

27

Jule Lake Defense Committee

Correspondence

1946

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

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January 25, 1946

Mr. Ivan Williams,
Officer in Charge,
Tule Lake Center,
Newell, California.

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed find the complete list of names of the petitioners and plaintiffs involved in the Tule Lake habeas corpus and equity proceedings sent pursuant to our telephone conversation of this afternoon.

My lists disclose that there are six persons by the name of Sakai involved in said proceedings namely:

Teruko Sakai, Block No. 6904-D
Hiroshi Sakai, Block No. 1304-A
Harry Masakatsu Sakai, Block No. 6904-C
Howard Minoru Sakai, Block No. 1304-A
Sumi Sakai, Block No. 6904-C-D and
Masayoshi Sakai, Block No. 3013-D.

I have no record of anyone named "Sakai Sakai" mentioned in your telegrams of the 18th and the 25th of this month.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cnw

Jan. 31, 1946
Newell, California

Iex Nakamura
% American Civil Liberties Union
San Francisco, Calif.

Here are the list of names of the workers
for the Personal Mail.

1. Haruyo + Yoshiyo Furuta - 1204-D
2. Kathryn Tanaka - 3218-C
3. Sadako + Takako Kawahara - 5412-E
4. Miyoko Uyeno - 5413-C
5. Peggy Sakurada - 718-D
6. Alice Izuhashi - 8202-G
7. Miyoko Gekko - 4102-B
8. Kiyoko Inuchi - 4113-D
9. Lilhi Hirota - 4115-D
10. Alice Kozaike - 4606-K
11. Tujomi Hata - 4514-D
12. Chieko Kawata - 4703-B
13. Insayo Kunizawa - 4616-D
14. Masako Horikawa - 7013-B
15. Helen Ikejiri - 7012-A
16. Misako ~~Ray~~ Arima - 802-C
(Relocated to Los Angeles.)
17. Annabelle Nakashima - 4218-A
18. Gladys Nakashima - 4218-B

Sincerely
Eddie

Fujii, Masashi	13
Morimoto, Shigeyuki	3902D
Nishikawa, Masuo	4606, A
Osako, Masami	519 E
Sakamoto, Kiyoto	1918 A
Takemoto, Frank Mitsugai	4404 E
Tateishi, Stanley Kazutami	1306 C
Kawase, Kenji	3618 F
Koto, Kichiya	2116 A
Fukawa, Yoshitaka	3605 A
Inazu, Daiso	902 B
Maki, Yoneo	1214 A
Morioka, Hideo	6812 A
Nakamichi, Katsumi	5302 A
Oda, Minoru	6 4613 D
Oshita, Eiji	3618 D
Ota, Atsuyuki	8007 E
Takai, Mikio Jack	519 A
Yagami, Kiyomi	7501 C
Sakamoto, Hayato	1004 A

Gekko, Miyoko	4102 AB
Kozaiku, Alice Akiye	4519 E
Furuta, Haruye	1205 C
Furuta, Yoshiye	1205 C
Hata, Kiyomi	4514 D
Hirota, Lily Sadaye	4115 D
Horikawa, Masako	7013 B
Izuhara, Masayo	8202 C
Kawahara, Sadako	5412 F
Kawahara, Takako	5412 EF
Kawata, Chiyeko	4703 B
Kunisawa, Fusaye	4616 C
Nakashima, Yukiko	4217 A
Nakashima, Yasuko	4217 A
Sakurada, Mitsuye Peggy	413 D
Sugiyama, Nao	2619 D
Tanakay Toshiko Katherine	3519 C
Tsuchii, Kiyoko	4113 D
Uyeno, Mieko	5413 AB

COPY

February 18, 1946.

*Committee
New*

Mr. Kazuto Kenneth Takeuchi,
Barrack 10,
Alien Internment Camp,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Kenneth:

I am informed by Mr. Burling that the mitigation hearings in your camp either have been finished or are about to be finished.

I would thank you to notify me whether or not the hearings have been completed and I would also thank you to inform me whether or not you have received the sample forms of letters I sent to you which unsuccessful renunciants are to use in applying for re-hearings.

As renunciants in your camp receive notification either that they are to be released or that they received unfavorable recommendations, I would thank you to inform me of their names as rapidly as possible. All of the persons who have sent me questionnaire forms in your camp are to be included as plaintiffs in the equity cases which were filed in the Federal District Court in San Francisco by consent of Mr. Burling, the newly appointed chief litigation attorney for the Department of Justice who is to defend those suits.

It is probable, although not yet definitely decided by the Department of Justice, that the renunciants who are not successful in obtaining their releases through their mitigation hearings may be transferred from Tule Lake and Bismarck to the Alien Internment Camps at Santa Fe, New Mexico and Crystal City, Texas. The transfer will be only for the purpose of convenience due to the fact that the government intends to close out Tule Lake and Bismarck. Such a transfer to Santa Fe or any other camp will not jeopardize the rights of any of the persons who are included in these court cases. So I ask you and your committee members to notify the interested persons in your camp of these facts.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cnw

Newell, Calif.
February 21, 1946

Dear Tex:

Sorry it took so long to have these names checked up but the reason was in getting the employers names that made me delay. I hope this list will give you the information you are looking for. I believe Eddie took the list of Personnel Mess employees so if he hasn't given you the list ask him about it.

I heard from Kimura that Mr. Collins is coming up next week here and I think that would be a good idea since all the boys wants to know whats going to happen to them and wondering what Mr. Collins is doing about the thing. We told them that who are in the case will not be moved from here but Dept. of Justice have told them yesterday that probably they will be sent to Santa Fe.

