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MATSUMOTO, MINORU JAMES

1946

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October 11, 1946.

Mr. Minoru Matsumoto,
Mr. Osamu Kobayashi,
Mr. Tanemi Obatake,
Mr. Tomiji Shono,
c/o Seabrook Farms,
Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Dear Mr.

The paroles granted by the Attorney General to aliens and renunciants who are willing to be employed at Seabrook Farms is a temporary condition. It is my belief that the parole soon will develop into an outright release either by order of the Attorney General or by order of court. It is best, however, that until such time as the matter is determined that you should be employed at Seabrook Farms so that you may be gainfully occupied rather than remain in Crystal City where you would have no earnings.

All of the pleadings and motions are now pending before the court. Judge St. Sure, however, has been confined to his home because of illness since Friday last. Consequently, I cannot state the definite date the cases will be set down for the concluding arguments on our motions for judgment on the pleadings and for summary judgment, but it will be soon.

In the meantime I am exerting all pressure possible in order to compel the release of all of those who remain in Crystal City. The release from detention is of utmost importance to us at the present time, and the determination of the citizenship issue can follow.

As I have explained to you heretofore, I have persistently refused to try any fewer than 1600 cases in equity and in habeas corpus unless the Department first releases each and every renunciant from detention. The Department of Justice is not anxious to be compelled to try 1,600 individual cases because of the time, trouble and expense involved. In addition, since it operates on a budget it is obvious that to save the expense of maintaining that camp it favors paroles to Seabrook to avoid those expenses. It is also my opinion that the Department soon must give outright releases to all renunciants whether they are on parole to Seabrook or not.

I would be grateful were you to inform me of the permanent addresses of renunciants who received their outright releases while at Seabrook. This will be necessary because I may desire to communicate with them after they are released.

Very truly yours,

WMC:ew

Minoru James Matsumoto
CCC Village
R. D. #1 Parvin State Park
Elmer, N. J.

Oct. 18, 1946

Dear Mr. Collins:

An unfortunate incident occurred last October 17 in that a renunciant, Mrs. Yoshiko Matsumura attempted to commit suicide. No serious damage was done, and she is resting in a Bridgeton Hospital. We are attempting to have Mrs. Chapman, Social welfare worker, have her cared for, and put under continual observation so that no second attempt will occur.

The night before, a Peruvian, Mr. Eikichi Sakoda, 55-years-old was struck by an automobile, and is very serious.

One is lead to believe that this succession of incidents is largely due to the fact that the internees are not adapted to the intensive, high speed, mass production work of the Deer field P Parking Co. The noise is deafening, and enough to drive any one insane. This is not meant to be a reflection on the Company, but rather that the sudden change from confinement to a terrifying factory is too much.

Another particularly disenhearting feature is the crude facilities of the CCC Village in which we are quartered. There are no tables or chairs, and furniture consists only of uncomfortable double decker bunks. The toilet facilities are more than fifties years old, and badly in need of overhaul and repair. Hot water is scarce and the heating and ventilation is extremely bad.

We urgently hope that you can visit us and see at first hand the actual conditions.

I am preparing a new list of changes of address, and so soon as I have finished with it I shall mail it to you.

Yours truly,

Minoru J. Matsumoto

Bridgeton Eve. News
**Woman Attempts
To End Her Life**
10/17/46

**Victim, Who Allegedly
Slashed Throat, Recov-
ering in Hospital**

A woman who allegedly attempt-
ed suicide at her Parvins Park
home shortly after 8 o'clock this
morning is reported to be in fairly
good condition at Bridgeton Hos-
pital where she was rushed by a
Seabrook Farms ambulance.

Reportedly the victim of a tem-
porary fit of despondency, Yoshiko
Matsumura, 31, in an act listed at
the hospital as attempted suicide,
used a jack-knife to cut her throat
and to make three slashes across
her chest and abdomen.

State Police from both Woods-
town and Malaga Barracks are
conducting a formal investigation.

Supt. Ida Squarewood said at
the hospital shortly before noon
that she expected Mrs. Matsumura
to recover.

The hospital also reports that
Eikichi Sakoda, 55-year-old Peru-
vian-Japanese laborer at Seabrook
Farms, struck and seriously injur-
ed by an automobile as he dashed
across the Deerfield Pike early
Monday evening, is holding his
own.

Also claiming the attention of
doctors and nurses at the hospital
was the victim of a motorcycle
accident this morning on the
Sayres Neck road near Cedarville.

He was Leonard Simons, 19, of
Cedarville, who suffered contu-
sions, abrasions of his head, face,
hands and knees as well as a
cerebral concussion when he lost
control of the two-wheeler he was
riding.

Simons was brought to the hos-
pital by Samuel Lacy. State Police
are checking the circumstances
attending the accident accord-
ing to the Port Norris barrack.

Minoru Matsumoto,
CCC Village,
R. D. #1 Parvin State Park
Elmer, N. J.

October 21, 1946.

Mr. Wayne M. Collins,
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Collins:

I thank you very much for your letter of October 11, in which you have informed us the latest developments of Court Proceeding and so forth. I sincerely hope that this letter finds you enjoying the best of health. In spite of all the tough going I am glad to inform you that every one is OK.

