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✓ In reply, please refer to:
Family Welfare section
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COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
Poston, Arizona
April 4, 1944

Mr. D. S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, 25th D. C.

RE: Your Teletype of
March 29, 1944

Attention: Mr. Leland Barrows

Dear Mr. Myer:

Enclosed you will find a summary of reasons for repatriation and expatriation applications as given by the applicants and as interpreted by a group of persons particularly interested in the subject.

Very sincerely yours,

Duncan Mills
Project Director

Enclosure

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

MEETING
FAMILY WELFARE SECTION
March 31, 1944

A meeting of the Family Welfare Counseling Staff was held Friday, March 31, 1944. Others present were Dr. John Powell, Dr. Walter Balderston, Dr. David French, and Mr. James Crawford.

A teletype dated March 29, 1944, and signed by Mr. Leland Barrows was read as follows:

"Requests For Repatriation And Expatriation Have Continued Steadily At All Projects Since Segregation With Recent Sudden Increase. It Is Important That We Know Fully What Lies Back Of This Trend. Please Prepare Report On Factors Motivating Requests For Repatriation and Expatriation On Your Project and Submit As Soon As Possible Utilizing Community Analysis And Whatever Other Materials Are Available."

Number of active applications for repatriation and expatriation were reported by Camp and by date of application. The table below shows the increase in number of applications in Camp III.

Number of Applications for Repatriation and Expatriation at Colorado River Relocation Center, active on March 31, 1944, (Not including voluntary segregants).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Camp I</u>	<u>Camp II</u>	<u>Camp III</u>
Prior to 2/1/44	332	122	49	161
During February	150	62	3	85
During March	<u>375</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>330</u>
TOTALS	857	216	65	576

Following is a summary of the points made in the course of the discussion.

I. Reasons given by the evacuees themselves in making requests for repatriation and expatriation.

A. Sociological

1. The war is lasting longer than was expected. People are tired of waiting here for it to end.
2. Many Issei would go back anyway; they feel they might as well go now rather than beginning the struggle to establish themselves again here.
3. Discrimination in this country is felt and feared. They have seen it spread eastward from the west coast. Many Nisei expect no discrimination in Japan. Those who admit the possibility say it will be no worse than here.

4. Family ties draw them back. They hear from their friends and relatives in Tule. They have had word of deaths in the family in Japan. Nisei go to take care of the family, because their parents want to keep the family together, or because they themselves wish to stay with the family. The whole family can go to Japan; it is more difficult for the whole family to relocate at one time.

B Economic

1. Many expect that Japan will win, or at worst that the peace will be negotiated and Japan will come out of the war with territories in the Far East. The development of such territories will, they feel, offer many opportunities to people of all occupations, especially professional people and those with special skills.
2. Some of the younger people have never expected a chance to follow their profession in this country and so expected to go to Japan eventually.
3. Some people report special invitations from Japan to return. Good jobs are reputedly promised them, they expect that their passage will be paid, and they say they have also been promised a gift of money, \$300 or 1000 yen, from the Japanese government.
4. Those who own property there feel it will be easier to re-establish themselves there than here.
5. Many people sold their equipment when they left California and are now unable to replace it, either because of lack of funds or because such material is not available in war time. They also hesitate to learn how to farm all over again as they feel they would in a new part of the country. When it is pointed out that the same difficulties face them in Japan, they say they will manage somehow.
6. Some recognize that the standard of living in Japan is lower, but feel the future holds better chances for them there despite that.

C Selective Service

1. Some boys admittedly do not wish to serve in the army, and think that the army will not take expatriates.
2. Many draft-age boys say they must go with their families; they can't help the draft.

3. Old people, especially those who planned to farm, can't relocate without the help of sons. Now that the future of the sons is so uncertain, they feel they might as well go back to Japan.

II. Analysis of the situation by the staff.

A Sociological interpretations

1. Resentment as a result of economic losses sustained in evacuation, loss of privileges, and so forth, is a big factor with the young people. It is less a factor in the case of the Issei.
2. There is much adverse popular sentiment in the camps towards relocation. The influence of friends, relatives, and the immediate family is very great.
3. Many of the rumors are probably wish-fulfillment. The desire to go to Japan is the desire to escape the present situation, plus cultural ties with Japan.
4. Repatriation or expatriation are regarded as a feasible alternative to relocation, and in their eyes a better one, for the reasons expressed in the first section.
5. Most applicants do not recognize the real nature of facism. They lack any adequate concept of what it will mean to live in Japan under a dictatorial regime. Most of the young people as well as the old, have no sociological background, and they are influenced by the California papers.
6. Some people are gambling on the victory, casting their lot on the side they think will win.
7. Whether or not to go to Tule Lake Center is a factor; the weather, housing, relatives or friends present at a particular time, showing that often the reason for applying for repatriation is not so much related to Japan as to the relative merits of Tule Lake and Poston. For instance, the weather in Poston in winter and Tule Lake in summer, may be preferred.