It seem lot of the caucasians are encouraging the persons to join up with Wirin since Mr. Collins is only interested in the money angle. Ross and Noyes are giving out information to join up with Wirin since he will take it up for nothing or something of that nature. There is a talk going around that when Wirin does come up here the W. R. A. is going to allow him to use the hospital for the meeting place. I guess Noyes and few other guys are trying their darndest to get even with Mr. Collins. I think that article in the papers and Civil Liberties Union article have made them sore at Mr. Collins and Besig.

Well Tex I hope in the near future I will be able to come up and see you in Frisco.

Very truly yours,

Harry Uchida
Harry Uchida
2905.D
Newell, Calif.

NEWELL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Newell, California

February 21, 1946

Mr. Wayne M. Collins
1721 Mills Tower
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

Re: Kimi Katsura	FN 13586
Hideko Kawasaki	FN 22361
Tomiko Kawasaki	FN 22361
Tomie Ryono	FN 42079
Hanae Kato	FN 26448

Please accept my deep appreciation for your unselfish effort to undertake the most difficult task in defense of renunciants at Tule Lake. I am an Issei and not directly involved in the matter, but as a doctor I am concerned about the medical effect of their impending internment on several young girls who are among the detainee group. I am writing this in their behalf. It is not necessary to mention that these misguided girls are innocent victims, but misjudged by certain hearing officers who recommended them for deportation.

Having fought against threats and pressures, these girls are finally separated from their parents. Still bewildered, they have lived in their empty apartments alone for several weeks with the one hope of release from camp, if necessary, by your legal action.

Ever since their names appeared in the deportee list they have been anxious and worried, waiting impatiently for some legal action to stop internment. The idea of internment is horrible for any man and woman; but so far there has been no action as the days go by. They have become very apprehensive of impending danger. In extreme situations some people may be able to adjust themselves, but some will not be able to cope with their difficulties. Such adjustment is more difficult for young girls whose psychological structures are still in the formative and plastic stage. And now that their parents are gone, each

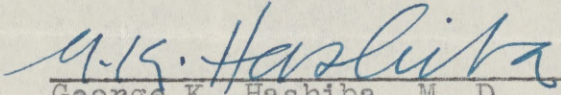
of them, with very little experience in worldly matters, must make adjustments by their own strength. That each will be able to do this is open to question.

Yesterday they were summoned by the Department of Justice and informed that the internment would be carried out within a few days. They were visibly shocked. They were pitifully dejected, and there were indications of impending mental disaster.

These possibilities are not fantastic, as shown by the several cases that have occurred in Tule Lake Center over just such situations. About six weeks ago, because of anguish and anxiety over the possibility of deportation, Mrs. Fudetani developed an acute psychosis-neurosis and killed one of her children with a hammer and struck another with it. She is now in a state institution. Mr. Shimazu, worried over the impending separation from his sons who had renounced, took a quantity of gasoline in an attempt to commit suicide. Mrs. Kito took "pills" to do away with herself because of the possibility of deportation. These are a few of the cases we have had as the direct result of worry over the possible deportation.

I am very fearful of repetition of such incidents if some measures are not taken at once before the internment of these girls becomes an actual fact. In the interest of justice and for the protection of these girls from possible mental disaster--and since many of these girls are your clients--I beg of you, as their legal counsel, immediate effective action to stop internment.

Sincerely yours,


George K. Hashiba, M. D.

GKH:cdj

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
February 21, 1946

Thomas Parran, Surgeon-General
U.S. Public Health Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed with this short letter, please note a copy of my plea to Honorable Tom Clark, Attorney General of the Department of Justice, in behalf of some 450 renunciants who were recommended to be removed to Japan or to another camp for internment. The predicament that these young people are facing today is a very serious one, due to the extreme mental strain prevalent within this group. These youthful people have been interned for the past four years, regardless of their rights as United States Citizens and have, due to resentment, renounced their American Nationality. Being a physician, I am able to diagnose the motivating factors which are leading many within this group to the near breaking point. In order to prevent further cases of mental illnesses within this group, I have strongly requested that the Justice Department offer immediate rehearings for the people detained here.

As a physician and as a servant of the ill and suffering, may I ask you, Surgeon-General, for your influence in supporting my urgent plea to the Department of Justice. My letter has the wholehearted sympathy of the medical and administrative staff of this camp. In our common work for the struggling, I beg your encouragement in my earnest endeavor in defense of these despondent and heart-broken people.

I thank you kindly for the past noble efforts of your staff in behalf of the residents of this Center. I hope to hear from you soon and please accept my gratitude for your attention.

Very sincerely yours,

Paul K. Yamauchi, M. D.
Newell Community Hospital
Newell, California

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
February 21, 1946

Hon. Tom Clark
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:

May I introduce myself as a Doctor of Medicine on the medical staff in the Tule Lake camp. I have renounced my United States Nationality while living under the tension prevalent within the confines of this center. I am writing this strong request to you as a physician in behalf of some 450 renunciants who were recommended by your office to be removed to Japan or to again be transferred to an internment camp.