Enclosed herein is a form which Mr. H. M. Blackwell, Chief Detention, Deportation and Parole Section of Immigration and Naturalization service of Philadelphia, brought over and asked us renunciants to fill out 4 copies each. That it will be used for Court procedure by Dept of Justice, was Mr. Blackwell's answer when I asked him the purpose of filling it. Inasmuch as it is mere a routine information which we have been compelled to do many times in past; it will be a great relief to us if you would give us your interpretation in connection of doing this. We are unable to fill ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ the last question, because most of us do not know our father's birth date.

Incidentally, Mr. Blackwell is the man who are in charge of Renunciants, Peruvian and Alien that are Paroled on relaxed intern-ment. He also announced that he has received six releases for re-nunciants, but whose names were not given. It will be forward to u us some time this week by Mr. Letts. I am afraid Mr. Letts may hold it until such time that he deem ~~it~~ appropriate to notify. Undoubtly, it will be of a great help if Mr. Blackwell notify us directly rather than hand it to us through Seabrook Farms. We shall appreciate very much if you would make an arrangement so that we be notify our release promptly and directly from Mr. Blackwell himself.

He also announced the new regulation and ruling in connection with the money that individual can and may withdraw monthly. Which is limited to \$180.00 a month, which is a little mild compare to that of thirty dollar at Crystal City; and the rest, if any, will be deposited and blocked at the Local Bank.

As it was an occasion of complaining all the disagreeable condition which prevailing here, I made as many request as possibly can in order to bring better living standard here, and he promised me that he will speak to Mr. Letts, General Manager of the Deerfield Packing Corp., and see the company keep the agreements, which believably made between Dept. of Justice and Seabrook Farms.

However we still request your visiting us at the earliest possible date. Peruvian group also wish your present here, because they are facing a greater difficulty in adjusting their living, as just recently their income tax was ruled as 30%, where as we are required only 20%. One of the Peruvian single man received only four dollar and odd for his last week pay, of course he worked 6 days but 30% deduction for income tax was so hard blow to him that he told me he wish to return to Crystal City now.

As for the matter of Mrs. Yoshiko Matsumura, who attempted to kill herself the other day was discharged from Brageton Hospital on Oct. 19th, and is now being cared at the Seabrook infirmary. She is still depressed and dispirit a great deal by sudden mental disorder. I am calling on her almost every day and she looks very low. I conferred with Miss Chapman, Social worker, concerning Mrs. Matsumura's future problem, and asked her to put Mrs. Matsumura under continual observation; and if she is to be released from infirmary her family should moved to Seabrook main Village where no one point their finger at her, because she may feel ashamed. This request was complied immediately and her family was provided with better housing. I also suggest Miss Chapman to work on clearing her present status because all this insignificant act was committed wholly due to the pressure. I also asked Mr. Blackwell for her release, so there may be some consideration given her case. But I would appreciate very much if you bring this matter up with Mr. Cooley and help clear her case.

43 both renunciants and Alien arrived this morning from Crystal City. They will start work at plant from day after tomorrow. They were much pleased being able to come out here, nevertheless the disappointment was more than that as place is very filthy.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere thanks to you for your many kind favors, and unselfish devotion and aid. It has been certainly been an honor and a pleasure to have enjoyed your legal advise. Hoping to see you in the near future, thanking you very kindly and praying for your health, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Minoru Matsumoto
Minoru Matsumoto

C. O. No. _____

D/J _____
(leave blank)

Your name: _____
Last First Middle

Your birth date: _____
Month Day Year

Place of birth: _____
City State

Your father's full name: _____
Last First Middle

Your father's birth place:
(or legal domicile in Japan) _____
Ward Town or Village

Prefecture

Your father's birth date: _____
Month Day Year

I certify that this information is true
to the best of my knowledge and
belief.

October 22, 1946.

Mr. Minoru James Matsumoto,
C.C.C. Village,
Parvin State Park,
R.D. #1,
Elmer, New Jersey.

Dear Minoru:

I have communicated with Mr. Cooley and informed him of the condition of Mrs. Yoshiko Matsumura and requested him to obtain an immediate release for her and her husband as an emergency case. I do not know what action will be taken in that case but I requested the Attorney General's office to obtain their release in order to prevent a recurrence of the suicide attempt.

Eikichi Sakoda or a member of his family or someone interested in his behalf should immediately obtain the services of an attorney in the vicinity of Bridgeton to ascertain whether or not he will be able to bring a law suit for damages against the driver or owner of the automobile which injured him.

I would thank you to inform me by return mail whether or not any communication that you send to me or I to you are being subject to any censorship by the immigration office or any other office.

I would also thank you to inform me immediately whether or not family groups, including women and children, are comfortably housed either at the C.C.C. Village or at Seabrook Farms quarters. I suggest that you send me brief descriptions of the conditions under which the unattached males are quartered and the family groups. Upon receipt of this information I shall take up the matter with the president of Seabrook Farms and advise him that substantial and comfortable living quarters must be supplied to all persons immediately.

If those conditions are not corrected I shall take whatever steps that may be deemed necessary to correct them.

Shortly after you departed for Seabrook Farms I wrote to the committee members but addressed the communication in care of Seabrook Farms, Bridgeton, New Jersey. I would thank you to advise me immediately whether or not you have received those communications.

Kindly notify me of a telephone number where I can reach committee members who are now working at Seabrook.

