

Petition to Join Interned Member of Family in a Special Internment Camp.

Case # 1, abe ~~mark~~^{Faith} mark, Lordsburg, N. Mex.

Mrs. Abe faces the problem of what is best for her sons. They do not want to enter the special camp if they cannot go out to work or to school when they desire. They want to remain in Boston where they have a degree of freedom as American citizens and where they are sure of being able to secure permission to leave where good opportunities are presented. So mother says it is better to leave papa alone than to go to him with the young daughter leaving her two boys where they need her care. She has decided not to sign the petition. B.S.

abe Tsubi - 52 (father)

Kyishi - 21 (son)

Yasuo (16) son

Miyeko (17) daughter

Case # 2 - abe, Tatsuo

Yukie - 38, wife

Kathleen Yaebo, 1 1/3, daughter

Nobuko - 3 months, dtr.

Mrs. Abe is living with her brother here in Boston. She has 2 babies, 16 mo. old + other 3 mo. old. Littlest baby born here in Boston + father has never seen.

She has been promised that her husband will have a rehearing + sent in fresh evidence. She is hoping he may be released + join her here. If not she is very desirous of joining him because of age of children. But her greatest hope is that he may be released to live with family here in Boston.

Mrs. Abe very quiet + intelligent + not emotionally upset. But feels need of husband's help + children. She finished Girls' High School in Japan + came to U.S. when 17. She studied in U.S. Redlands 1 1/2 yrs.

3. Agemura, Masami at Landsburg.

Agemura, Sachiko - 33, wife
Richard - 12, son
Arthur - 10, son
Alice - 7, daughter.

No desire for
exchange to Japan.

1-5-43: Have asked for rehearing. Have heard that such
to be held. If family should apply & go to new camp could
they return here if her husband is released?

Children young & not strong. Separation has been a
great strain. Decision postponed.

1-9-43

Decided to sign but still concerned about possibility
not being allowed to come back to relocation center if her
husband be released.

also she wants very much to go with friends to camp.
She & Mrs. Kawata are living together & are like sisters.
This family has no thought of repatriation. A.C.

4: Aihara, Seisuke at Livingston, Louisiana.

Yasuko - 47, wife.
Daisy Toshiko - 18 - dtr.
Henry Kuyoyasaki - 16 - son.

1-21-43: Mrs. Aihara came with her son Sam, aged 25.
He is on the police force at Poston. She is considering
going but will not decide now. Speaks of waiting a
month. Understands that camp may be full by that
time. Sam will not go - may go out to work.

The second son, Lewis, 23 is in the army.
Not sure what father has done about repatriation
but do not wish it. Asked a # of questions:

- 1- Is it impossible to have him returned to the family here?
- 2- What about schooling in the new camp?
- 3- What about work opportunities?

v/ Doubt if they will apply. If at all for mother + 2 high school children. Intelligent, prosperous seeming family. A.C.

#5: Aizawa, Hiroshi at Lordsburg, N. Mex. (farmer)

Wife - 49. No desire for change to Japan.

Mrs. Aizawa was accomp. by her dtv. Mother only is making application. She would rather stay here with children but thinks it is sad for her husband to be alone. Father wants the whole family to come but children are grown + do not wish to enter come.

There are a married son, the dtv. + another son in Poston. All living together. Youngest son, 18 yrs. old, was here but recently left to enter college at Tempe, Arizona. Dtv. was senior in U.C. + is now creating nationalist at Poston. 2 older sons talking of going out to work.

This seems to be family in which children are given liberty to plan for —. It is evidently very hard for mother to think of leaving them but that she is not insisting on their going.

Mrs. Aizawa has lived in America for 30 yrs + her husband 37. While detained in N. Dak. he applied for repatriation but later cancelled application. Neither he nor his wife returned to Japan even for a visit.

A.C.

6: Ohutagawa, Karohue (Lordsburg, N. Mex.) (farmer)

Harime, 48, wife.

Taro, 25, son (farmer)

Tetsuo, 21, son (farmer)

Taro + Tetsuo feel they should go with their mother but are dubious about going because of the possible effect upon their own futures. Do not want to be repatriated. Decided they would sign application but may withdraw when time comes. Taro must be Kibei? They hope their father will be paroled in near future?

- Whole desire seems to be to have family together. She would not want to leave sons behind, especially younger who is "still young". She seems not to have much comprehension of any effect on future of her sons which might come from having lived in an internment camp.

Older son is working here in blk. mgr's office, younger, running a tractor.

7. Amino Inosuke, Longerton, La. (dry cleaner).

Amino, Chiye - 40, wife

Florence - 16, dtr.

Clare - 13, dtr.

Florence: Soph in high school. Very mature. Had talked everything over at home + decided to it best to go. Wishes to return to Japan after war, or whenever possible. When confronted with alternative of staying in Poodon she replied very positively that disappointment of her father in internment camp would be too great for her to think of it. Younger sister not strong. Mother looks upon her to make decisions evidently. Twice she had said she had decided it best for them to go + her mother had agreed!

3/ Somehow has a rosy picture of "the family camp"; even believing that the school there would be better, for "it is hardly possible to get any real education in Poston"!!

Very set idea of many things.

Chujo: 1-7-43.

Mrs. Amino signs the petition to join her husband because he has requested it in a letter received this week. She thinks it will be best the girls to be with both parents even in an internment camp.

B.S.

8: Aoki, Mrs. Iku, and Aoki, Kamezuke: (farm manager)
Seagoville, Texas Livingston, La.
Aoki, Yaeko - dtr., 19. (nurse's aide)

1-13-43: Mother is interned at Seagoville + father at Camp Livingston. They have been trying to get together but so far have failed. She wants to join her mother but was told that she was too old (19)

She + an unmarried brother are here in Poston. An older brother also unmarried is in free area in Utah, farming + this brother wants to join him. He does not want to leave her here alone. When asked if she might join the brothers, she felt her mother would worry too much about her.

She has been hoping her mother would be released to join her here. They cannot say why her mother was taken so she was not involved in any activity outside the home.