To tell you a little of my background, I was born and raised in American of alien parents and through the untiring efforts of my father and mother was fortunate enough to receive a fine, highly specialized American education in the technical line of medicine. I am a graduate of the University of California Medical School, and my scholastic and character record may be further investigated by contacting the authorities of the said school. Because of the wonderful opportunities offered me as a student in medicine and later as a Doctor of Medicine in these United States, I felt a strong obligation and appreciation of my country--to such an extent did I feel this love for America that upon feeling the tremendous reverberation of an international struggle imminent, I volunteered my services and applied for a commission as a Medical Officer in the United States Army Medical Reserve Corps in March of 1941. After volunteering my services in the then peace-time America, I received no news of acceptance from the authorities in Washington. Although a bit discouraged at the policy followed by the United States Army, I again volunteered my services--this time a few days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Upon again not being accepted, I was deeply disheartened, as many of my Caucasian classmates were granted commissions within the Medical Reserve Corps. This disheartenment plus the mass evacuation of myself, my family, and all of the Japanese residing on the West Coast led to embitterment on my part because of the manner in which my country had forsaken me after my ardent efforts to serve in the great struggle in behalf of the ideals of democracy. This action of the United States in interning her own citizens had so upset me as to the value of one's citizenship, that in the early part of 1945 I renounced my United States nationality, because my rights as an American citizen were denied to me, as was my

Hon. Tom Clark-2-February 21, 1946

acceptance in the United Armed Services, Had the United States Army accepted my voluntary application, I would have been serving to this day and never been in the position that I find myself at present.

I was given a mitigation hearing last month in regards to my renunciation; and at the said hearing, I presented to the officer in charge a letter from Major Roy W. Asbury from Fort Douglas, stating that my application to the Reserve Medical Officer's Corps is on record at the Adjutant General's Office in Washington. Upon presenting this fact and explaining my reasons for renouncing my United States Nationality, my hearing officer understandingly realized the reasons for my past action. I am of the belief that because of the manner in which I presented my case and because of my past experience which I fully explained to my hearing officer, that he has recommended to you my release from internment in the near future.

Upon personally observing the actual life of internment in Tule Lake, and I being directly concerned, I feel that I can well understand the reasons for so many young people to renounce the citizenship of their birth. Their reasons for renouncing, as were mine, was not because of a feeling of disloyalty to this their native land; but a conviction that because of their past treatment, that it would never again be possible for them to become a part of American society. I, as well as all of my co-workers, were of high hopes that all of these young people who renounced their United States Nationality as an act of resentment to evacuation, and who desire to remain in this country, would be permitted to do so. Unfortunately, and to the surprise of all concerned, on February 12, a long list of about 450 renunciants was issued by your office, asking that the listed names be removed to Japan or to an internment camp. Included in this list were my two younger brothers who have never been to Japan and many young girls. I am able to inform you truthfully as a physician that all of these young people who are included on this list are at present living under extreme mental strain and nervous tension. As you probably can imagine, these people have been undergoing long periods of uncertainty and unrest for many years, and I am of the belief that some may find it unbearable to undergo more periods of such turmoil.

I have been working as a medical officer for the evacuees since May of 1942 and have in my work constantly been in close contact with the mental and physical conditions prevalent among

Hon. Tom Clark-3-February 21, 1946

these people. I have experienced many cases of mental illnesses which have occurred as a result of the abnormal conditions current in these areas of confinement. The one case that stands out foremost in my mind as a doctor in a responsible position for the health and well-being of these people, is that of a 28 year old mother of two children, Mrs. Shigeno Fudetani. She was one of the many who renounced her American Nationality on the usual grounds of resentment due to evacuation. She had expressed a reconsideration of her case in order that she may remain in America to raise her family of two children. Because of the long period of uncertainty and worry as to the granting of her desire, she finally on December 5, 1945, went completely out of her mind and brutally murdered her three year old daughter, Sumiko, attacking the small child with a hammer in the most savage manner imaginable. Several large hammer blows were evident on the little girl's head, which resulted in a large hole in the left frontal area of her skull, showing macerated brain tissue exuding from the opening. As both the child and the insane mother were under our supervision at the hospital I have been fully informed as to the reasons for this young woman's actions. The sight of this pathetic incident has moved me greatly and has prompted my writing this letter to you. I personally acted as one of the attending physicians at Mrs. Fudetani's commitment to an institution. At the commitment, her own brother (a sergeant in the army from the Pacific front) testified in Mrs. Fudetani's behalf and informed the court that this long period of confinement plus the many periods of mental distress, worry, and uncertainty, led to the insanity of his sister. This case is but one of the many mental illnesses that have come to my attention as a physician working for the people. There have been instances of suicides and attempted suicides motivated by mental disorders due to abnormal living conditions in camp.

Because of my past experience here in the position that I find myself, I am deeply concerned over these 450 renunciants who are to be transferred in the near future to an internment camp. I strongly feel that it is very possible that other serious cases of this effect may befall individuals who find themselves again facing the trying condition of living a life of extreme worry and distress. Therefore, as a doctor knowing the mental condition of many involved under your jurisdiction, I beg that you take immediate action by holding another rehearing for these people at your very earliest convenience. These people on the detainee list are now more than ever before under extreme mental strain, which I think has potentialities

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of leading to more tragedies which I know you, as well as all of us, wish to avert if humanly possible. Kindly accept my earnest plea, and I pray that action will be taken in behalf of these unfortunate and bewildered young people. As the condition of those involved is desperate, I strongly hope that my urgent request to you, Honorable Sir, will meet your favorable attention. In order that I may relieve to a degree the anxiety of the detainees, a reply from you soon would be truly appreciated. I thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Your sincerely yours,

Paul K. Yamauchi, M. D.
Newell Community Hospital
Newell, California

WAYNE M. COLLINS

ATTORNEY AT LAW
MILLS TOWER, 220 BUSH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE GARFIELD 1218

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February 25, 1946.