In the event you desire to communicate with me by telephone I suggest that you do so and ask the operator to reverse the charges and I shall authorize the payment from this end.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cw

Minoru James Matsumoto,
CCC Village,
R. D. #1 Parvin State Park,
Elmer, N. J.
October 24, 1946.

Mr. Wayne M. Collins,
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.,
San Francisco 4, California.

Dear Mr. Collins:

Receipt is acknowledge of your favor of October 22nd, and in reply I wish to thank you for your prompt service in regards to Mrs. Yoshiko Matsumura's case. She has been released from infirmary here at Seabrook on October 22nd, and now being recuperated at her home. Incidentally, I saw Mr. Matsumura at work today; so, presumably, she must be alone at home. Which, I believe, is very dangerous leaving her alone.

Although Miss Chapman is very kind and thoughtful person; however the Social welfare of Seabrook Farms under which she is employed seems to be just a name only. It does not give much assistance to a person who needs it. As our cases are still undecided, the Dept. of Justice should take care of all our welfare, for instance the case like Mrs. Matsumura. But I am understood she has to pay her own medical care, which I am afraid would cost her considerably. Therefore I would like your information and advice concerning this matter, because quite a few renunciant already has been injured here. Mr. Yoshitaka Fukawa injured his right arm, which was caught in roller. Mr. Akinobu Tsuji was severely burned below his chest by steam. These two, of course, occurred during the working hour, so they are entitle a workman compensation. But accidents of that sort may again occurred in the future. We are very much in need of assurance and protection.

As to the matter of Eikichi Sakoda, who was struck by an automobile other day, is in recovering stage. I am not certain, but I assume he has not hired an attorney to claim the damages against the driver. In my belief he is financially incapable to do so. I shall get in touch with Peruvian representative tomorrow and inform him of your suggestion.

Within my knowledge, our communications are not being censored by any of the authorities, which we feel extremely free.

There are two renunciants family from Crystal City at CCC Village, of course there are quite a few old settler here, but they are not adequately housed. All the family group that came last monday are provided houses at Seabrook Farms Quarters. where is much better accomodation than here.

As for the living conditions of unattached male at CCC Village, 50 persons quarters in 25ft. by 123ft. barrack. Beds are all double decker type. Mattresses are full of bed-bugs. And since there arn't any closet adequately supplied all the clothes are hang around the beds. Suit cases are lying around the floor. And also ~~there~~ arn't any cloth line to hang our washed clothings we dry them inside our barrack. Since we have inadequate hot water system that every time we return from our work it is not enough to supply ~~us~~ all, that some of us has gone without shower for a couple days some time. That's how many of us has caught cold. I caught my cold next day we arrived here and still can't get rid of it. The latrine is unsanitary. On contrast to all of this Seabrook Farms Domatory is very well accomodated that each man is provided with a room. House maid come and clean the place and make your bed every morning.

Mr. Blackwell told me that we should be treated like any other workers. Mr. Letts also promised us that we be accorded same treatment as all the Seabrook employee, and said there is no segregation whatsoever. These promises never has been fulfilled by them. As a spokesman for the group, I have been talking to Mr. Letts in order to make his promise effective, he fail to do so as yet.

Mr. Blackwell informed me last Sturday that he has received five or possibly six releases, but still fail to announce the names of these releasee. Incidentally Mr. Osamu Ted Kobayashi was cllled by his wife in L.A. on telephone, and was informed that he has been released, as yet, final word from Dept. of Justice has not been delivered.

Whenever you call on us by telephone please call Mr. Letts' Office, I am sure he will refer your call to us. I regret to say that am slightly hard of hearing, so kindly call on Mr. Tanemi Obatake with my presence whenever you call us here. Unfortunately Mr. Obatake and I are on different shift of work, I think we can manage wome how.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for many favors and legal services you have been giving us, Praying for your health and happiness, I remain as ever

Respectfully,

Minoru Matsumoto

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SENT TO: Mr. Minoru Matsumoto,
Mr. Tomiji Shono,
Mr. Tanemi Obatake,
Mr. Jim S. Kuromiya

Eachus

October 25, 1946.

I have taken up the question of bad housing with Mr. Cooley and on Monday shall take it up with Mr. Willard Kelly of the Central Immigration Office in Philadelphia. Consequently, I believe that the condition will be rectified as soon as possible.

On Monday I shall check into the question of the income tax assessment of 20 per cent on the renunciants and 30 per cent on the Peruvians and ascertain the basis upon which that arbitrary withholding is based, and I shall notify you and the Peruvians of their rights in connection with that assessment. (I direct your attention, however, to the fact that income tax rates are high on all persons and, especially single persons on the outside.)

As I informed you, I have discussed the case of Yoshiko Matsumura and her husband with Mr. Cooley and it is my expectation that both of them will be released as an emergency case.

Judge St. Sure was ill for a period of ten days and returned to his court for one day. On that day his wife was seriously injured and as a result he has been absent from court since then. Nevertheless, by agreement with Mr. Cooley the cases definitely will be argued on November 13th. Mr. Cooley will come from Washington a day or two in advance in order to enter into stipulations as to certain facts. On the 13th our motions for judgment on the pleading and for summary judgment, including declaratory relief will be argued and submitted to the court for decision and written briefs will be filed.

