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Jule Lake Defense Committee

Correspondence

1959

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May 25, 1959

Mr. Tetsuo Hashimoto
124 South San Pedro Street
Los Angeles 12, California

Dear Mr. Hashimoto:

Last Wednesday morning (May 20, 1959) Enoch Ellison called me from Washington informing me that the Justice Department was concluding its administrative review and that it was going to hold some type of ceremony and issue a press release inasmuch as it had by June 1 completed its administrative review of all cases pending.

That meant that it had concluded all its administrative review of the individuals who were not within the case and that from that date forward apparently it no longer would review individual cases of those who were not within the class suit. He informed me that Mr. Doub would like to terminate the administrative review of the individuals within the mass cases as quickly as possible and that he hoped that I would dismiss those persons within the cases who did not intend to proceed or who would not proceed. The most information that I gave him was that there was a likelihood that I would dismiss all those persons in the cases who did not signify an intention to continue or who would not reply to numerous letters I had sent to them and the Tule Lake Defense Committee had sent to them. I instructed him that I would probably dismiss such persons in the month of June. For your information I have substantially completed the processing of affidavits for all persons in the case who supplied me with sufficient information concerning their renunciations. A number of them have been processed from one to four times.

In order to bring the administrative processing to a close so far as I am concerned, it is necessary for me to obtain information from a few additional persons. I would thank you, therefore, to communicate with the following persons and obtain from them as quickly as possible answers to the questionnaires or else sufficient information from them so that I may prepare affidavits for them immediately. They are:

ASAHARA, Mutsuo

Born Oct. 21, 1922, Japan address, Aio, Futajima, Negi,
Yamaguchi Shi, Yamaguchi Ken, Japan. He has been rejected
three times by the Justice Department. I informed him on

May 25, 1959

November 5, 1958, of his third rejection. He has not responded to my letters. Yutaka Asahara, who is either his brother or his wife, whose last known address was Aza, Negi, Futajima Aiho, Yamaguchi-shi, Yamaguchi-ken, Japan, joined the case but never proceeded thereafter. Mutsuo Asahara's questionnaire showed that he intended to return c/o Teruo Asahara whose address was unknown to him but who apparently lives in Sacramento. He informed me, however, that he intended to return to 21713 Wilmington Ave., Long Beach, California.

I would thank you to ascertain whether anyone at that Long Beach address knows of the present whereabouts of Mutsuo Asahara and of Yutaka Asahara. It may be that both of them have returned to the United States as non-quota immigrants or otherwise. I am checking on them in Sacramento. Yutaka Asahara would have no difficulty obtaining administrative clearance as he or she was in Class 5.

Jm
NISHIYAMA, Harry Shinji

Born May 24, 1915, last known Japan address was Sakuma Kata, 133 Takigashira-machi, Isogoku, Yokohama, Japan. Mr. Nishiyama sent me an unsigned affidavit in 1954 which contained no information except that he feared that he was to be deported and did not wish to be drafted. It is necessary for me to obtain additional information from him inasmuch as he was in Class 4, that is, he was a member of the Dan and has returned to Japan. I believe that he can obtain administrative clearance. He has not replied to any of my letters.

His brother is John S. Nishiyama, 186 Carlton Avenue, Pasadena, California. His parents and also his sister live in Pasadena. Attorney Ernest Iwasaki, 966 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles 15, Calif, wrote to me in 1952 asking about him.

I suggest that you contact his parents, brothers or sisters in Pasadena and obtain information from them, or Mr. Iwasaki, as to his present whereabouts and the answers to the questionnaire. If they know the answers to his questionnaire and can give them for him, I can prepare an affidavit for him. They should inform me of the number of the block where he lived and the names of the persons he was in fear. He was a member of the Hokoku Seinen-Dan. His parents may have compelled him to sign for repatriation and to answer "no" to 27 and 28, to become a member and to renounce his citizenship because of fear of family separation, of deportation and of relocation. If the parents will verify those statements I can prepare a new affidavit immediately and send to Harry Shinji Nishiyama.