Yaeko now working as nurse's aide in hospital. She is intelligent + attractive. Her mother is not well + is apt to worry so she is eager to join her. Yaeko had all her education here, having visited Japan only as a small child. She is a fine type of daughter - from Japanese.

Her parents asked for repatriation thinking it the only way to get together. She + her mother are thinking of withdrawing their application. She thinks her father may go to Japan. He was farming on a large scale near Huntington Beach, Calif. Her decision about asking for exchange to Japan depends on her mother.

apparent that main issue other is how to get with her mother. Evidently the year has been a big strain tho she is very reserved about showing her feelings.

A-C.

9: Aoki, Jisaburo: Lordsburg. (laborer, farmer)

Aoki, Sai - 55 - wife

Husako - 21 - dtr. - 12th grade

Takes - 19 - son

Kyoshi - 17 - dtr. - 10th grade - teacher

1-18-43:

Evidently wife of limited education, little thought except hard work. no desire for exchange

There are 3 children, oldest dtr. retarded in school because of sickness, a son thru high school + a daughter in 10th grade. all born in Wyoming but recently been living in Calif. in Orange Co. Aoki was farm laborer + sometimes rented some land.

They do not wish repatriation.

Her 1st? about camp, tho she came to sign? condition was: "Will there be work there?" She is now making adobe brick, the son driving a truck + girls helping part time in the mess hall. She also says if there would be schools.

When asked to consider whether children would be satisfied in an internment camp + whether they might wish they had gone out to work, etc. She said she thought it would be better for them.

11: Arimoto, Masayo - Livingston (Storekeeper)

Kimiko, 37 - wife

Henry, 18 - son - 12th grade -

Came with her only son, a fine looking boy of 18, just finishing high school. I said he had hoped to be a doctor + had majored in science in San Bernardino High School. But could get little of that here.

She thinks her husband has no thought of asking for repatriation. He came to U.S. over 30 yrs. ago + went back only once to be married. They had a store + he was interested in ice-cream making, having mounted some machinery for it.

They have no reason to think that he is to have a rehearing. He has told them to apply for permission to join him. Boy agrees he wants to be with his parents. Evidently he is discouraged about his educational plans.

They inquired whether it would be possible for them to include in their request an old man, a close friend of Mr. Arimoto's who has lived with family for years. Mr. Fujitani, is about 70 but very vigorous + is w. as carpenter at Poston. They think he has no desire to repatriate.

Attached to files is letter from Dillon S. Myer suggesting that Mrs. Arimoto be interviewed again since her decision based entirely on her husband's request to apply for permission to join him. "In view of son's age + his educational plans they should give serious consideration to implications of entering an internment camp."

4-7-43: Henry came for another interview on request of Wash. office. Has stopped school + is now working at the hospital. He likes work + still would like to be a doctor. However he did not respond to suggestion that he might get out + finish his education, even to point of asking questions. His one thought to be with his father who has already been sent to Crystal City.

4 - as life would be more or 1 rule. Here boy goes to movies, ball games, etc. & comes in late at night. Decided that children wanted to go & be with their father. But they all want to have us to do. Evidently very desirous of going herself. A.C.

10 : Aoyama, Minoru - Livingston (chicken farming, carpentry)

Ruth - 33, wife

Kazuko - 11, dtr. - 6th grade

Taichi - 9, son - 4th

Heroko - 7, dtr. - 2nd

Sachiko - 5, dtr. - kindergarten

Yoko - 3, dtr. - nursery.

1-13-43:

American-born but studied 11 yrs. in Japan. English weak.

There are 5 children, the oldest 11. She has had no word from her husband but wishes to join him.

- However she is concerned about business matters & wants to know if from the special internment camp they can collect rent, or for change of renters & the like.

- She does not desire to go to Japan & her husband is not asking for repatriation. A.C.

12: Arita Hagema, Lordsburg, N. Mex. (Jap. + teacher, now invalid)

1-12-43-

Mrs. Arita came with her eldest dtr. She is refined + well-educated, a graduate of a normal school in Japan. Her husband is a teacher of Japanese for last 13 or 14 yrs. They were at San Juan, Calif. She assisted him in school. Their children, all born in Calif. & they have neither of them returned to Japan in their 20 yrs. residence there.

Do not wish to repatriate. She asked about govt policy in regard to departing aliens after war and evidently dreads such a possibility.

Mr. Arita had a stroke 5 or 6 yrs. ago + is still half paralyzed. His blood pressure is very high which makes her exceedingly anxious. He is under doctor's care at Lordsburg having exams twice a week. She had a spinal operation a yr. + a half ago + still can do no hard work. "We have had hard luck".

It is evident by a hard decision for her to go for she does not wish to take her dtr. into an internment camp + fears its effect on their minds. But in view of her husband's conditions she feels she must be with him if possible.

Her evidently reluctant dtr. agreed that they should go. She is a lovely girl + intelligent suggestion made that possibly older girls might stay behind with their sister but Mrs. Arita thinks this too much responsibility to put on young & just married + also they ~~feel~~ ^{prefer} to leave Pastor if he is able to continue his medical preparation.

A - C.

12: arita, Kosaburo - Lordsburg (restaurant keeper,
storekeeper, farmer)

1-14-43: Kayo - 45 - wife.

Chuzo - 22 - dtr. - sewing, office assistant

Kaneto - 20 - son. - agric. chemistry
(university student)

Kijoko - 17 - dtr.

Masako - 9 - dtr.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

Dec, 23, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: All project directors

SUBJECT: Reuniting of Families with Interned Members

On November 12, I addressed an inquiry to you concerning the number of families on your Project desiring to join members of their families who had been interned, and indicated that consideration was being given to establishing a special internment camp not under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority, where internees and their families could be brought together.

Consideration of that problem has progressed to a point now where it seems almost certain that many internees can be joined with their families. A camp is in the process of being constructed by the Department of Justice and shortly after the first of the year a small advance contingent is expected to go to camp. Additional numbers presumably will go as soon as the facilities of the camp can be completed.

