

86. Did any person or persons or group of persons tell you or spread the rumor that if you didn't send for the form and renounce your citizenship you would get into trouble with the Japanese government when you were



deported to Japan? Yes Name the persons who told you these things, the Blocks where they lived and the organizations to which they belonged, and whether they were Issei, Kibei or Nisei. \_\_\_\_\_

same group

87. Name the other members of your family whom you believed would get in trouble there if you didn't renounce your citizenship and state whether they were in the Center with you. wife & in laws

88. If any members of your family were in Japan at the time, did you fear that they might be punished by the Japanese government if it learned that you did not renounce your U. S. citizenship? Yes.. What members of your family there did you fear might get in such trouble? \_\_\_\_\_

mother, father, Bros & sisters

89. With what agents of Japan did you think you or your family members would get in trouble if you did not renounce your citizenship? \_\_\_\_\_

(The Japanese police? ✓; Kempeitai? ✓; Army? ✓; Neighborhood Associations? ✓; other agencies? \_\_\_\_\_.)

What did you fear would happen to you or to them? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you believe that you or they would be put in prison? ✓; internment camp? ✓; be forced to work as slave laborers? ✓; or what else did you fear would happen to you or to them? \_\_\_\_\_

90. If anyone else told you to send that letter, name the persons who did and state whether they were Issei, Kibei or Nisei and the Blocks in which they lived or where they worked at Tule Lake Center, and state the names of the organizations of which they were members. Shikayama Kibei

Blk 82; Okuno-Kibei Blk 82;

What did they tell you would happen to you if you didn't send that letter?

Those that would not renounce are dogs & the pro Japanese group made it difficult for me at Blk 82

Were those persons leaders or members of any of the organizations in Tule Lake, and, if so, state the names of the organizations. Leaders



Who were the Issei leaders of those organizations and in what Blocks did they live? \_\_\_\_\_

The Kibei leaders and Blocks where they lived? \_\_\_\_\_

The Nisei leaders and Blocks where they lived? \_\_\_\_\_

91. Were any groups of leaders or members of the Seinen Dan or Hoshi Dan moved away to Santa Fe before you sent in that letter? no If so, what groups? \_\_\_\_\_

Were any groups of leaders or members of the Seinen Dan or Hoshi Dan removed to Santa Fe before you sent in that letter? no. If so, what groups? \_\_\_\_\_

(Note. The first group of 70 Issei and citizens belonging to the Hokoku Seinen Dan were taken away to Santa Fe on December 27, 1944. Renunciation hearings started on January 11, 1945. The next group of 144 citizens and 27 aliens, including 50 officers of the Hokoku Seinen Dan, was taken to Santa Fe on January 26, 1945. The next group of about 650 members of the Hokoku Seinen Dan was removed to Bismarck on February 11, 1945. The next group of 125 persons was taken to Santa Fe on March 12, 1945. About June, 1945, some 400 more were removed to Santa Fe and in July, 1945, a few more were taken to Bismarck. Therefore, if you had your hearing after these groups had been removed you were not in fear of them at that time.)

92. Were you in fear that if you didn't send for the forms and renounce your citizenship that your name would be put on the organization's black-list and would be reported to the Japanese government and you would get in trouble with the Japanese government when you arrived in Japan? yes. Who told you this would happen? hadus described above

State whether they were Issei, Kibei or Nsei, the Blocks where they then were living and the organization to which belonged. \_\_\_\_\_



Were you in fear of the leaders of any of the organizations at Tule? no

Were you in fear of the members of any of the organizations? no. OF  
what organizations were you in fear? San Pedro group in Alhambra

of what leaders were you in fear? (State the blocks where they lived)

of what members were you in fear? (State the Blocks where they lived)

Why were you in fear? They will beat me up if I did not  
do as the group told me

Were any other members of your family in fear of them or their organizations and, if so, state the names of your family members who were in fear of them? wife

93. If you or any member of your family or any friends were attacked by any of the leaders or members of any of the pressure groups for not doing what the pressure group leaders wanted state the names of the persons who were attacked, the time and place where attacked and by whom.

