

1:7

CLARK, Tom C.

1946

78/177

C

June 27, 1946.

HON. TOM C. CLARK,
Attorney General of the United States,
Department of Justice Building,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

I wish to thank you for your response to my letter of June seventh. Naturally, I regret you do not concur entirely with my conclusions concerning a release or parole of the Tule Lake renunciants remaining at Crystal City.

The detention issue soon will be determined by the court unless it be solved sooner by the execution of an expected peace treaty with Japan which would terminate the efficacy of the Alien Enemy Act. Inasmuch as neither you nor anyone acting under your orders was responsible for the terror that ruled in the Tule Lake Center and which caused the renunciations I had hoped this issue would be solved by your consent to a release or parole of those still detained. Such a course would alleviate the hardship of the internees and the long suffering of their families. It also would obviate criticism of the prolonged detention period elapsing since the end of hostilities.

The issue of their recovery of nationality because of the duress under which the renunciations were made is a judicial question of law and fact which in nowise involves or could give rise to criticism of any policy adopted by you.

Had it not been my intention to enable the Government, through you, to undo a large part of the wrong done them by the evacuation, the indignity of prolonged confinement in W.R.A. camps and the reign of terror to which they were subjected at the Tule Lake Center and the failure, if not the refusal, of the W.R.A. authorities to protect them I would have sped the cases on for judicial determination November last without concern whether the Government's then policy of detention and deportation would have been subject to widespread public criticism.

Consequently, I ask you to release them if it be expedient or your conscience permits inasmuch as I believe it to be the just and right thing to do.

Very truly yours,

Wm. Collins.

October 2, 1946.

HONORABLE TOM C. CLARK,
Attorney General of the United States,
Sir Francis Drake Hotel,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Clark:

I wish to thank you for the condition of relaxed internment you have granted approximately 300 of the renunciants at Crystal City, Texas, who are to be employed at Seabrook Farms in New Jersey.

The time is drawing near when a peace treaty will be entered into with Japan which will terminate the efficacy of the Alien Enemy Act. I would be grateful were you to authorize the release of the remaining 122 renunciants or parole them to me pending the outcome of the suits brought upon their behalf or the sooner execution of that peace treaty.

Very truly yours,

WMC/W