It is my expectation and hope that at that time or within a few days thereafter the judge will rule favorably on the detention issue and in such an event the Department of Justice will release all renunciants. It may be that a favorable ruling may be made on the citizenship issue also, but whether or not we win the citizenship issue at that time an appeal will be taken either by us or by the government.

Even if we should lose our motions no one will be subject to deportation. If my motions in the habeas corpus case are lost the court, nevertheless, is bound to order the writ of habeas corpus to issue. Whereupon I would have the Department of Justice

ordered to produce each and every renunciant in the case, whether detained at Crystal City or at Seabrook Farms, for immediate hearing on the merits. In such an event I am convinced that the Department of Justice will release a great majority of the renunciants. It is obvious that the Attorney General in such event will not transfer the family units with wives and children to the local detention quarters. Therefore, I believe he would order their immediate release. It is also obvious to me that he would not transfer all of the renunciants from Seabrook Farms to detention quarters here for a hearing because the government would be compelled to defray the expenses of transferring each of them to San Francisco and to maintain them until such time as each person's hearing is held. In consequence, I believe the Attorney General will order a great majority of them, if not all of them, released.

Very truly yours,

R. M. Collins

WMC:cw

October 30, 1946.

Mr. Minoru Matsusoto,
C.C.C. Village,
Parvin State Park,
R.D. #1,
Elmer, New Jersey.

Dear Minoru and Committee Members:

I have made a complaint concerning the bad housing at the C.C.C. Village to Willard Kelley, Esq., who is attached to the office of the Commissioner of Immigration in Philadelphia.

Mr. Kelley informed me by telephone today that he would launch an immediate investigation into the housing conditions and have them corrected so soon as possible.

He informed me that Mr. Blackwell has stated that the renunciants generally were well pleased with their quarters. I assume, however, that Mr. Blackwell was referring to the quarters provided for family units and single persons who had adequate housing facilities on the farm and that his statement in no wise applied to the housing condition at the C.C.C. Village where a majority of the detached renunciants are housed.

In connection with the amount of earnings withheld from the renunciants by the employer, Seabrook Farms, Inc., Mr. Kelley informed me that the normal withholding tax was being deducted from the workers' earnings. If that be the case they are being subjected only to the same amount of withholding tax as it is applied to all persons in the country whoever they may be.

He informed me that pursuant to statute, 30 per cent withholding tax is the normal tax deduction authorized by law in the case of non-resident aliens. He also informed me that the Immigration Service had discussed the question of that tax rate with the Bureau of Internal Revenue in an endeavor to have that department reduce the tax to that rate which is assessed to residents. So far it has had no success in obtaining a reduction. However, James F. Materson, Esq., attorney for Seabrook Farms, Inc., whose office is situated at 1701 Finance Building, 1428 So. Penn. Square, Philadelphia, Pa., is endeavoring to obtain a ruling from the Bureau of Internal Revenue reducing the

tax rate on the Peruvians. It is my opinion that if not successful in this respect that there is a likelihood that the Seabrook Farms, Inc., may make a provision to compensate the Peruvians for the differential in the tax rate. (I am not certain, however, that such a procedure could be followed out.)

All renunciants, aliens and Peruvians employed at Seabrook must be treated on a basis of equality in so far as their employment and living conditions are concerned. Any failure on the employer's part in this respect will constitute a violation of its written agreement with the Immigration Service. All workers are to receive the same rate of pay for given types of work performed, its rates being upon a sliding scale. In other words, each worker is to receive the prevailing rate of pay of his particular work.

If the employer fails to install necessary devices to protect the workers from injury I would be grateful were you to let me know promptly. If the bad housing condition in the C.C.C. Village is not corrected promptly I would thank you to advise me as soon as possible.

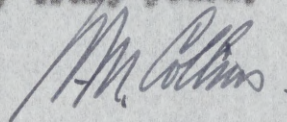
In connection with the injury sustained by Kikichi Sakoda as a result of an automobile accident, I suggest that he discuss his case with the attorney for Seabrook Farms as soon as he is able. It may be that Mr. Sakoda may be able to recover damages for the negligence of the automobile driver.

In the event that you have any complaints concerning the housing or working conditions, I suggest that you notify the district parole officer, H.M. Blackwell in person and also by letter. I suggest that you keep copies of any such letters and that you forward me copies thereof.

I am communicating with Mr. Masterson concerning the withholding tax question above mentioned.

Final arguments in the cases are to be heard before Judge St. Sure on November 13th. Mr. Cooley will arrive here a day or two in advance for the purpose of entering into written stipulations concerning certain facts. Judge St. Sure has not yet returned to court due to his recent illness and to the fact his wife was seriously injured. It is my belief, however, that he will have returned prior to the 13th so that no further delay will be encountered in the cases.

Very truly yours,



October 30, 1946.

Mr. Minoru Matsumoto,
C.C.C. Village,
Parvin State Park,
R.D. #1,
Elmer, New Jersey.

Dear Minoru and Committee Members:

I overlooked answering one of the questions you put to me in your letter of October 24th so I will answer it now. On the form presented to you by Mr. Blackwell asking the place of your father's birthplace or legal domicile in Japan and his birthdate, if any of you have no knowledge of the birthplace of your father or his birthdate there is no need for you to answer it. You can leave that place blank or simply write that you do not know.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cw

October 30, 1948.