OKAMOTO, Paul S.

W
West Japan
1957 or 1958

Born December 3, 1909, Class 19-A (demonstrated renunciation was voluntary). Mr. Okamoto was rejected on June 21, 1958. I believe he can be cleared. His last known address was 103 1/2 Weller Street, Los Angeles 12, California, c/o Beacon Hotel. His mail has been returned to me because he moved from that address. He applied for repatriation in late 1944. He is a Kibel and gave negative answers to 27 and 28, stating that at his renunciation hearing he stated that he applied for renunciation because he was educated in Japan, lived there several years and was loyal to that country. His stepfather and mother were evacuated with him.

I would like to know whether his step-father and mother were with him at Manzanar, also at Tule Lake, and whether or not they pressured him to apply for repatriation and also to renounce his citizenship and whether he believed he was to be deported and was he also in fear of relocation, and if in fear of relocation, ascertain whether or not his step-father and mother were in Tule Lake at the time he applied for renunciation forms and also at the time he renounced. He was not removed from Tule Lake but his parents apparently had relocated from Jerome. The person who notarized his affidavit was Ted Sadao Okumoto of Los Angeles. I do not know his address but he may know the present address of Paul S. Okamoto. If so, I would like the answers to the above questions. My letter to Paul Okamoto of April 16 was returned to me because he had moved from the Beacon Hotel at 103 1/2 Weller Street, Los Angeles.

UMOSA, Yoneo

Cleared

Born March 25, 1910. present address P. O. Box 1438, Niland, California. He sent in a questionnaire but did not answer any questions. He should answer the questionnaire questions as soon as possible. His father was in the United States and his mother was in Japan at evacuation time. He is in Class 13. He can obtain administrative clearance.

I suggest that you telephone him and ask him answers to the questionnaire questions on the telephone. I would like to know if his father was in the Gila River Camp and at Tule Lake with him, and if his father was present at the time he applied and also at the time he renounced his citizenship. If so, I would like to know if his father fearing separation and deportation had him apply for repatriation and to renounce. He refused to answer questions 27 and 28. I would also like to know from what camp his father relocated and whether his father relocated before he did or afterward.

Mr. Tetsuo Hashimoto

-4-

May 25, 1959

SHIGEMURA, Yoneo

3647 West Boulevard, Los Angeles 16, California, born July 11, 1918, has been rejected twice. On April 16, 1959, I sent him a letter asking him to reply to some 16 questions. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to him. He should answer those questions immediately and I will prepare a new affidavit for him.

OKUMURA, Kazuo

Japan, born February 18, 1916 (Class 5). He has never filled out a questionnaire. He may be the husband of Setsuko Okumura, final judgment 3-21-56, cleared by affidavit. Her older brother is Yoshio Yamamoto of 3305 East 68th Street, Long Beach, California. Kazuo has never answered any letter or questionnaire but is on paid list. I suggest that you call Yoshio Yamamoto and ascertain the present address and status of Kazuo Okumura and also the present whereabouts of Setsuko Okumura. Kazuo Okumura can be cleared if a questionnaire can be obtained from him as soon as possible. However, it may be that if he is the husband of Setsuko Okumura that he has returned to the United States as a non-quota immigrant.

FURUTANI, Shoichi

Born February 27, 1912, last known address was Dormitory 2, Seabrook Farms. He was Class 8. Mail has been returned. He is on the paid list. He could be cleared if you have any information as to his present whereabouts. Kindly let me know immediately so that an affidavit can be prepared for him.

NAKAMA, Masao

Born July 30, 1918, last known address 910 E. Parsonage Rd., Seabrook, New Jersey, departed from Seabrook and took up a residence at 1017 1/2 S. Kenmore Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. Mail sent to that address has been returned. He also is in Class 8. He sent to me a form of affidavit containing no answers but did not answer the questionnaire. If he can be located a questionnaire can be filled out for him from which I can prepare an affidavit. I believe he can obtain administrative clearance.

Very truly yours,

WMC:ss

Enc.

cc: Tex Nakamura