Alh 49 was a big trouble on  
gang fight

94. Were you in fear of being attacked and beaten up by them or their organizations if you did not send for the forms and renounce your citizenship?

yes. Had any of them threatened you? no. If so, what were their names and state what they said to you. but they come around, &  
they talked from home to home, and at Alh meetings  
many talk went out as to what might happen

95. Were you in fear that members of your family might be attacked and physically harmed if you did not send that letter, and, if so, state what members of your family you feared might be harmed by them.

wife

96. Were you in fear that if you did not send that letter that you might be harmed by the leaders or members of any of the following organizations, namely: Hoshi Dan? ✓; Seinen Dan? ✓; Joshi Dan? ✓; Manzanar gang? ✓; the Poston gang? ✓; Jerome gang? ✓; San Pedro gang? ✓; the Tiger gang? ✓; The Black Dragon Society gang? ✓ or other



gangs? \_\_\_\_\_; or strong arm groups? \_\_\_\_\_. Name the leaders, members, groups or gangs of which you were in fear. \_\_\_\_\_

97. While you were in Tule were you ever called an inu? None a spy? \_\_\_\_\_; a stooge? \_\_\_\_\_; an informer? \_\_\_\_\_; a White Jap? \_\_\_\_\_; a traitor? \_\_\_\_\_; kokuzoku? \_\_\_\_\_; or other names? \_\_\_\_\_, for not doing what the organizations wanted you to do? \_\_\_\_\_. What names were you called? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you in fear of being called such names? Yes. What were the names of the persons who called you such names? \_\_\_\_\_

98. How many persons called on you or spoke to you and asked you if you had sent for the forms upon which to renounce your citizenship? 3 or 4 What were their names? Blk leaders - Miyaki, Wakabayashi

Kuwabara & co-workers 82 - mostly San Pedro group  
Did anyone check up on your mail in the block manager's office to see whether or not you had sent such a letter or had received an answering letter from the Justice Department? Yes. State the names of the persons who checked up on you in this manner. Blk leaders.

Did anyone take down your name as being a person who did not send such a form or was late in sending for such a form? Never admitted. State the names of the persons who did this and whether they were Issei, Kibei or Nisei: \_\_\_\_\_

99. Were any members of your family or friends attacked, beaten or threatened for not sending for the forms? \_\_\_\_\_. Name the persons who were attacked or beaten. \_\_\_\_\_

Were you ostracized for not sending in such a letter promptly? Yes. Did friends shun or avoid you or refuse to talk to you because you had not sent for the forms? Yes. Was your spouse? Yes your children? \_\_\_\_\_; or other members of your family? \_\_\_\_\_ mistreated for your delay in sending such a letter? \_\_\_\_\_. What mistreatment did they suffer and from whom?

as we were in different groups in the center



100. While you were in a WRA Center did the U. S. Immigration Service commence any deportation proceeding against your husband? \_\_\_\_\_; wife? \_\_\_\_\_; father? \_\_\_\_\_; mother? \_\_\_\_\_, for violation of any immigration law? Did you fear that the member of your family against whom deportation proceedings had been started would be deported from the U. S. to Japan because such person was illegally in the U. S.? \_\_\_\_\_. Did you fear separation from such person and did the fear that such person would be deported cause you to apply for the forms upon which to renounce citizenship so that you would not be separated from such person? \_\_\_\_\_.

Re: RENUNCIATION HEARING

101. Name the members of your family besides you who had a hearing on an application for renunciation of citizenship. Husband? \_\_\_\_\_; wife? yes. brothers? \_\_\_\_\_; sisters? \_\_\_\_\_; other family members? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you have your hearing before the renunciation of your wife? yes; husband? \_\_\_\_\_; brothers? \_\_\_\_\_ or sisters? \_\_\_\_\_. Did you have it on the same day as your wife? ?; husband? \_\_\_\_\_. On what date did you have your renunciation hearing? I do not recall. Was your hearing officer a man? \_\_\_\_\_; a woman? yes. Did you have an interpreter at your hearing? no. Did you need one? yes.

102. At your renunciation hearing did you tell the hearing officer that you wanted to renounce because you were loyal to Japan, or that you wanted Japan to win the war, or that you were against the U. S. or make other statements indicating loyalty to Japan or disloyalty to the U. S.? no. What, in substance, did you tell the hearing officer as reasons why you wanted to renounce your citizenship? I might have said I was loyal to Japan.

Name the persons who coached you and told you what you were to say at your hearing to make certain your renunciation would be approved and state whether they were Issei, Kibei or Nisei and the blocks where they lived.