Mr. Minoru Matsumoto,
C.C.C. Village,
Parvin State Park,
R.D. #1,
Elmer, New Jersey.

Dear Minoru and Committee Members:

I overlooked answering one of the questions you put to me in your letter of October 24th so I will answer it now. On the form presented to you by Mr. Blackwell asking the place of your father's birthplace or legal domicile in Japan and his birthdate, if any of you have no knowledge of the birthplace of your father or his birthdate there is no need for you to answer it. You can leave that place blank or simply write that you do not know.

Very truly yours,

WMO:cw

*Remained
1946*

Minoru J. Matsumoto,
CCC Village,
Parvin State Park,
R. D. #1,
Elmer, N. J.,
Nov. 8, 1946.

Mr. Wayne M. Collins,
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.,
San Francisco 4, California.

Dear Mr. Collins:

Please be advised that the release orders are had to
following 15 persons including an Alien:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PERMANENT ADDRESS</u>
✓ HIGA, Jisho	Undecided
✓ KAGEURA, Yutaka	"
✓ KIMOTO, Takashi	c/o L. M. Robbins, Rt. 1 Box 94, Suisun, Calif.
✓ KOBAYASHI, Osamu Ted	Remain here at Seabrook Farms
✓ MORISHITA, Yoshiro	5401 Fall Ave. Apt. 2-A Richmond, Calif.
✓ MURAKAWA, Takeo	Undecided
✓ NAKAGAWA, Minoru	"
✓ NEHIRA, Minoru	"
✓ OTA, Minoru	"
✓ OTA, Noboru Jack	Rt. 1 Box 628-A Fresno, Calif.
✓ SAITO, Masao	1206½ 3rd St., Sacramento, Calif.
✓ TSUCHIYA, Yoshio	Undecided
✓ MATSUMURA, Yasoichi	"
✓ " , Yoshiko	"
✓ NAKAMURA, Masataro	<u>Alien</u>

Minoru J. Matsumoto,
Bld. #3 Room 119,
Seabrook Farms,
Brigeton, N. J.,
Nov. 19, 1946.

Mr. Wayne M. Collins,
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.,
San Francisco 4, California.

Dear Mr. Collins:

Just a few line to inform you that we have just moved over to Seabrook main Village, as our former camp was closed up. The housing situation is much better than it was in CCC Village.

Latest releases were received to: Hideo Kaneshiro, Kazuhisa Nakachi, Henry Mittwer, Noboru Fujita, and Yutaka & Tsuyuko Tsurutome.

Please be informed that Takeo Murakawa have left for c/o Mr. S. Hironaka, 1512 6th St., Sacramento, California; and also Mr. & Mrs. Matumura have left for Rt. 2 Box 739, Rincon Ave. Campbell, California.

All of us are anticipating a favorable decision upon our court case, so that we all be set free. Please inform us the result of it as soon as you may do so.

Sincerely yours,

Minoru J. Matsumoto

Among these persons, Mr. Morishita, Mr. Noboru J. Ota and Mr. Saito have left last Wednesday for California. Mrs. Matsumura is well and is now working at the Cafeteria.

Mr. H. M. Blackwell and Mr. Miller?, a gentleman whose name I can not clearly recollect, who is suppose to be Mr. Blackwell's boss have called on this Village yesterday. Evidently the purpose of their visiting here was to make an inspection tour around the Village, in the Barracks, and Latrine. I have not a slightest idea what they have found out, but it seems to me that they were well convinced why we make such a complaint.

It is my expectation that this Village will soon be closed and we all be moved into Seabrook main village. At least, until such a time, this place should be made as a place where man to live. Of course it rectified a little as we are getting a bit more hot water, but as far as living condition is concern, we still cannot consider it has been rectified.

Another problem we would appreciate were you to bring it up to Mr. Kelly and urge his quick delivery, is our individual money which we deposited at Crystal City Internment Camp. Because I have been receiving good many complaints from boys and especially from family group that the money is urgently needed for buying their daily bread and butter. Mr. Blackwell explained to me that it has not sent to him, and so soon as he receives it ~~KEX~~ he will forward to us.

Well, what I have written may be rather scrappy but I want to get this off to you before I report to work. I sincerely hope that the forthcoming court case should ruled favor to us. With our united kind regards, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Minoru J. Matsumura

Minoru J. Matsumoto,
3-119,
Seabrook Farms,
Bridgeton, New Jersey,

December 31, 1946.

Mr. Wayne M. Collins,
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.,
San Francisco 4, California.

Dear Mr. Collins:

Please be informed that all of your letters and a package had reached me safely, and I ought to have answered them long before this. But I have been very busy indeed for the past few weeks, which deferred my correspondence, for I beg you will excuse my apparent neglect.

I wish to thank you for the copies of briefs and affidavits which you have so kind enough to forwarded to us. They were very interesting. I am very much of concern over the forthcoming Courts' decision, for everyone seems bit discouraging. Because the release order has been suspended for a quite long time. Hoping and trusting that the ruling would be in favor for us.