B Economic

1. Issei applicants turn to the comparative economic security of Japan. Nisei and Kibei applicants feel that there is no future in this country for them.
2. The expectation of many opportunities in Japanese-held territory in the Orient is a real factor in many cases. If

Japan was forced back to her own islands and there was little hope for a negotiated peace, withdrawals of application for expatriation and repatriation would be expected.

C Selective Service

1. Many boys who said yes on Question 28 are now actually faced with army service. The family, on the initiative of the parents, applies for repatriation to cover the boy, and then instructs him to go with them. In some cases, relocation plans have been changed, and boys returned from indefinite leave to go with their families. It is extremely difficult for these older people to see their sons go into the army.

Some people sent for sons who were being educated in Japan to return to this country in order to escape military service there. This is the same process in reverse.

They do not think the army will take expatriates, and they do not expect to have to serve in the Japanese army.

2. They have selected from the available facts those which favor expatriation, and because of their frustration here, have built up very convincing arguments out of both true and erroneous beliefs. The draft came and was fitted into this framework.
3. There are some boys who, while not admitting it, are undoubtedly hoping they will be drafted and thus escape from family pressures which have caused them to sign for expatriation.
4. Boys whose families have signed for repatriation can be divided into three groups, with the greatest number in the second group.
 - A. A few refuse to sign for expatriation in spite of their families.
 - B. Most have acquiesced, probably thinking this is a pretty good idea and worth trying.
 - C. Some would have signed for expatriation anyway.

D Why are the largest numbers of repatriates from Camp III?

1. Camp III had practically no segregants last fall in comparison with the other two camps.
2. Camp III was never cleaned out by the FBI, as were the other two camps.

3. The evacuee leadership in Camp III is poor and divided.
4. There is undoubtedly leadership of some sort. As the camp lost the younger, more easily assimilable people in relocation it became more Japanese in orientation. The Council sponsored a petition stating a willingness to serve in the army, but asking for the return of civil rights. Meetings were held in many blocks, the relevance of which is not known, as no appointed personnel attended.
5. While applications for repatriation and expatriation are localized in certain blocks, there is also a concentration in certain work groups which cuts across block lines. For example, maintenance, the Fire and Police Departments, the hardware warehouse, and No. 4 Canteen signed up in large numbers. This spread of ideas in the occupational groups has been observed in other instances.
6. There seems no need to assume activity here emanating from Japan. Several different people, excited for one reason or another and given the psychological and sociological situation in Camp III, could precipitate this flood of requests for expatriation and repatriation.

Low E. Butler

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~~Official for file~~
~~Poston~~
GRIPSHOLM PASSENGERS FROM POSTON

~~W. H. Holland~~
Provence
Leland

There were 50 residents of Poston transferred from this relocation center to Gila River where final checking of the lists was done by the representative of the United States Department of State, baggage inspected and other arrangements made for sailing on the International Red Cross chartered exchange ship, the Gripsholm. The ship was scheduled to sail from an eastern port on September 1, 1943. Of the Poston residents, there were 24 of high priority and 24 low priority and two persons who wanted to join parents going to Japan who had no official priority at all. Nine of the total of 50 were not permitted to leave Gila for the entrainment at Phoenix and will be returned to Poston.

It is interesting to note that Miss Alice Grube, one of the workers in the Welfare Division at this relocation center, who worked on the task of getting these people ready and acted as an escort from here to Gila River center, was in Japan when the war broke out. She had been a passenger on the Gripsholm on its first exchange sailing. Miss Grube remained at the Gila center while final checking of the lists was being done and accompanied the nine persons back to Poston on the return trip.

There was only one individual on the list of those eligible for exchange who did not choose to go from this center. This man was ill and when told by the doctor that he would be required to sign a statement that he was making the trip on his own responsibility because it might be injurious to his health, decided not to go. While he had made application for repatriation and had taken no action to withdraw the application, he said he did not care particularly about returning to Japan. The fact that there was only this one person who declined to make the trip, should not be taken to indicate that there was a great number of people anxious to return to Japan. Many of the people who had made repatriation applications at an earlier date, probably motivated by resentment against the evacuation order, had already declined during the early part of the summer when a previous list had been sent to this project to be checked. The final list received as the time came near for the ship to sail, contained mainly names of persons who had not declined when they had been asked about their attitude on a recent date. It was therefore, not expected, that there would be any number who would refuse to go at this late date.