In order that we may proceed with negotiations with the Department of Justice with respect to these transfers, it is necessary that we have, in addition to the preliminary information requested in my earlier letter, the names of individuals desiring to be reunited, together with certain additional information, and that consideration be given to certain problems raised by the proposed transfer.

Attached is a copy of a "Petition to Join Interned Member of Family in a Special Internment Camp", which should be filled out by the head, or acting head, of each family desiring to be reunited with an interned family member. A supply of these forms is being mailed to you for use in this connection.

The information as to special skills called for on the reverse side of the application is desired by the Department of Justice for use in assembling an advance contingent that can help complete the new camp accommodations, and assist in organizing essential services. Since the husband (or interned member) is now in the custody of the Department of Justice in most cases, it would be helpful if the person filling out the application would indicate any special skills which the interned member may possess. With respect to the wives and other feminine members of families, it would be helpful to know which of them have competency in such things as teaching, sewing, nursing, clerical work, etc.

Apparently a number of evacuees have written directly to the Department of Justice asking to be reunited with internees. Unfortunately insufficient information has been provided in many of these applications, I believe therefore it would be advisable to inform evacuees that requests on this subject should be made on Form WRA 174 and submitted through their Project Director to the Washington Office of WRA.

A special problem arises in connection with boys and girls who are American citizens. I am in some doubt as to the desirability of transferring young American citizens to an internment camp for what will probably be the duration of the war. Such an experience would constitute doubtful training for citizenship in future years. On the other hand, if a wife greatly desires to join her husband, and if American-born children wish to go with her, perhaps they should be permitted to go. However, there may be cases in which the wife will wish to join her interned husband, but will desire children of school age to remain in a Relocation Center. In this case, perhaps another family would accept guardianship or temporary supervision of the children. Some arrangement acceptable to the Project Director should be developed. Again, if the family members in a Relocation Center have indicated they want to be exchanged to Japan (i.e. repatriated) then I can see no particular objection to transferring them -- children included -- to the new internment camp pending repatriation.

These special situations suggest case by case study, and I suggest therefore that the Welfare Worker at each Relocation Center go over the cases of families, members of which are interned, and in which there are children in the impressionable ages, and make a recommendation which would be attached to the application in each case -- outlining briefly the problem involved, and her recommendations for action.

Please bear in mind that we cannot at this stage promise that any particular application can be granted. There may be more applications than there are accommodations. It would be helpful therefore if you would classify the applications into three classes: A-- very urgent-- first priority; B-- urgent, second priority; C-- third priority; on the basis of your analysis of the urgency in each case, and place this "Project Classification" in the space indicated in the block at the lower left-hand corner of the application.

For your information there is attached a partial list of internees who have petitioned to be reunited with their families, and whose families are believed to be in your Relocation Center. We may receive additional lists of this type, in which case we will forward them to you.

Please initiate your inquiry with the names on the enclosed list, and return replies with respect to them as soon as you have completed your analysis. I hope we can receive reports on these no later than January 15.

With respect to other families, forward your replies in groups of 15 or 20 without waiting for a complete list, as we desire to start negotiating for transfers as soon as the Department of Justice is ready.

Address replies to this inquiry to the Washington Office, attention Relocation Planning Office. Only one copy per family need be returned.

D.S. Myer
Director

Enclosures.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

Nov. 12, 1942

Mr. Wade Head
Project Director, Colorado River
Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Head:

There is under consideration a proposal to reunite the families of persons who have been interned with the internee. Thus, in cases where a husband or father is interned, while the wife and children are in a relocation center, the proposal contemplates that all members of the family would be moved to some camp, not under the direction of the WRA, where they could be united and live as a family group under conditions which presumably would be substantially the equivalent of internment for the duration. As far as I know the details have not been settled now has the whole thing gone beyond the exploration stage.

As one element affecting the decision in the matter and having an influence on the size of the camp necessary to accomplish the objective, we need to know how many families and how many individuals would be interested in being reunited in such a camp if it should be established, and we need to know the number of children of school age who would be involved. I would appreciate it, therefore, if you will secure for me as promptly as possible the answers to the following questions as they relate to your center:

1. What is the number of families in your relocation center having one or more members in internment?
2. How many of these families, if offered the opportunity, would elect to join the interned member either at his present place of internment or at some other camp.
3. a. How many adults are there in the families reported in the answer to question 2?
b. How many children of grade school age?
c. How many children of high school age?

You may make inquiry of the evacuees by posting notices, by working through the Community Council, by working thru the block managers, or in any other way as you think best. Please make it clear, however, that no commitments are being made, that no assurances can be given as to the outcome of the proposal. At the present time we are simply seeking information.

Some families may be sensitive on the subject of the internment of one of their members, consequently, a means of reporting should be provided that will avoid embarrassment in such cases.

Some question may be raised as to whether schools would be provided in a camp of the sort I have mentioned. I presume schooling would be provided but I am not in a position to give any assurances. If any families condition an affirmative answer on the availability

of schools please indicate the number which do so. I should like you also to make clear in presenting your inquiry to the evacuees that their answers will not be considered binding and are desired now as a means of getting a line on the magnitude of the problem.

One further point -- some evacuees may wish to write to the interned members of their families before replying. However, since this inquiry does not constitute a definite commitment, and since we need the information rather promptly, it would be best to discourage correspondence and try to get an immediate reply.

I should like you to reply as promptly as practicable and to give me also the benefit of any observations you may care to make upon the wisdom of the proposal I have mentioned.

Sincerely yours,

D. S. Myer
Director

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Dillon S. Muer, Director

From: W. Wade Head, Project Director

Subject: Information on families joining interned members

Date: December 29, 1942

We regret that we have been so slow in answering your request for specific information concerning the possibilities of families in Poston joining interned members. As you know we have had a serious disturbance which made it impossible for us to function properly for many days. However, we hope the information we are now submitting will be of some assistance to you even though it is late in reaching your office.