On the same group, San Pedro group talked about it in Bk 82 - I was surrounded by them also my relatives



103. Did the hearing officer tell you that you did not have to renounce your citizenship in order to go to Japan? no. Did you believe this? \_\_\_\_\_. Were you in fear of the hearing officer? yes. Why? I will be punished any time. Did you fear to tell the hearing officer the real reasons why you were renouncing your citizenship? yes. What did you think would happen if you had told him the real reasons? I will be separated from my wife.
104. Did you fear that if you did and your renunciation was not accepted that you would get in trouble with your parents? relatives yes other family members? yes who were in Tule Lake? yes; or in some other internment camp? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you then in fear of being forcibly relocated in a dangerous area? yes (If your hearing took place after the January 29, 1945, announcement were you still in fear of eventual relocation in a hostile area? \_\_\_\_\_) Were you then in fear of being drafted? yes. Were you in fear of separation from members of your family? yes. From what members? wife & her family.
- Were they in Tule Lake? yes or in what other Center? \_\_\_\_\_ Were they on the WRA "free list" and eligible for relocation at the time? no. Had they applied for relocation before the day you had your renunciation hearing? no. Were they still expecting to be sent to Japan? yes. Did they still want to go to Japan? yes. Had they cancelled their applications to go to Japan? no.
105. Were you in fear that if your renunciation was not accepted you would be in danger of harm from any of the leaders or members of any of the pressure groups at the time you had your renunciation hearing? yes. Had the leaders or members been removed to other camps at the time you had your hearing? yes. Were some leaders and members still in camp at the time you had your hearing? yes. What were the names of those who were still in camp? Miyahara, Okuno, & Kuwabara & many others in the block - as Kaneko, Mukaida, Kikuta; in your Block? yes. Were you in fear of them? yes.
106. Were you removed from Tule Lake Center to Bismarck? \_\_\_\_\_; Santa Fe? yes.



When? 8/12/45; with what groups: the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th groups? 4th group. What members of your family remained at Tule Lake? wife and child

What other members of your family were removed from Tule Lake Center to Bismarck? \_\_\_\_\_;

to Santa Fe? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

Were they removed from Tule Lake before you had your renunciation hearing? \_\_\_\_\_ or after you had your hearing at Tule Lake? \_\_\_\_\_.

State when and where you were re-united with them. \_\_\_\_\_

never was reunited with wife or child  
Name the other members of your family who renounced citizenship. \_\_\_\_\_

wife Shizuyo Shitanda

107. Did you give such answers because other members of your family had been removed from Tule Lake and you thought that by so doing you would be re-united with them? \_\_\_\_\_. Did you fear that those family members would be deported to Japan and that if you gave such answers you would be re-united with them and be deported along with them? \_\_\_\_\_.

108. (a) If you applied for relocation in the U. S. after your renunciation state when you did so. I always felt my wife was going

108. (b) Did you write a letter to the Attorney General or Justice Department asking to cancel your renunciation? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_ In what to repatriate, and I was repatriating  
She was communicated to me that she was  
Center were you living when you wrote that letter? \_\_\_\_\_

coming to Japan, and she changed her  
mind at the last moment

Re: MITIGATION HEARING

109. Did you have a "mitigation hearing" between December, 1945, and April, 1946? \_\_\_\_\_. In what Center did you have this hearing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Was your hearing officer a man? \_\_\_\_\_; a woman? \_\_\_\_\_.

At this hearing did you tell the hearing officer that you were loyal to Japan or disloyal to the U. S. or words to such an effect? \_\_\_\_\_. If you did, state why you did this. \_\_\_\_\_



What members of your family were with you in the same Center at the time of this hearing? (spouse, father, mother, children, brothers, sisters, father in law, mother in law) \_\_\_\_\_

From what members of your family were you then separated? \_\_\_\_\_

Where were those members of your family at the time of your mitigation hearing? \_\_\_\_\_

Were they then on the WRA or Justice Department free list and eligible for relocation? \_\_\_\_\_. Had they relocated? \_\_\_\_\_. If they had, state when. \_\_\_\_\_

Did you then fear that members of your family in other camps were to be deported to Japan? \_\_\_\_\_. Was it because of your fear that those members were to be deported to Japan that you gave such answers to the mitigation hearing officer so that you would be allowed to rejoin those members and not be separated any longer from them? \_\_\_\_\_

What members of your family, if any, were removed to other internment camps after you had your renunciation hearing? \_\_\_\_\_

When and where were you re-united with them? \_\_\_\_\_

When were you released from detention? \_\_\_\_\_. In what camp were you when you were released from detention? \_\_\_\_\_

If any of your family members were sent to Japan, state when they sailed for Japan. \_\_\_\_\_ From what port did they sail? \_\_\_\_\_. What other members of your family went to Japan? \_\_\_\_\_