On Saturday morning, four days after the original group had left Poston for the Gila River center, the project was notified of another man, resident of Unit III

at this center, that he would be required to join the party. Apparently, this man's name was on the list in the hands of the State Department representative at Gila. The project was ordered to have him at Gila Saturday night. He was immediately notified and it was then discovered that he did not want to return to Japan and that he had previously made an attempt to withdraw his application for repatriation. Wade Head, Project Director, here telephoned the State Department and explained the case and he was released.

The first list of names was received at the project on Friday and the people on it were scheduled to leave Poston the following Tuesday morning. A group of people were to come from Kantanar on Monday, stay over night here, and join the Poston party Tuesday morning.

On this first list, 17 of the 20 had previously been contacted by the Family Welfare Department in July when it was expected that the Gripsholm would sail early in August. Some of the preliminary work with these people had been done, and in some cases they had been able to send to their former homes in California and get personal belongings they wanted to take with them. Special wooden trunks had been made by the construction department for some of these people, so that their personal effects could be stored in the hold of the ship. Although the

time allowed for completing arrangements for these people was short, this advance work which had already been done, made the job a lighter one.

However, on Saturday, a second list of people was received. Again on Tuesday morning, more names were received. Three more came from Manzanar on Tuesday, and a second smaller party left here Wednesday morning.

It was necessary to notify these new people on Sunday and to carry on the necessary interviews. The welfare department personnel, under the direction of Miss Lou Butler, worked all day Sunday, as did members of the medical staff, and some of the carpenters. The carpenters set to work making additional wooden trunks for the shipment of personal effects.

- It developed then that some family members who were away from the project visiting at the time also wanted to be included in the list and to go to Japan. Arrangements were made for these people to go directly to Gila. Two of these persons were those whose names were not on the official exchange list, and it is understood that an effort was made by them to be accepted by telephoning to the Spanish consul.

The transportation department at Boston arranged for the hauling of the people and their baggage to Gila.

On the first trip there were two vehicles carrying passengers, one large bus, and a truck, and three trucks carrying baggage. On the second trip there were two passenger cars and one truck filled with baggage.

On Tuesday morning when the larger number left Poston, there was a crowd of about 1,000 people assembled at the departure station to see the Japan bound people off on their journey.

Officials of the project were anxious that payment of all wages due, clothing allowances, etc., be arranged before the people left Poston. The auditing and payroll departments cooperated to the end that this was accomplished. Because of the difficulties encountered in getting the allocations from the project appropriations cleared, none of the people had received wages for the month of July or for work performed in August.

The leave office also was required to make out leave clearance papers, "bound for Japan" for each individual. This required extra work in that department.

When the first group of people arrived from Manzanar, it was found that the leave clearance papers they had were merely for a transfer from Manzanar to Poston. This made it necessary that the papers be amended and certified by the leave officer here so that they could continue to Gila and thence to Phoenix to entrain for the port of embarkation.

One of the persons involved was a welfare case and the welfare grant for both the months of July and August had not been paid.

Each person leaving was required to have a medical certificate.

It is to be noted that the older people who were going were very happy about it. To them, it was an opportunity to return to their native land where they would spend the remaining days of their lives. To many of the younger people, it was indeed a sad occasion. It was plainly evident that in most of these cases they were going to Japan mainly because of parental control. The youngest to go from Poston was one of the people who came here from Manzanar; a month old baby. The oldest to go was a 74 year old grandmother.

There was an interesting development in the handling of the news of the people leaving Arizona for the Gripsholm sailing. The Reports Officer at Poston had notified the Phoenix papers and news service by mail, in advance, not as a matter of giving out news but rather to keep them informed and suggested that they contact the State Department representative at the Gila River Center.

It appears that one of the news services referred the matter to the censorship bureau and received a reply to the effect that it was not publishable, although there is

nothing in the censorship code to that effect. The other service, telephoned both to Gila and to Poston for additional information, and released a story without referring to the censorship. This brought a more direct question from the other bureau manager in Phoenix regarding the story and he was later advised that the War Relocation Authority was the sole responsible agency to give out information concerning the departure of the repatriates.

Pauline Bates Brown
Reports Officer

Approved by

W. WADE HEAD

Project Director