Dr. George K. Hashiba, M.D.,
Newell Community Hospital,
Newell, California.

Dear Dr. Hashiba:

I have received your letter of February 21st concerning the predicament of Kimi Katsura, Hideko Kawasaki, Tamiko Kawasaki, Tomiye Ryono and Hanae Kato.

The list upon which the names of the girls you mention appears is not a deportation list. It is simply a tentative list of persons who have received temporary unfavorable recommendations following their mitigation hearings. It is not a final list.

The Department of Justice is expected to conclude its hearings in Bismarck this week and the hearings in Santa Fe and Crystal City shortly thereafter. As detainees at Bismarck and Santa Fe are released those releases may affect the rights of other detainees on the Tule Lake list to releases from detention. In addition, there is good reason to believe that the review board in Washington will review the files in each case where an unfavorable recommendation has been made.

Each of the girls whose names you have mentioned should go to the defense committee or to Larry Kataoka, 603-D, immediately, if they have not already done so, and have a letter sent on behalf of each of them to Hon. Tom Clark, Attorney General, Washington, D.C., applying for a re-hearing. This is a necessary step to be taken inasmuch as such a procedure may be proved in court at a later date.

It is expected that the Tule Lake Center will be closed on or about March 15th although, as yet, no final determination on the part of the Department of Justice has been made on this point. The Tule Lake Center is and has been an internment camp ever since October of 1945 when the custody of the detainees passed from the WRA to the Department of Justice. The WRA has been permitted, simply as a matter of convenience, to continue the management of the camp.

It is expected that the persons whom the Department of Justice finally refuses to release from detention may be transferred to the Santa Fe internment camp and there be held along with the transferees from Bismarck until such time as the court determines the cases. A transfer to Santa Fe does not mean that the persons to be transferred and detained are to be deported. No person will be deported until and unless the court cases are lost and then only in the event that the Attorney General at that time is authorized to deport. In the event that we win the cases, deportation will be impossible and all persons will be released from detention and their citizenship rights may be recovered.

I appreciate your statements concerning the psychological effect upon persons who are presently interned, and I am doing my best to safeguard the rights of all those whom I represent. The legal issues will be determined as rapidly as possible as soon after the maximum number of persons obtain their releases following their mitigation hearings.

I would be grateful were you to inform each of the girls that she is not in any danger of deportation at the present time and if any of them should be transferred to Santa Fe or Crystal City that their rights will not be jeopardized by reason of their transfer and that their legal rights will be determined within a reasonable period of time.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cnw

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February 26, 1946.

Dr. George K. Hashiba, M.D.,
Newell Community Hospital,
Tule Lake Center,
Newell, California.

Dear Dr. Hashiba:

I had assumed from your letter of February 21st that the four young ladies whom you mentioned were probably your hospital assistants and not patients.

Inasmuch as your statements concerning the possible effects of internment upon them might well be taken into consideration by the Attorney General, I suggest that you write directly to Hon. Tom Clark, Attorney General of the United States, Department of Justice Building, Washington, D.C., requesting their release from detention on the medical grounds set forth in your letter of February 21st to me. It is my opinion that such a letter from you on their behalf might well cause the Attorney General's reviewing board to pass favorably upon their applications for release.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cnw

copy

March 2, 1946.

Dr. George K. Hashiba, M.D.,
Newell Community Hospital,
Tule Lake Center,
Newell, California.

Dear Dr. Hashiba:

I have been informed that there is a likelihood that you may visit Washington for the purpose of pleading with the Attorney General on behalf of releases from detention for a number of persons confined in Tule Lake.

The Department of Justice has been informed of the serious psychological effects detention has had and still has on the internees. The Department is giving consideration to the question of releases for all internees in Tule Lake, Bismarck, Santa Fe and Crystal City. Mr. John L. Burling of the Department of Justice, with whom I am in constant touch inasmuch as he is defending the suits for the Department, informs me that my proposals, repeatedly made for a release of all persons, is under consideration by the Hon. Tom C. Clark, the Attorney General, who alone is empowered to make the decision as to a general release of all persons. The pressure of the cases is a big factor which will be given consideration on the matter.

Habeas corpus suits test the right of the Government to detain. The Attorney General has the power to detain even if the Government loses the habeas corpus suits in the district court. He can detain pending appeal in the appellate courts although no one can predict whether he would do so in the event the Government lost in the district court. Suits in equity are required to restore citizenship. I represent approximately 1,500 persons in the equity suits, the persons being from Tule Lake, Bismarck and Santa Fe, and approximately 1,200 in habeas corpus. In excess of 2,000 internees already have been released and a great many more will be released if not all of them. When a person is released his habeas corpus suit ends but the equity suit for each person goes on, consequently, if all persons are released the Government still faces individual trials for each one in equity. Because of the large number in the equity suits the Government, that is, the Attorney General, must consider that if he refuses to release everyone I still insist on separate hearings for each of the 1,500 person in the equity suits and for

those in habeas corpus who have not been released. The enormous amount of time and trouble involved in the trial of such a large number of cases is the real pressure which has already resulted in the release of a large number of renunciants and will result in the release of a majority if not all of them within a short period of time. I have informed the Department that I will insist on individual trials for everyone I represent unless it is willing to release everyone. I have informed him that if all are released I will be willing to sit down with the lawyers of the Department and we can arrange to try the equity suits on a different basis than individual trials. If successful in these negotiations no person will run the risk of deportation but will be released and the only thing then remaining at stake will be the restoration of citizenship issue. If these negotiations fail the court will have to pass on the detention issue for those then detained, if any, and the citizenship issue for them and also for the released persons.