For your information the following 5 releases had ordered to: WADA, Yoshikiyo and MATSUDA, Masao John on Nov. 26, 1946; YAMASHITA, Yoshio and KIMURA, Wataru Jimmy on Dec. 3, 1946; and SAKAGUCHI, Suke George on Dec. 5, 1946. None of us has ordered release since then.

A matter, in accordance with your letter of Dec. 20th that President Truman has an intention to relinquish a number of his war powers, has come to Peruvians' attention. And a question was asked by them as: That they were apprehended and brought to the United States as an Enemy Alien status was by all mean exercised by the Presidential Power of the United States. As to the effect, if and when, President of the United States relinquish a number of his war powers, would it not be possible to accelerate their return to Peru by making the most of this occasion? Of course, whether of not their return to Peru wholly depend upon the diplomatic negotiation between the United States Government and Peruvian Government, but they feel that the time has come

to open such a negotiation in full strength; and it is also their hope that this Government should apply the progressive diplomatic talent, or put pressure upon that Government in order that these people will return to Peru at the earliest possible moment. A quite number of these people has become very much concern over their lay-aside property and many years of absent they are afraid if further delay should occurred or prevented their return for an interval it will cause them more disadvantage on re-establishing the business in Peru. I will appreciate, therefore, were you to write and inform me the latest development regarding their case.

Thanking you in advance, and wishing you a Happy New Years, I remain as ever

Very truly yours,

Minoru J. Katsumata

Minoru Matsumoto
Seabrook Farms
Feb. 17, 1947

Mr. Wayne M. Collins,
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Collins:

A rumor has it that the people in Crystal City internment camp have offered a parole to his or her family, or to a person who assume responsibility. Could you be kind enough to give us an information in this connection?

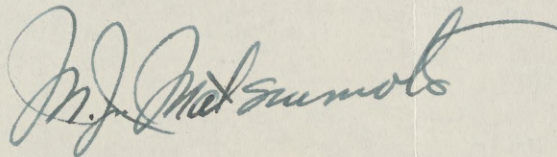
Because, release is being suspended for quite awhile, we are very much concern by hearing this rumor. And we construe if such a things or privilege should accord to them, we consider that it would accord to us here in Seabrook Farms, too.

Please check it up with Mr. Shimizu and inform us at your earliest possible time.

Work is very slack recently that most of us work only 20 hours a week just enough to meet the daily living. It would also mean that the family group are facing a difficulties.

Awaiting your reply to this note, I am

Sincerely,

Minoru Matsumoto

Seabrook, N.J.
March 11, 1947

Dear Mr. Collins:

Mr. Isao Kushi, renunciant, is returning to Crystal City of his own volition. He undertook this action rather than work at the job assigned to him at the plant. His prior actions in absenting himself from work for a period of five weeks and working for a private individual in Bridgeton was taken as a violation of parole. Mr. Fistere, personel director, wordered him to either work or go back to Crystal. Mr. Kushi asked if there was an opening in the garage, and after he was informed that there was no opening, he decided to go back to Crystal.

Mr. Ohara, immigration case alien, has received a letter from Mr. Besig to the effect that he will be taken to San Francisco for removal to Japan. Mr. Besig has advised Mr. Ohara to inform him as soon as definite information of his date of departure from Seabrook and date of arrival in Sanf Francisco is available.

Several of the boys are interested in becoming members of the American Civil Liberties Union, Northern Calif. Branch., and would you be kind enough to forward our request for application blanks to the A.C.L.U.

Business at Seabrook is very dull and after a few weeks of twenty five hours per week, we had another one week vacation. The whole frozen food industry appears to be badly depressed. The coming season is not anticipated to be anything nearly as good as last season.

Yours truly,

Minoru Matsumoto
Tanemi Obatake
Minoru Matsumoto
Tanemi Obatake

Seabrook, N.J.
March 12, 1947

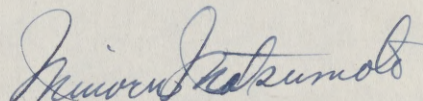
Dear Mr. Collins:

After dispatching the letter dated March 11, Mr. Isao Kushi had a change of heart and requested me to intercede in his behalf and secure a re-instatement of parole. Inasmuch as his actions would prejudice the welfare of the whole renunciant group, I exacted promises that he would agree to all conditions and conduct himself worthy of the confidence of the group and the company; and undertook the responsibility of negotiating a re-consideration.

Early this morning, Mr. Kushi was ordered by the Seabrook police to prepare for departure to Crystal City, via Chicago by rail thence to Texas by air. The Immigration Department had completed all formalities such as revocation of parole and etc. Later in the morning I contacted Mr. Fistere, personnel director, and after presenting Mr. Kushi's case; Mr. Fistere, with my recommendation, agreed to re-employ Mr. Kushi, providing the Immigration Department would consent. After a telephone conference with Mr. Blackwell, detention officer, the Immigration Department gave their consent with the requirement that a written request for re-instatement be drawn up and signed. This re-instatement request is enclosed with this letter. Mr. Kushi submitted his signed request and promised good conduct in the future.

Mr. Kushi appears to be sincere in his feelings, and I trust that this will be the last of this unfortunate affair. Incidentally, Mr. Kushi is not a petitioner in our habeas corpus and equity suits, so his actions are not as detrimental to our case.

Yours truly,



MINORU MATSUMOTO

Mr. Isao James Kushi
Seabrook New Jersey.