We decided it would be best to obtain the information through a questionnaire. (See copy attached). The questionnaires were distributed to the residents through the block managers. The Welfare Department met with the individuals and groups who wished to discuss in detail the meaning of the questionnaire. We were surprised at the number of people who did not care to fill out the paper due to the uncertainty of the proposition. The survey revealed the following:

1. What is the number of families in your relocation center having one or more members in internment?

(This figure has not been obtained as yet. The block managers will send their reports in at an early date, and we will forward the same to your office.)

2. How many of these families, if offered the opportunity, would elect to join the interned member either at his present place of internment, or at some other camp?

Elected to join internees	-----152
Elected not to join internees	--- 1
Doubtful	----- 38

3.a. How many adults are there in the families reported in answer to question 2? ----- 307

b. How many of grade school age? 191

c. How many children of high school age? 163

Pre-school age children 9

In Poston 3 the people were expecting the plan to materialize at once. It was reported that the Spanish Consul told them a camp is now being constructed and will be ready within the "next month". Many people were troubled in making decisions due to the fact that they had no letters from interned relatives for a considerable length of time. They stated that formerly their mail came every one or two weeks but now it takes "months" to receive replies to their letters. They understand that the letters first go to New York for tabulation. They ask if something might be done so that they might have quicker service.

A flood of telegrams came from husbands urging the families to plan to join them. One of the telegrams stated "conditions better than relocation centers due to the Geneva Treaty." Many mothers are concerned about their children's citizenship rights and the way in which their young people would be regarded if they had lived in an internment camp. There were many questions regarding suitable work, financial matters, work leaves, leaves for study, freedom to look after outside business, etc. One woman was greatly concerned because her husband has asked for repatriation but she does not wish to be repatriated. She desires to know if joining him now will make it impossible for her to remain in America when he is repatriated.

The questions which were perhaps of greatest concern were:

How much baggage can be taken?

If the husband's hearing, which is now pending, is favorable, can they return to the relocation center rather than remain in an internment camp?

Attached herewith is a list of questions submitted by one of the evacuees for consideration before she would give serious thought to leaving Poston.

W. Wade Head
Project Director

NF/pt
Enc. 2

Time: Dec. 30, 1942, 7:30 P.M.

Place; Ward 7, Hospital

Number present: Approx. 175

Caucasians present: Miss Findley, Dr. Balderston, Miss Cheney.

Interpreter: Dr. Iseri

Chairman: Dr. Balderston.

Miss Findley explained to the people why the meeting was called. Received a letter from WRA in Washington regarding reuniting of families. Some of the questions were:

1. How many families living in Poston have relatives in the internment camps?
2. How many want to join relatives in internment camp?
3. How many children of high school age?
4. How many children of elementary age?

Letter stated that we were not to tell the people that they could definitely go and that a separate camp is being built for them. Would be interned for duration -- this statement needs clarification. The question was asked, "How many would be interested in joining relatives?" All did not respond. If a person was interested in going but later changed his mind, he has the right to do whatever he wishes. The main point brought out in this letter was: "How many families are interested in joining relatives?" The office sent out about 500 questionnaires and received about 200. How many of you sent in your questionnaires? Many were reluctant in raising their hands.

Open Discussion:

1. One of the women who spoke wrote to Washington asking if her husband could be released from internment camp so that he could join family in Poston. Washington replied that her husband could not be returned but if she and the family would like to join him, arrangements will be made at a later date.

2. How old must the children be in order to go with mother?

3. Received a letter from a Mr. Ennis of Washington stating that all children under 18 would be able to accompany the mother. Want family reunion regardless of age. Want the same privileges as here in Poston if interned with relative.

4/ Report from a man who was released from Lordsburg. There is no age limit. If the family is to be separated, father wishes the children to stay with mother (This statement was clarified and this is the reason for fathers sending telegrams to family in Poston.

5. Woman who just returned from Lordsburg on a visit spoke: There is an age limit. Will take all children not married. Reported that homes were already built for the families. Will bring in recent bulletin to Miss Findley that she brought back from Lordsburg.

6. This special camp was being built for all families from all centers.

7. What are the possible disadvantages of Niseis going to this camp? No answer on this question.

8. The following question was brought before Mr. Haas and he wrote to Washington, but as yet have not received an answer. "If interned, would the status of the Niseis remain the same as in Poston or changed?"

Niseis were reluctant in signing questionnaire because many questions were asked regarding this subject and no one was able to answer them.

9. What would happen to the family fund? Would we be under the same regulations as the internees? Will the children be allowed to go out to school for work when available?

10. What is the reason for not letting the fathers come back to relocation center?

11. Instead of going thru all the expense of erecting school buildings hospitals, etc., why don't they send the fathers back and save all that money?

12. Poston is such a swell place. I don't want to leave this place so send my husband back here.

13. Petitions were sent to Washington asking that relatives be released from internment camp so that they may join families in Poston. Sent about one month ago but received no answer.

14. What is the prupose of making a separate camp. Do they intend to send those people back to Japan?

15. Some of the internees have signed up for repatriation after the war. Voluntary basis.

16. Report from a parolee. Pe5ition should be sent to Wzshington for release of relatives because majority of them are innocent. F.B.I. told him that the majority of them were innocent and the few that were not involved immigration act. No saboteurs or spies reported.

17. Several women said that at the time their husbands were taken, they told the truth about their activities in the past. On the strenth of this they were returned. If husband should have another hearing and told a lie, would he be released?

18. We all want to be reunited but under certain conditions.

respectfully submitted,

Fumi Kobayashi

Colorado River Relocation Project
Jan. 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Nell Findley
From: W. Wade Head

I have been officially informed that the reuniting of families of internees will in no way affect the opportunity of the internees for having a rehearing of their cases and, if at this hearing he establishes his innocence, the entire family can be re-accepted at Poston.