No one can predict what views the courts are going to take in the cases. If all can be released before the trials obviously none of them will be deported and the recovery of citizenship only will be at stake. If all are not released and the Government should win the case in the district court the Attorney General can deport without waiting for a determination by an appellate court or hold them for deportation depending upon the final decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is my belief that all renunciants will be released because of the problems that confront the Attorney General in trying such a large number of cases and in paying for the support and maintenance of detainees pending a final court decision. Every bit of favorable publicity that attends our efforts and every protest that can be made to the Attorney General against detention aids the cause of each person in Tule, Bismarck, Santa Fe and Crystal City who has not yet been released.

No final decision has yet been made by the Department of Justice that any person presently in Tule Lake will be transferred to Santa Fe or Crystal City. The Department merely "contemplated" that if any person was finally denied a release and the Tule Lake Center was to be closed that pending a determination of such a person's rights by the court such a person might be transferred to another camp. If such a transfer were to be made the Department has the power to make it and any court will consent to such a transfer upon the Government assuring the Court it will produce such a person in court for his trial. Similar transfers have been made by the Government in other cases. I do not believe that antagonism to such a transfer, under such circumstances, would aid a person's chances in court.

I inform you of the above so that the picture of our position may be clear to you when you go to Washington. I believe that any statement you can make to the Attorney General or his staff concerning the psychological injuries that have and may yet arise to detainees from internment will be given serious consideration on the question of releases not only for the young ladies about whom you wrote but for all the internees. Such a statement, coming from the chief physician and surgeon for all the Tule Lake residents who is familiar with the actual conditions reigning at Tule Lake, will make more impression upon Mr. Clark and his staff than would a plea from any other source. If you do not make such a trip I believe a letter from you addressed to Mr. Clark on the matter would be productive of much good.

Very truly yours,

P.S. I am enclosing a copy of the American-Civil Liberties Union News published by Ernest Besig which publicizes to some extent the psychological injuries occasioned to some of the internees. (see page 3 thereof.)

WMC:onw

Osamu Kobayashi
Minoru Matsumoto

2006 Bush St.,
San Francisco 15,
California.
March 28, 1946.

Dear Mr. Myose:

I wish to take this opportunity to inform you of the situation of the renunciants that are still being detained in the various internment centers.

In regards to the case of Mittwer, Teshiba and Nogawa; Messr Wirin and Tietz were only able to have them detained in the Immigration & Naturalization jail in S.F. I have visited these persons, and it is not a most pleasant place for anyone to be confined in. I feel that the little freedom you may have at Crystal City is much better than the hell hole here in San Francisco. Mittwer, Teshiba and Nogawa called Mr. Tietz by phone to have their case dismissed, and they have severed all connection with Messr Wirin and Tietz. Thereafter the above three joined the mass suits filed by Mr. Collins, and after some negotiation by telephone, Mr. Collins was able to get the release of Nogawa and Miss Teshiba and Mr. Mittwer transferred to Crystal City. In due course of time they will probably receive their releases at Crystal City. I feel that you may be able to receive a great deal of informations from these two parties upon their arrival to your center.

We have also received words from Santa Fe that releases are coming in very rapidly, and that camp will be closed out soon. Those who do not receive their releases at Santa Fe will be transferred to Crystal City.

It is very likely that releases will be received at your center day by day. Also as soon as releases are received at Santa Fe, the Attorney General will speed the releases for those detained at Crystal City. There is also a chance that the Attorney General may order a release of all of the detained persons before long. However, if he does not do so those person who are in the Collins mass suits will be protected from being deported, and the court will probably order their release from detention.

It is very interesting to note that Wirin and Tietz tried to interfere with the Attorney General's release program which was necessitated by the mass suits. They were using Mittwer, Teshiba, and Nogawa as guinea pigs, and if their suits had been lost, those three persons would have been deported.

Page 2

I feel that those who are not released by the Attorney General, if any, probably will be released by court order within a very short period of time.

I believe you are also aware of the situation where there are quite a few persons in Crystal City, who are not in the mass suit. I feel that if there should be any person of such category in your center, and who wish to have their rights protected but are without any funds to join; I suggest that the committee include them in the mass suit. I feel that Mr. Collins will not have any objection, and they should be admitted without any cost to them.

The reason why I am furnishing you with such a suggestion is because that those persons still detained at your center are running a very great risk of being deported if their releases should never come through.

I hope you will take this matter up with the committee member, and act upon it immediately.

Very truly yours,

T. Nakamura.

San Francisco, California
March 30, 1946

You will be interested to learn that over 100 renunciants have been released at Santa Fe. More releases are being received there each day. When that camp is closed out more releases will be received at Crystal City.

You will also be interested to learn that Mr. Mittwer, Miss Teshiba and I fired Mr. Abraham L. Wirin and J. B. Tietz and dismissed the suit they brought. All that they did for us was to get us confined to a jail in San Francisco where we would have been kept for a long period of time. Thereafter we three joined Mr. Collins' mass suits. Mr. Collins obtained my release. He has arranged for the transfer of Mr. Mittwer and Miss Teshiba to Crystal City in the event they do not receive releases here in a few days. When they get to Crystal they will tell you about Mr. Wirin and Mr. Tietz.

If the three of us had not filed suits through Wirin and Tietz we would probably have been released while we were at Tule Lake. As it was Wirin and Tietz were using us as guinea-pigs so they could get publicity for themselves. Whether we would have won or lost our suit we probably would have been kept in jail while the case was appealed to the Circuit Court and the Supreme Court. We would have been kept in jail for many months. That would have been all right for Wirin and Tietz who wouldn't have had to stay in jail themselves but it would not have been satisfactory to Mittwer, Teshiba and me for we would have been kept in jail.