March 12, 1947

Mr. Harold S. Fistere,
Personel Director,
Deerfield Packing Corporation,
Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Fistere:

Since I talked to you last Monday, at which time I asked to be returned to Crystal City, I have given my decision considerable thought and now request that I be permitted to remain on parole to your company and to continue employment by your company.

If I am permitted to continue as a parolee, I agree that I will abide by all conditions of that parole; and I further agree that whenever I am scheduled to work I will report for work on time and that I will willingly and cheerfully do to the best of my ability the job assigned me. I further agree that I will report to Miss Dorothy Chapman at the Company recreation building each evening at 8:00 P.M. until I am relieved of this responsibility by the Company or the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service. I further agree that I will not leave the premises of the Deerfield Packing Corporation or Seabrook Farms without prior permission in writing signed by the Personnel Director of the Company.

I realize that in the past I have broken my parole, and I reaffirm my statement that in the future I will abide by all of the conditions of the parole.

Signed Isao James Kushi

cc; Mr. H.M. Blackwell
James Matsumoto - Spokesman
Mr. Allen Palmer
Isao James Kushi
File

Seabrook Farms,

Feb. 23, 1947

Mr. H. Pistere,
Personnel Director,
Seabrook Farms,
Seabrook, N. J.

Dear Sir:

As we have agreed at the previous meeting that \$50. deposit of individual is to be refunded to us. Of which one half the amount (\$25.) have been refunded and remaining (\$25.) is still being on deposit. The circumstances which are prevailing at present as our income has been limited by the slack work, this sum of \$25. is urgently needed by boys now.

Therefore, I must remind you of your promise at the said meeting and hope you will give it your early attention.

Sincerely,

H. J. Matsumoto
Spokesman for group

CC: Mr. H. M. Blackwell

Minoru J. Matsumoto,
Seabrook Farms,
Seabrook, N. J.

Feb. 28, 1947.

Mr. H. M. Blackwell,
Chief, Detention Deportation
& Parole Section,
I & S Service,
42 S. 15th St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Since Mr. Letts severed his connections with the Company, the question arises as to his successor in the capacity of liasson representative.

Owing to the constant emergency nature of our needs, it is of utmost importance that the succeeding liasson representative be readily and immediately available for consultation. In this respect Mr. Letts was unsatisfactory because we never knew of his whereabouts, and found it hard to contact. Also we would object to anyone who has large responsibilities at the plant, since he would continually be absent and difficult to locate. We would like to suggest someone who is working at the Community House since it is more convenient and more accessible.

I am enclosing a carbon copy of memo which I am sending to Mr. Fistere concerning the remainder of our deposit.

Very truly yours,

Minoru J. Matsumoto,
Spokesman for renunciant
and alien group

March 14, 1947.

Mr. Minoru Matsumoto,
Mr. Tanemi Obatake,
c/o Seabrook Farms,
Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Dear Minoru and Tanemi:

I have received your letter of March 11th stating that Isao Kushi preferred to return to Crystal City rather than work at a job assigned to him in the plant. It seems to me that Mr. Kushi is very unwise in giving up employment at Seabrook. It would seem to me that he could obtain some type of work at Seabrook which he would be satisfied.

I regret to learn that employment at Seabrook has not been steady. It is my opinion, however, that we shall have a decision by the court ordering a release from detention either this month or by the middle of next month.

I am requesting Mr. Besig to send you a number of applications for membership in the Northern California American Civil Liberties Union which you request in your letter.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cw

Seabrook, New Jersey
March 15, 1947

Dear Mr. Collins:

I contacted Mr. Mirikidani and found that Mr. Mirikidani has not joined the habeas corpus or equity suits. He was advised by his cousin not to take any legal steps. His cousin, Richard Mirikidani, is a judge of the Federal District Court in Hawaii. However, he will write to his cousin again to ask his opinion.

Mr. Shiga is a petitioner in our cases.

U.S. Active
You will find enclosed with this letter statements of earnings of Mr. Kihachiro Saiki. Since these records are of value to Mr. Saiki, would you be kind enough to return them when you are through with them. The dates are not very legible, but I have pencilled the dates. I believe the other items are self explanatory. The receipts for deposits are for refunds of the fifty dollars which were deducted for deposit during last year.

Mr. Shiga will make the photos of Storm at Tule, and they will reach you shortly.

Yours truly,

Minoru Matsumoto
MINORU MATSUMOTO

Seabrook Farms, April 16, 1947

Dear Mr. Collins,

This is to inform you that Masami Eddie Kobayashi, renunciant, and Rikimatsu Hideshima, Alien, received their release orders former on April 11 and latter on April 17.

As releases are coming in very reluctantly and it were as no other than for the Hoshi-dan boys the feelings of the boys from Tule Lake becoming somewhat confuse over the attitude that the Dept. of Justice taking. Because that they are no worse than the Hoshi-dan boys insofar as the status is concern. As a matter of fact a good many of Tule boys feel that they would never had been in such a predicament if there was no intimidations and coercions exercised by Hoshi-dan.

All thses complains are of dangerous to perturb the morals, even it is bad enough to impair the boys feelings as company did not keep their peomise-the promise which assured us a year around work.