/s/ W. Wade Head
W. Wade Head
Project Director

WWH: hj

Statistical Report of Families
Applying to Enter Special Internment Camp
February 10, 1943

Number of families 126

Project classification

Class A 66
B 28
C 32

Number of wives 120 (includes 19 American citizens)

Age groups:

20-29 12
30-39 29
40-49 58
50-59 14
60- 3

Other relatives (not children)

Parents 4
Fiance 1
Sister 1

Number of children named in petitions 288

Age groups:

1-5 46
6-15 118
16 - 124
288

School groups:

Pre-school 24
Elementary 125
Secondary 93
College 7
249

Occupation of internee:

Farming 60	Buddhist priests 2
Storekeeping 12	Laundry, cleaning 2
Cooking 6	Trucking 2
Gardening 6	Business Administ. 2
Nursery business 4	Barber 2
Fishing 4	Carpenter 2
Hotel, cafe 4	Journalist 1
Foremen, fruit 3	Athletic Instructor 1
Brokers 3	House painter 1
Teachers, Japanese .. 3	Not given 3
Mechanics 3	<u>126</u>

Problems evident from reports of interviews (some more than one, some none)

Rehearing -- possibility of reunion in Relocation Center	22
Repatriation asked for	16
Citizenship, fear of effect on	25
Effect on property rights	1
Difficulty of doing business	6
Fear of deportation	9
Questions of leaves for work or school	9
Educational facilities in camp	16
Work and pay in camp	2
Baggage allowed	3
Evident extreme dependence of wife	3
Health questions making reunion desirable	5
Question of age limit of children	3
Conflict in family	9

STUDY OF FAMILIES INTERVIEWED BUT NOT APPLYING
TO ENTER FAMILY INTERNMENT CAMP

Number of families 88

Number of wives 78

Age groups:

20-29	.....	2
30-39	.....	13
40-49	.....	28
50-59	.....	20
60-	.....	1
Age unknown	..	14
		<u>78</u>

Number of children named in petitions (unsigned) 267

Age groups:

1-5	.....	17
6-15	.....	94
16-	.....	156
		<u>267</u>

School groups:

Pre-school	.....	8
Elementary	.....	67
Secondary	.....	76
College (known)	...	7

Sons known to be in U.S. Army 7 158

Occupation of internee:

Farming	.....	19	Construction, carpentry	....	2
Storekeeper	.....	7	Fish hatchery	.....	1
Hotel, cafe	.....	4	Fishing	.....	1
Gardener	.....	4	Legal interpreter	.....	1
Teacher, Japanese	.	3	Engineer	.....	1
Religious worker,			Produce shipper	.....	1
Christian	....	3	Bookkeeper	.....	1
Foremen	.....	2	Not listed	.....	38
					<u>88</u>

Problems evident from reports of interviews (some families had several)

Rehearings -- hope of release	.....	33
Citizenship	.....	28
Fear of deportation	.....	9
Question of property rights	.....	5
Difficulty of carrying on business	.....	6
Desire for leaves for school or work	.....	29
Question about educational facilities	.....	11
Question as to work and pay in camp	.....	9
Conflict in family	.....	13

Notes on Interviews with Families of Internees -- Units II and III

In Unit Three especially people were expecting the plan to materialize soon. The Spanish Consul is reported to have told them that the camp is now being constructed and will be ready "next month".

Many are troubled in making their decisions by the slowness of mail from internment camps. Formerly it came in a week or two but now takes "months" as it seems to go first to New York for tabulation. "Can something be done to help us get faster service?"

Telegrams have been coming from husbands urging the families to plan to join them. One stated, "Conditions better than relocation centers due to Geneva treaty."

One mother was greatly troubled over the effect on her 15 year old boy of his father's internment. She feels that he will be crushed if they do not join the father and yet she hesitates to take him into a "prison camp". She stated that many parents were incensed because one of the High School teachers in Three had taunted the children saying they were no good and no wonder since they were children of criminals. A P.T.A. leader urged her and others standing by to bring such things to them and not spread such reports. However they had discussed reporting it to the Spanish Consul -- it was not clear that they had done so when he was here.

Many are concerned about their children's citizenship rights and the way in which their young people would be regarded if they had lived in an internment camp.

The question of suitable work financial matters work leaves leaves for study freedom to look after outside business were among the problems.

Feb. 26, 1943

INFORMATION COPY

Mr. Wade Head
Project Director
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Head:

This will refer to your letter of January 22, concerning a number of questions about the family internment camp.

1. "If children are taken to this special internment camp, will thier residence there endanger their American citizenship in any way?"

"Citizens of the United States will, of course, remain citizens, and as far as we have any information they will not suffer any abridgement of their legal rights other than to such an extent as may temporarily result from remaining in the camp for the duration." (page 2 -- Director's Memorandum to All Project Directors -- January 11).

2. "Will ch9ldren be permitted to leave the camp for school or work?"

"The furlough or leave policy applicable to Relocation Centers will not apply in the family internment camp, and no one should go there with the expectation of shortly leaving for school, to get married, or for any other prupose Any person contemplating accepting employment, or going to school, or becoming relocated outside of a Center should not under any circumstances ask to be admitted to the internment camp." (Page 1 -- Memorandum of January 11, *ibid.*)

3. "May the families carry on their business from the camp?"

Mail will be censored, money in the hands of any person at any one time will be limited, possibly to \$10.00. Excess funds will be deposited with the camp fiscal officer and deposited in a special Treasury account to the credit of the internee. Withdrawals can be made subject to the limitations of the Foreign Fund Control Unit of the Treasury if the person invloved is an alien. Since citizens going into the camp agree to accept the same discipline as internees, it appears likely that the same limitations would probably apply to all persons. Subject to this type of restriction and limitation it is presumed that persons would be permitted to direct and receive income from any business or property, the use of which was considered to be such as not to give aid or comfort to the enemy.

4. "May extra money (\$25 or more) be sent to the camp?"

Yes, subject to the restrictions referred to above concerning deposit in a special account and the limitation of funds in the possession of an individual at any one time.

5. "If families enter this camp, will they be sent back to Japan after the war?"

"We have no reason to believe that persons going to such a camp will be arvitrary or forcibly repatriated or expatriated." (Page 2 -- Memorandum of January 11.)