It is likely that Wirin and Tietz may appear at Crystal City and try to file other suits for other persons as guinea-pigs who will have to run the same risk Wirin and Tietz got us into. All they will be trying to do is to interfere with the release program and cause trouble for their guinea-pigs and other renunciants. Besides, you might like to learn that Wirin testified before the Dickstein Committee that "All renunciants should be deported to Japan."

The best thing for all renunciants who are not in Mr. Collins' mass suits is to go immediately to the Defense Committee and join Collins' suits. That is the best thing any of them can do if they want their rights protected. In that way none of them can be deported and all of them probably will be released within a short time by the Attorney General. If the attorney general doesn't release them the court probably will release them within about a month. It is for the best interests of all concerned that as many persons should receive their releases before the matter is heard in court.

Each person who Wirin and Tietz said they would represent should go to the Defense Committee immediately. The names of the persons on the Defense Committee at Crystal City are as follows:

Minoru Matsumoto
Masanori Kato
Raizo Inagaki
Isamu Myose
Osamu Kobayashi, and
Tomigi Shono

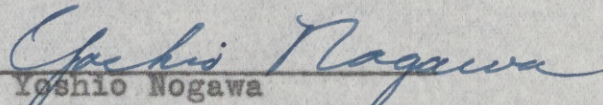
The Defense Committee will have each of them fill out Questionnaires and also send a mimeographed letter to Hon. Tom Clark. Each of them should then send a letter to Abraham L. Wirin and J. B. Tietz, 257 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, informing them that they do not wish Wirin and Tietz to represent them and that they cancel any agreement they had with Wirin and Tietz and cancel any authority they may have given Wirin and Tietz in writing.

I suggest that you tell all the renunciants who listened to Wirin and Tietz that they should not rely on Wirin and Tietz but that they should go to the Defense Committee and get in Collins' mass suits. If they haven't any money that doesn't make any difference. Collins will accept them whether they contribute anything to their defense or not. The thing that he is trying to do is to get everyone released and to get their citizenship back. The Defense Committee will have them included in Mr. Collins' suits without cost. In this way everyone will be protected properly and nobody will be made into a guinea-pig.

Wirin and Tietz and Noyes and Oppler didn't tell us the truth when we were at Tule Lake. We were told we would not be transferred away from Tule Lake but we were. We were told that we could get into Wirin's suit and also in Collins' suits at the same time. This was not true. If we had waited and not listened to Wirin and Tietz and the others we probably would have been released before Tule Lake was closed out or shortly after arriving at Crystal City. It is a good thing that none of you joined in the suit Wirin and Tietz filed for us because you would have experienced the disastrous results we would have experienced except that Mr. Collins came to our aid.

I suggest that you hurry to the Defense Committee and get yourselves included in the mass suits of Mr. Collins for your own protection.

Very truly yours,


Yoshio Nogawa
1881 Pine St., San Francisco, Cal.

P.S. I am going to leave San Francisco and return to my home in Santa Paula on Tuesday.

April 17, 1946
1721 Mills Tower
San Francisco, California.

Dear Ted;

Just dropping you a few lines to let you know that we are doing everything possible to get you and the rest out of detention. I know that you are wondering why I am writing to you. I know that you are the capable person who can keep all of the people there pacified. It is nothing to be alarmed about, you are all protected by the court action and untill they are determined nobody will be deported. I hope that when Mr. Collins was there in Crystal City, he had straighten everyone out as to there troubles. I know that some of you did not understand what he was saying, but I can assure you that he is doing everything possible to get you all out of that camp.

I guess you have heard by this time that the boys in Santa Fe are being transferred to Crystal City, they will be leaving on the 18th of this month so they will be in Crystal City sometimes this week or the next. Please get in touch with Mr. Harry Takeuchi when he arrives there, he has been in charge of the Santa Fe group and has kept in constant correspondent with this office so he will be able to help you and the committee members there in Crystal City.

If there are any problems that you are confronted with please do not hesitate to write and ask as we will be glad to assist you in any way that I can. I hope that the moral in the camp isn't all bad for I know that there will be a few who will come to you for aid also seeking information regarding what can be done for their family or something to that affect. I hope that I can help you with all of these answer, and I shall endeavor to help if you will write to me asking what all of there problems are concerning themselves.

The weather here in San Francisco is either foggy or its raining and I want to tell you that it gets very cold here in the morning and night. Otherwise its still a very dull place to live as housing here are the main trouble. I have been looking for a place for two month now and I still live in a hostel which is going to close in the near future. I hope to have some kind of a place to live very shortly as my wife is living in the c ountry and its very hard when the family are separated, well enough about my troubles and I hope that you will be able to come out and join us when you get out of camp.

How is the weather in Santa Fe? I hear from Mr. Collins that it was a lot better than in Tule Lake. I wish that I could see the place because it was described to me as a very nice place to stay. Is the place as hot as all that they say it is?

Well until the next time, I'll say good by for now.