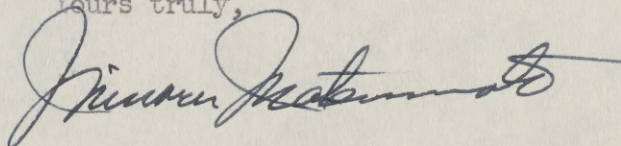
Because I am very much anxious to soothe their displeased minds, I feel it is of a paramount importance to approach Mr. Cooley now rather than an irreparable thing has occurred, of course I hope it would not occure.

We are appreciating your continueous efforts and we hope that the decision of our complaints shall reach favorable toward us in an earliest possible time. But if the decision should dragged on as was in the past, I feel that we ought to consider some other measure in order to be released all of us. For instance, as my mere suggestion, we can solicit our employer, Mr. C. F. Seabrook, to testify in our behalf, as I underatand he is an influencial person in Politic; and he is, if willing to do, can affirm our behaviour here at his Farms.

We all should be considered as a hardship cases because in the educational point of view we couldn't on account of the evacuation obtained the kind of education we wanted which otherwise might had acquired; and detaining us may also cause hardship for our future life.

Your kind attention to the matters shall be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,



Seabrook Farms, May 6, 1947

Dear Mr. Collins:

Arrived safely in Philadelphia at 6:30 P. M. which was about three hours hind scheduling time, because our plane had to ground for a couple hours due to the odd weather in the Central West.

I met George on Saturday morning, and delivered him your messages. He left for New York in that afternoon.

Very unfortunate thing occurred here during my absent. That is Fujio Iseri one of renunciant was removed from here to Crystal or probably in some detention station at this vicinity. Fistere informed me that he was a person with a bad character and he threatened some of the timekeeper. During a long vacation he refused to report to work and I talk to him and finally made him ~~work~~, but then it implied to me that Fistere disliked his behaviour and hated a person who can't keep a good conduct.

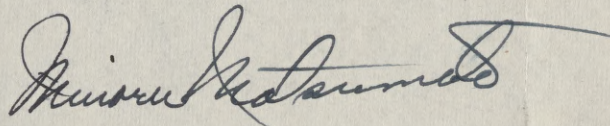
I am sorry that I couldn't do anything in his behalf, but even if I had stayed here I doubt it would not had been happened.

I explained the matters concerning ~~to~~ the Peruvian, and they were quite satisfied. Maneko left for California yesterday. About an injuered Person George will talk to Blackwell to find out the development.

Asparagus production has just began, so that we may have full time employment from now. I am glad that it will solve a part of our problems.

I shall inform you right along about the condition here.

Very truly yours,



Minoru J. Matsumoto,
Seabrook Community House,
Bridgeton, N. J.

May 31, 1947.

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

Dear Mr. Collins:

Pertaining to your letter of May 26th which stated the person who have been renounced Japanese Nationality or who have never been registered as Japanese citizen should immediately write to Dept. of Justice together with an evidence to show cause thereof. There are quite a few beside those of names you sent have claimed that they have never been registered as Japanese citizen, although they made a statement that they are dual citizen at the time of renunciation hearing. These persons possess nothing to proof themselves.

What would be the case of these persons, should they still write to Dept. of Justice?

It is my suggestion that you send some kind of form for them to fill in, and send to Dept. of Justice. Because numbers of them are not able to write a letter in English and those who are able may not be available for weary from work.

I am planing to leave here within a few days, for

Very truly yours,

Minoru J. Matsumoto

COPY SENT:

Yoshio Shibata,
Shigeru Morinaka,
Tomiji Shono,
Matao Uwate,
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

WAYNE M. COLLINS,
Attorney at Law,
1721 Mills Tower,
220 Bush Street,
San Francisco 4, Calif.
Garfield 1218.

June 4, 1947

Mr. Minoru Matsumoto,
Mr. Iwao Shimizu,
Alien Internment Camp,
Crystal City, Texas.

c/o Seabrook Farms,
Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Dear Committee Members:

Answering Minoru Matsumoto's letter of May 31st concerning renunciants who claim their births were never registered in Japan or at a Japanese consular office for the purpose of entitling them to Japanese citizenship:

(1) Those who at any time renounced Japanese nationality should notify Mr. Rothstein immediately. If they have any records to show such a renunciation they should send those records to him with the request that when he has had them translated they are to be returned to the sender.

(2) If a renunciant does not have any written records or documents to prove he renounced Japanese nationality he can send Mr. Rothstein a letter informing him of the time and place where he renounced Japanese nationality. If a parent, relative or friend was present at the time of renunciation of Japanese nationality a letter from that person can be obtained and sent to Mr. Rothstein.

(3) If any renunciant knows that his birth was not registered at a Japanese consul's office he should write Mr. Rothstein and inform him of that fact. If he has no documentary evidence to prove he was not registered he can obtain a letter from his father, mother or other relative who knows that he was never registered.

(4) If any renunciant made a statement at his renunciation hearing at Tule Lake or elsewhere that he was a dual citizen he should write Mr. Rothstein that he did so because he was mistakenly informed that all Japanese descended persons were dual citizens and that he was coerced by groups in that camp to say that he was a dual citizen. He can also state that since then he has learned that he is not and could not be a dual citizen and that he no longer is under coercion or compulsion and now is free to state that he is not a dual citizen and that he claims to be an American citizen.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cw