6. "Many of the men now interned are waiting for their rehearing. If they obtain their rehearing and are paroled, may the families move to relocation centers?"

"It is our understanding that the Department of Justice is willing to reconsider internment cases where any evidence can be introduced. In cases such as these families would do well to await the outcome of such reconsideration before seeking to be transferred to an internment camp." (Page 4 -- Memorandum of January 11).

In addition we are attempting to check with the Department of Justice to the end that internees moved to the family internment camp will be cases which are definitely to be interned for the duration. In other words, we expect to check on the status of a rehearing so as to avoid the type of situation referred to in your letter.

7. "Will there be paid employment in the camp?"

There is a possibility that certain types of employment for wages may be available in the camp. If so, the wages to be paid, we are advised, would be determined on the basis of international agreement at the rate of three Swiss gold francs per day. Wages would not, however, be paid for work in connection with the direct operation or maintenance of the camp such as, for example, working in a mess hall, waiting on tables, working on trucking, or other work directly related to the operation of the camp.

8. "Is there any age limit for children?"

A positive answer on this point is not yet available. It is suggested that, in the case of families with older children, your Welfare Counselor look into the situation very carefully to see whether the older children really wish to go to the family internment camp, and whether in her judgment they would be content to stay there for the duration, or whether they might get restless and become a source of administrative difficulty. Your very serious consideration is requested as to the probable effect upon such youngsters of living for one or two years in an atmosphere of a camp, the major part of the population of which consists of enemy aliens interned because they are considered, after an individual hearing to be dangerous to the peace and security of the United States.

9. "Can children, who do not enter the camp, visit relatives who are interned?"

Yes, subject to the general visiting conditions as already described in my memorandum of January 11. Where the visitors are residents of relocation centers, such visits of course would be contingent upon approval of leave for such purposes by the Project Director of the relocation center.

10. Where is the special internment camp?"

At Crystal City, Texas.

11. "Will families be allowed to take all their belongings?"

It is a safe assumption that families will be allowed to take any of their belongings which they are daily using in their present relocation center accommodations. Large quantities of property stored, whether in relocation centers or in private storage elsewhere, is a matter not yet determined, and no promises should be made as yet in connection with this type of property.

Since writing my memorandum of January 11, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has found it necessary to modify to some extent some of the physical plans earlier contemplated. Originally, as stated in my memorandum of January 11, it was planned that all families could do their own cooking and a standard duplex two-family house was described. It now appears that there will be central dining halls for small families and dormitories for older boys and girls. There may also be triplex as well as duplex houses. Larger families, it is still contemplated, can do their own cooking.

We are also advised that the hospital at the Crystal City camp cannot be completed before another month. Although I have no doubt that arrangements will be made to take care of emergency cases we should not, in fairness, permit any cases in a critical condition to be transferred for the present.

As soon as the necessary negotiations and determinations can be made so that we know which internees Justice will move to the family internment camp, we will advise Project Directors as to which family members may be permitted to transfer. We will also advise you later concerning the question of transportation and property management with respect to the families transferred.

Sincerely yours,

D.S. Myer /s/
Director

CC to all Projects.

To Families Which Have Applied to Enter the Family Internment Camp

The camp is located at Crystal City, Texas. We have not yet received word as to which families will be given permission to move to the camp, or when the first will go from Poston. As soon as such information comes, we will notify the family concerned.

We have just received some information in regard to the camp from the WRA in response to questions which you have been asking.

1. Citizenship: "Citizens of the United States will, of course, remain citizens, and so far as we have any information they will not suffer any abridgement of their legal rights other than to such an extent as may temporarily result from remaining in the camp for the duration."
2. Leaves for School or Work: "The furlough leave policy applicable to Relocation Centers will not apply in the family internment camp, and no one should go there with the expectation of shortly leaving for school, to get married, or for any other purpose. Any person contemplating accepting employment, or going to school or becoming re-located outside of a Center should not under any circumstances ask to be admitted to the internment camp."
3. Business: "Mail will be censored, money in the hands of any person at any one time will be limited, possibly to \$10.00." Excess funds will be deposited with the camp fiscal officer and withdrawals made according to rules, probably the same as those governing aliens in the camp.
4. Deportation: "We have no reason to believe that persons going to such a camp will be arbitrarily or forcibly repatriated or expatriated."
5. Rehearing: "In such cases as these, families would do well to await the outcome before seeking to be transferred to an internment camp." Also WRA will check with the Dept. of Justice before moving a family to see if the internee is to be released or not.
6. Employment: "There is a possibility that certain types of employment for wages may be available in the camp. If so, the wages would be determined on the basis of international agreement at the rate of three Swiss gold francs per day. Wages, would not, however, be paid for work in connection with the direct operation and maintenance of the camp."
7. Age limit for Children: "A positive answer on this point is not yet available." Very serious consideration is requested as to the probable effect upon older children of living in such a camp.
8. Visits to the camp by children not entering: "Yes, subject to general visiting conditions."
9. Baggage: "It is a safe assumption that families will be allowed to take any of their belongings which they are daily using in their present relocation center accommodations. Large quantities of property stored is a matter yet to be determined."
10. Living Conditions: The Immigration and Naturalization Service has found it necessary to modify some of the first plans. It was planned that all families could do their own cooking. It now appears that there will be central dining halls for small families and dormi-

tories for older boys and girls. There may also be triplex as well as duplex houses. Larger families, it is still planned, will do their own cooking.

11. Hospital and Schools: The hospital cannot be completed at once. Arrangements will be made to take care of emergency cases but people in a critical condition will not be transferred at first.

12. No mention is made of schools but it is feared that they will not be ready when the camp is first opened.

Further consultation: Any family who wishes to consult further in regard to this matter should see:

Miss Cheney in Unit I -- Family Welfare Office
Miss Hayashi in Unit II -- Family Welfare Office
Miss Starkey in Unit III

March 30, 1943

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

March 26, 1943

Mr. Wade Head
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Head:

We have at hand a copy of a letter from Miss Nell Findley, Chief of Community Services, to Mr. Edward J. Ennis, Director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit, Department of Justice, raising certain questions concerning the family internment camp. Miss Findley's letter has been referred to us for reply. There is also included a letter from Miss Iris E. Tanaka on the same subject.