Yours very truly

Eddie Masuoka

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Los Angeles 12, May 20, 1946

Mr. Wayne M. Collins
Attorney at Law
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, California

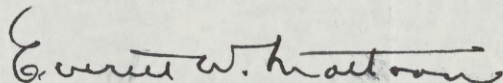
Dear Mr. Collins:

In reply to your letter of March 9 in which you inquire as to the present status of a large number of native-born American citizens of Japanese ancestry who renounced their United States nationality during the time they were confined in the Tule Lake Center in Modoc County, permit us to say that inasmuch as the suits pending in the United States District Court, which were filed by approximately fifteen hundred of such persons, have not yet been decided, and that until the court passes upon these pending actions we believe no expression should be made by this office. The adjudication of this matter will, of course, determine the rights of these persons under the California Alien Land Law.

With kind personal regards, we are

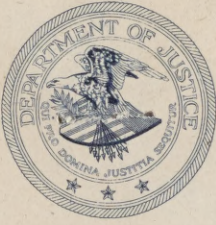
Very truly yours,

ROBERT W. KENNY, Attorney General



By EVERETT W. MATTOON,
Deputy Attorney General

EWM:CSN



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

June 25, 1946

Wayne M. Collins, Esq.
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4
California

VIA AIRMAIL

Dear Mr. Collins:

I have your letter of June 7th relating to the Tule Lake renunciants and requesting their parole.

I disagree, of course, with your conclusion that these renunciants did not become alien enemies upon renouncing United States citizenship. They possessed dual citizenship under Japanese law, and, following renunciation, they came within the terms of the Alien Enemy Act of 1798 as citizens of Japan.

I disagree also with your conclusion that these renunciations were the result of duress. It is, as you say, probably true that the renunciations would not have occurred had not evacuation and subsequent detention affected the judgment and emotions of these people. I think, however, the record is abundantly clear that, at the time they renounced, they did so entirely voluntarily. And I do not think I am empowered by the renunciation statute to speculate as to their remote motivation in doing so.

I agree that some hardship is inevitable as a result of the detention of these individuals, although, as you know, every effort consistent with the requirements of internal security was made to minimize this factor. What hardships remain must be ascribed to the deliberate choice of allegiance the renunciants have made; and I am sure it is less than that suffered by those in Japan who share their chosen allegiance and who had no opportunity to avoid it by choosing to be loyal to this country during the war.

Accordingly, I regret that I cannot agree to parole the Tule Lake renunciants pending determination of the litigation they have brought.

Sincerely,

Attorney General

June 26, 1946.

Hon. Frank J. Hennessy,
United States Attorney,
Post Office Building,
7th and Mission Streets,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Hennessy:

Enclosed find copy of a letter which I
have sent this day to Hon. Tom C. Clark,
concerning the Tule Lake renunciants who are
still detained at Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cw

July 10, 1946.

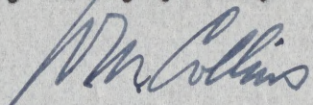
Mr. Yoshio Shibata,
P.O. Box 788,
Alien Internment Camp,
Crystal City, Texas.

Dear Mr. Shibata and Committee Members:

Enclosed find copies of the additional points and authorities filed in opposition to the government's motion to strike in the cases. The motions have been submitted to the court following oral argument.

We now have to wait for Judge St. Sure to make his ruling on those motions. I believe the ruling will be made within a short period of time. If the ruling is in our favor the government's case will be considerably weakened, and if the motion is against us it cannot do us much harm.

Very truly yours,



WMC:cw

August 29, 1946.

Mr. Tex Nakamura,
400 N. San Fernando Blvd.,
Burbank, California.

Dear Tex:

Enclosed find letter from William Tsuchiya.
I have already sent him an answer thereto but
I suggest that you drop him a line and return
the Department of Justice letter to me for
enclosure in Frank Tsuchiya's file.

Very truly yours,

WMC:ow
Encls. 2.

August 29, 1946.

Mr. William S. Tsuchiya,
318 Sunnyside Avenue,
Waterloo, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Tsuchiya:

The letter of the Department of Justice of August 23rd concerning your brother is, as you heretofore have been informed, a mere interim notice. The form of that notice has been changed three times so that the Attorney General no longer asserts with certainty that any renunciant will be deported.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cw

Alien Internment Camp
Crystal City, Texas

October 15, 1946

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

Dear Mr. Collins:

Enclosed please find postal money orders for the sum of \$528.61. This fund is the accumulation of donations from the renunciants from Santa Fe Detention Station.

We the undersigned remaining committee of four original committee members respectfully request you to add the sum to the trust fund of renunciant case.

This decision was arrived at in view of eventual dispersion of major portion of renunciants at this camp.

Hoping that this fund to be useful in defraying even a minor portion of the expense and with our sincere thanks for your good work.

Yours very sincerely,

Hayao Chuman
Hayao Chuman (Committee)

Isao Tokoshima
Isao Tokoshima (Committee)

Alien Internment Camp
Crystal City, Texas

October 21, 1946

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

Dear Mr. Collins:

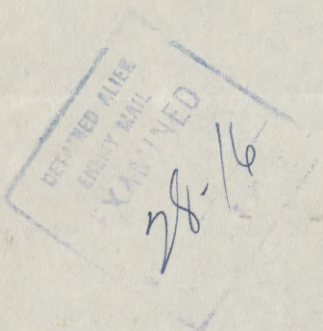
After our letter dated October 15, 1946 was written, it has developed that postal order fee \$1.25 was required for money order fee after the signed letter was typed.

Now therefore, the actual sum of the money order was reduced to \$527.36 from the original sum \$528.61.

Hoping that the variance of remittance may be understood.

Truly yours,

Isao Tokoshima
Isao Tokoshima (committee)



*cc
to Mr Collins*

Alien Internment Camp
Crystal City, Texas

October 15, 1946

Mr. J.L. O'Rourke
Officer in Charge
Crystal City, Texas

Dear Mr. O'Rourke:

In view of the prevailing uncertainty of our future in this camp we have come to a decision at this time as indicated in the attached tentative letter to Mr. Wayne M. Collins.