When were you placed on the "free list"? \_\_\_\_\_. If



your parents, spouse or other family members were placed on the free list, state when they were placed on that list and the camp from which they relocated. \_\_\_\_\_

State the name of any person in your family who has served or is serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and the branch of service. \_\_\_\_\_

State the relation ship of such person to you \_\_\_\_\_

State the Serial Number of such person \_\_\_\_\_

Has such person received an Honorable Discharge? \_\_\_\_\_

If, before evacuation, or while you were in an Assembly Center or War Relocation Center any person (Caucasian or other) threatened, warned or advised you against returning to your home or against relocating, state the names of such persons and their addresses? \_\_\_\_\_

When were such threats, warnings or advice made or given to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_.

Where were you at the time? \_\_\_\_\_

Were the threats, warnings or advice verbal or in letters? \_\_\_\_\_

Were any members of your family threatened, warned or advised against leaving camp, relocating to their homes? \_\_\_\_\_

Name the family members and specify their relationship to you. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever served in the armed forces of the U. S.? \_\_\_\_\_

In what branch? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_ Period of service \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Where did you serve? \_\_\_\_\_ Date you received an Honorable Discharge? \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

What other members of your family (father, children, brothers or sisters) served in the armed forces of the U. S. \_\_\_\_\_

State their names, relationship and branch of the armed forces in which they served or are serving, \_\_\_\_\_



Since returning to Japan in 1946 have you voted in any elections? none

Where? \_\_\_\_\_ Years you  
voted? \_\_\_\_\_ What elections? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you vote in those elections? \_\_\_\_\_

What Allied military officers told you to vote? \_\_\_\_\_

What were you told would happen to you if you didn't vote? \_\_\_\_\_

What Japanese officials told you to vote? \_\_\_\_\_

What neighborhood association told you to vote? \_\_\_\_\_

State the names and addresses of the neighbors who told you to vote? \_\_\_\_\_

What were you told would happen to you if you didn't vote? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you believe or fear would happen to you if you didn't vote? \_\_\_\_\_

Since returning to Japan in 1946 has your name been registered in any  
family Koseki? none When (what year) \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you personally apply to be registered in a Koseki? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you go to be registered? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you go to be registered? \_\_\_\_\_

If someone other than you personally registered your name in a Koseki  
state who it was who registered you. \_\_\_\_\_

What relation is that person to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Why were you registered in a Koseki since returning to Japan in 1946? \_\_\_\_\_

What caused you to be registered in a Koseki since 1946? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you registered in a Koseki since returning to Japan in 1946 because  
if you were not registered you would not have been given a ration card?

\_\_\_\_\_ or would not have been given an address to



receive mail? \_\_\_\_\_ or would have been

punished, and, if so, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_ and why? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you registered because of fear that if you weren't you would suffer in some form? \_\_\_\_\_ such as would not be issued a ration card?

\_\_\_\_\_ or for what other reasons? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you, since returning to Japan in 1946 been naturalized as a Japanese citizen? none. If so, what steps did you take to become naturalized as a Japanese citizen? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you, since returning to Japan been employed by the Japanese Government or any agency of the Japanese Government? none

If so, name the office by which you were employed and the dates of your employment? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you worked for the United States Government or Allied military authorities while in Japan? yes For what service? US Army

In what capacity? cook, mgt. Where did you perform your work? Tokyo Dates of your employment? \_\_\_\_\_

1946 — till 1954

What is your occupation now? mgt. of restaurant Where? Tokyo

What property do you own in Japan? George's restaurant

Nature of property? none

Estimated valuation of that property? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your nearest relative in the U. S. and address. \_\_\_\_\_

To what address do you intend to return to in the U. S. \_\_\_\_\_

Lucinda - Mr. Schi in Los Angeles

(Attach all the documents and letters you have relating to your renunciation of U. S. citizenship.)

Have you filed an application with a U. S. Consul in Japan for a U. S.

Passport? yes. When did you file it? 1955

(Attach a copy of the affidavit you filed with the U. S. Consul which explained why you renounced U. S. citizenship.)



What reasons did the U. S. Consul give you for refusing to issue you a passport? not in scope of review of Murahami's entry

(Attach the letter of refusal the U. S. Consul sent to you.)

Have you registered as an alien in Japan? yes When? Sept 27, 1956

Where? Tokyo - Japan

Date: August 10, 1957

[Signature]

Signature

98 Yamato-cho,  
Nakano-~~ku~~ Tokyo, Japan

Address

none

Telephone Number

*Noted*