We have previously replied to most of these questions, not only in our letter to all project directors of January 11th, but also in a letter to you under date of February 26. Such additional information as we are able to give is submitted below.

In reply to Miss Findley's first question, namely the effect on American citizenship of children's admission to the internment camp if the children are over age, we have been advised by the Department of Justice that its appropriation is limited to internees, and their wives, and dependent minor children so that children over twenty cannot be admitted. To the best of our knowledge and belief the residence of children in internment camps will not affect their citizenship except insofar as restriction on movement and censorship might interfere with the exercise of such rights.

With respect to Miss Findley's second question, persons seeking to go to school or to be employed outside should not enter the internment camp because persons seeking admission will, according to our understanding, be required to sign a statement they will stay for the duration.

With respect to Miss Findley's third question, we have no reason to believe that property rights will be affected in any way other than insofar as censorship restrictions, which as we previously stated will be strict, may operate to slow down or interfere with communications concerning property.

With respect to Miss Findley's fourth question, on the basis of present legislation children entering the internment camp would not be liable for repatriation after the war.

With respect to question five, our previous communications have explained what we know about work opportunities and compensation therefor.

With respect to Miss Findley's question six, the induction of men into the Army is completely in the hands of the Army and Selective Service, and we are not in a position to forecast what action will be taken.

With respect to question seven, the camp has already been opened and some families are already there particularly, according to our understanding, a number of German internees and their families. It is planned that additional transfers will be effected as construction of the camp progresses.

Some doubt seems to exist in the minds of the evacuees concerning the granting of permission for internees to join their families at relocation centers. On this point evacuees should understand that as far as persons from the continental United States are concerned, the Attorney general has complete jurisdiction over the proceedings leading to internment, parole, or release. If in the opinion of the Attorney General a person is sufficiently dangerous to be interned for the duration, he cannot be released to a relocation center. If in the opinion of the Attorney General a person is not sufficiently dangerous to be interned, he may be either paroled or released, if they desire, and if Washington Office of the War Relocation Authority so authorizes in each individual case, may join their families in relocation centers.

We now have a large number of applications from persons desiring to have admission to the family internment camp. We are arranging with the Department of Justice for the cases of the internees to be reviewed so that we may know, before proceeding with transfer, whether an internee is apt to be paroled in the near future. Obviously, if an internee is apt to be paroled it is better for him to be transferred to a relocation center than for the family to be transferred to Crystal City.

We are proceeding with these cases and will advise projects as rapidly as practicable concerning the action in individual cases.

I hope this information will be of assistance to your advisors in counseling with families who have been divided as a result of internment of a member of their family.

Sincerely yours,

D.S. Myer /s/
Director

Enc.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Alien Enemy Control Unit
Washington

TO INTERNEES AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

In cases where it is believed that an internee's background indicating his loyalty to this country was not fully presented at his hearing or new and substantial evidence is now available for consideration by the Alien Enemy Hearing Board, it is possible under a recent regulation for either the internee, a member of his family, or an interested person to make application for a rehearing directly to the United States Attorney in charge of his case. The application need not follow any set form, but should present clearly and in sufficient detail the bases for a rehearing.

In addition, there should be submitted to the United States Attorney in charge of the case substantial factual information in the form of letters or affidavits from persons well acquainted with the internee relating to his character, past activities, and loyalty to this country. These testimonials should establish the reliability of persons writing on behalf of the internee as well as describe their opportunities to observe his conduct. Where there is doubt of the place for filing the application, this office will furnish to a proper party the name and address of the United States Attorney in charge of the case.

Upon examination of this material the United States Attorney in his discretion may grant a rehearing before the Alien Enemy Hearing Board. In general the case of an internee cannot be reopened unless the application and supporting papers clearly disclose either new evidence or point out important aspects of the case which were not considered at the first hearing. The applicant may notify this office of the filing of his application with the United States Attorney. The United States Attorney will advise the applicant and this office of his decision in each instance.

Edward J. Ennis
Director

Report on Families Interviewed for Entrance in Family
Internment Camp
Poston, Arizona
March 20, 1943

I. Total number of families interviewed 256
 Number of families applying to enter Family Internment Camp ...166
 Number of families not applying to enter Family Internment Camp. 90

II. Number of families applying to enter 166

Project classifications

Class A71
 B.....39
 C.....56

Number of wives 156 (includes 24 American citizens)

Age groups:

20-29 14
 30-39..... 38
 40-49..... 76
 50-59..... 24
 60- 53
 Not known 1

Other Relatives (not children)

Parents 4
 Sister1
 Fiances 2
 Brother-in-law 1

Number of children named in the petitions 436

Age groups:

1-5 55
 6-15 201
 16- 180

School groups:

Pre-school 30
 Elementary151
 Secondary128
309

Known to have been in college 11

Occupation of internee:

Farming74
 Store-keeping13
 Gardening, nursery 14
 Cooking 6
 Fishing 6
 Hotel, cafe 4
 Brokers 4
 Teachers, Jap..... 4
 Mechanics 4
 Carpenters 4
 Business Admin. ... 3

Foremen, fruit ranches 3
 Buddhist priests 2
 Tenrikyo priests 2
 Laundry, cleaning 2
 Trucking 2
 Barbers 2
 Journalist 1
 Athletic instructor 1
 House painter1
 Bookkeeper 1
 Not given13
166

Problems evident from reports of interviews (some families more than one, some none):

Rehearing -- possibility of reunion in Relocation Center	35
Repatriation asked for	17
Citizenship, fear of effect on	47
Fear of deportation	12
Fear of effect on property rights	4
Difficulty of doing business	8
Question of leaves for work or school	24
Educational facilities in camp	19
Work and pay in camp	6
Baggage allowed	3
Evident extreme dependence of wife	3
Health questions making reunion desirable	13
Age limit on children	Many
Conflict in family	25
Possibility of entering army from internment camp	Many
(Not counted as this problem arose after most of the interviews were finished).	