I ask you therefore to release the trust fund for the sum of \$510.06, the balance of the trust fund of Renunciant Group from Santa Fe Detention Station, which is now in your care.

Thanking you for the past courtesy and hoping that this request be complied with.

Very truly yours,

Hayao Chuman
Hayao Chuman (Committee)

Isao Tokoshima
Isao Tokoshima (Committee)



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

10 October 1946

Wayne M. Collins, Esq.
Attorney at Law
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Mr. Collins:

I have your letter of October 2nd relating to the permission given to certain renunciants to be employed at Seabrook Farms in New Jersey.

I regret that it will be impossible to grant your request that I release or parole the remaining 122 renunciants now at Crystal City. As I have previously advised you, it is the policy of this Department to keep under strict internment all persons who are subject to removal order issued pursuant to the Alien Enemy Act of 1798.

If there is any other way in which I may be of service to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Attorney General

Tanemi OBATAKE
Dormitory, Bldg 1 Rm 8
Seabrook, New Jersey
November 25, 1946

Dear Mr. Collins:

We have completed the transfer of the renunciants from the CCC village to Seabrook village. You may address all letters to Seabrook, New Jersey.

The committee extends our thanks in behalf of the whole group for your efforts and the efforts of the American Civil Liberties Union in succeeding in securing better living quarters.

The great majority of us were successful in securing quarters in the dormitories which were built in 1943 as a Federal Public Housing Authority project. This project is now leased by Seabrook farms. A small minority were unfortunate in being quartered in the houses built by the ~~WRA~~ company for families. These houses are similar to the type built by the W.R.A., and are not to be confused with the family houses which are a part of the FPHA project. However, as vacancies exist, I am sure that all will succeed in obtaining better quarters.

Incidentally, speaking of the WRA, several of the executive personel of this company were formerly associated with the WRA.
was

Mr. Frank Tsuchiya, who ~~was~~ released several weeks ago, has changed his address to 1418 Sixth Street N., Minneapolis, Minn.

Inasmuch as I can think of nothing else to write, I will close this letter with kindest regards.

Yours truly,

Tanemi Obatake

December 20, 1946.

Mr. Hiroyuki Taketaya,
4477 Woodman Avenue,
Sherman Oaks, California.

Dear Hiroyuki:

I wish to thank you for your letter of December 16th.

In order that you may not labor under a misapprehension I wish to inform you that Roy Shiraishi and Larry Kataoka have cooperated to the utmost of their ability with the defense of the case and they are not assuming any credit for what they have done.

They have not asked any special favors from me. Larry, of course, would be willing to receive financial assistance in some private deals he contemplates and approached me on the matter but I was unwilling to finance him.

Abraham Wirin of Los Angeles, through the instrumentality of Mr. Chuman steadily has endeavored to injure the renunciation cases. They filed a case for Akiko Iris Fukuhara of 5234 Victor, Apt. 2-F, Richmond, California. She lived at 3314-BC in Tule Lake and has a sister, Katsuye Fukuhara who is married to Ken Tanaka and lives at the same address. That suit was deliberately instituted by Wirin to relieve the W.R.A. and probably the Department of Justice for the duress that caused the renunciations. If that case were to be lost before our cases were determined it would injure our cases because the claims that Wirin makes are inconsistent with our claims. It is my opinion that Miss Fukuhara's motives are innocent but that Wirin's and Chuman's are not.

In addition Wirin desires to obtain as much publicity for himself as possible. If you are acquainted with Miss Fukuhara I would thank you to let me know.

Every renunciant at Tule Lake is indebted to you for your activities for a long period of time on their behalf. I wish to thank you for the kind expression of gratitude in your letter.

Very truly yours,

WMC:cw

2017 W. Jefferson Blvd.,
Los Angeles, California.
November 13, 1946.

Mr. Abraham L. Wirin, Fred Okrand & Frank Chuman
257 South Spring Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

At the instance of Mr. Frank Chuman approximately three weeks ago at my home, your office filed on my behalf without any authorization on my part a complaint under the Nationality Act on November 7, 1946, in the District Court of the United States in and for the Southern District of California, Central Division Docket Number 5945W .

I hereby wish to repudiate, rescind, withdraw, retract, and revoke the said proceedings # 5945W , and wish that your office enter a notice of dismissal without prejudice.

I do not in anywise wish you nor any of your associates to represent me in the above entitled proceedings or any likewise proceedings.

I wish to call to your attention the fact that the complaint in itself was not signed by myself.

Very truly yours,

Rose Tsuneko Katayama

2017 W. Jefferson Blvd.,
Los Angeles, California.
November 13, 1946.

Mr. Abraham L. Wirin, Fred Okrand & Frank Chuman
257 South Spring Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

At the instance of Mr. Frank Chuman Approximately three weeks ago at my home, your office filed on my behalf without any authorization on my part a complaint under the Nationality Act on November 7, 1946, in the District Court of the United States in and for the Southern District of California, Central Division Docket Number 5845W.

I hereby wish to repudiate, rescind, withdraw, retract, and revoke the said proceedings #5845W, and wish that your office enter a notice of dismissal without prejudice.

I do not in anywise wish you nor any of your associates to represent me in the above entitled proceedings or any likewise proceedings.

I wish to call to your attention the fact that the complaint in itself was not signed by myself.

Very truly yours,

Martha Takako Katayama