LLL. Number of families not applying to enter90
(Project classification D)

Number of wives 77 (includes 7 American citizens)

Age groups:		Other relatives (not children)	
20-29	3	Father	1
30-39	12	Sister	1
40-49	33	Sister-in-law	2
50-59	23	Fiance	1
60-	4		
Age unknown	2		

Number of children named in these unsigned petitions 247

Age groups:		School groups:	
1-5	16	Pre-school	5
6-15	76	Elementary	56
16-	155	Secondary	69
			<u>130</u>

Known to have been in college 7

Occupation of Internee:

Farming	25	Teacher, Japanese	2
Store-keeping	7	Construction	1
Hotel, cafe	10	Fish hatchery	1
Gardeners	4	Legal interpreter	1
Religious workers, Christian	3	Engineer	1
Fishing	3	Not listed	30
Foremen	2		

Problems evident from reports of interviews (some families had several).

hearings -- hope of release	37
Effect on citizenship	28
Desire for leaves for work or school	22
Questions about educational facilities	10
Fear of deportation	9
Difficulty of carrying on business	6
Question as to work and pay in camp	5
Question of property rights	2
Health	4
Conflict in family	14
Feeling that children should be ready to serve in the army or pride in relatives now in service (a number. Not counted as this problem arose in a new form after most interviews were finished.)	

IV. Special observations on 71 families, project classification A.n.

Children in these families 131 (22 families had
no children involved)

Age groups:

1-5	28
6-15	71
16-	32

V. Special observations on 17 families classified for repatriation.

Children in these families 45

Age groups:

1-5	88
6-15	21
16-	16

VI. Special observations on 30 families. (Families refusing to sign
at first but changing to applicants between Feb. 5 and March 20.)

Most important reasons:

1. Lack of information as to such questions as:
Age limit
Camp rules
Possibility of leaves for work or school.
2. Eagerness of internee for family to join him.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

March 26, 1943

Mr. Wade Head
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

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We are proceeding with these cases and will advise projects as rapidly as practicable concerning the action in individual cases.

I hope this information will be of assistance to your advisors in counseling with families who have been divided as a result of internment of a member of their family.

Sincerely yours,

D.S. Myer /s/
Director

Enc.

Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona
April 7, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. D.S. Myer, Director
ATTENTION: RELOCATION PLANNING OFFICE
from: WWAide Head, Project Director

We are in receipt of fourteen letters from your office in regard to as many families from among the 170 ~~xxxx~~ for whom we sent in applications for admission into the Crystal City family internment camp.

Before answering them in detail, it may be well to explain how we conducted our interviews with these families and some ninety more which did not sign the petition to go to the camp.

In November, when word first came we had all interested families fill out preliminary questionnaires, working through the block managers. Early in January when lists of families to interview first and the application blanks came from your office, we called in each woman or head of the family for an interview. The women were interviewed by two of the appointed personnel who had spent many years in Japan and who use the Japanese language adequately. The women appreciated this opportunity of talking over their problems in their own language. Most of these interviewed took from 20 to 30 minutes and all were encouraged to postpone decision and come again after further family consultation if they were uncertain. About 30% did so, some coming three or even more times. All children 16 and over were given the opportunity to have an interview with carefully chosen school teachers so that they might understand the serious questions involved and their attitudes and opinions might be transmitted to you.

At that time we did not have adequate information about the camp. (Your letter of January 11 never reached us and the one of February 26 did not arrive until March 25). However we stressed the fact that it was to be an internment camp, no doubt with regulations similar to those of the camps in which their fathers were living, with censorship and strict military guard. We told the mothers of older children and the children themselves that leaves from the camp for study or work would in all probability be impossible, helped them to face the implications of an internment camp experience on their future as American citizens. When your letter of Feb. 26 in answer to the questions we had transmitted to you came, we were glad to find that the tone of our representation had been true. So that they could have all the details then available we sent the enclosed statement, which you will see has a careful translation into Japanese, to each family which had applied, informing them that we would gladly consult with them further.

We feel, in view of the care with which the whole matter has been conducted in this project, that in most cases re-interviewing is not necessary and would be a form of pressure. In fact when the welfare worker in one of the smaller units called the families to give them the detailed statement and in doing so emphasized again some of the handicaps for older children the reaction was that she was trying to prevent the families from going even if they wished to. In the other two units, the statements were simply sent to the ~~xxxx~~ homes. Everyone connected with the matter has been most earnest in seeing that the families faced all the implications both as to life in the camp and as to the effect on the future life of the older children, yet leaving the final decision to them.

In our classification were listed as (A) those:
where repatriation was desired.
women with no children.
women with small children only
a few other urgent cases.

Families in which older children were clear in their desire to enter the camp were rated B . Where there was family conflict or hesitation on the part of older children --orof the wife -- we rated C. In this group are many families which we are loath to see enter such a camp, but to whom we had given all the ~~the~~ help in ~~the~~ our power in making this serious deciwion. Parental supervision over young people, especially girls is stronger and lasts longer in families of Japanese extraction than in most groups in our country. This is especially true of girls whose marriage plans are to a large degree guided by their parents. This accounts in part for the strong desire to keep even older children in the family group. If there is an age limit, some of the children will be excluded and some families may withdraw their applications. Also many families are now asking as to the dormitory plans. If children are to be there just for sleeping, it will not make much difference but if they are to live quite separate from the rest of the family it will affect some decions. We need to have definite information as to age limit and ad to plans for housing young people in dormitories as soon as possible.

Of the 14 cases about which you write, three were approved, all of them in our Class A list. We are hoping to hear from the others (almost 70) classified A for most of ~~the~~ them seem to us urgent cases. They are eager to know if and when they may go to Crystal City.

Please see the enclosure for a report on the cases concerning which you wrote .

Sincerely,

W. W. Wade Head
Project Director.

AC: mt.

Enclosure.