December 5, 1988

Mr. Bob Bratt, Executive Director
Office of Reparations Administrations
Department of Justice
P.O. Box 66260
Washington, D.C. 20036-626

Dear Mr. Bratt:

I am writing this letter requesting additional clarification of the term "eligible individual" for reparations.

There is no doubt that two members of my family are definitely eligible:
1. Yoshiko Shimo (mother, currently age 92)
   Manzanar and Crystal City
2. Mildred Shimo (wife, nee Setsuko Mildred Sasaki)
   Tule Lake

The question is whether or not I am eligible based upon Section 108 (2)(B)(i)(III) which reads in part: "...or otherwise deprived of liberty...as a result of a directive of the Armed Forces of the United States...."

In my particular case I had volunteered for the Military Intelligence School at Camp Savage, once in March of 1942 and again in December at which time I was accepted. At that time I immediately wrote again to Mr. Ennis, of the Enemy Alien Control Unit asking that my father who was interned immediately after the war, be united with my mother in Manzanar.

Just prior to graduation from the Intelligence School, we were advised that upon graduation we would be given furloughs to visit our families -- except for those who had families in camps on the West Coast. Here I was about to embark on a secret and dangerous overseas mission, but was not permitted to visit my mother to say goodbye.

Furthermore, this directive was given to us just prior to a "loyalty" questionnaire that the entire student body had to complete. I'm afraid my American blood had boiled over by this time and I made my views known. I answered question #28 by stating that I would swear unqualified allegiance to the U.S..... But on #27 I stated I would no longer be "willing" to serve in overseas combat.... A letter in long hand was attached explaining my reasons.

As a result, 19 of us "once willing" volunteers were ousted from the school. We were eventually demoted to the rank of private and transferred to an army labor battalion comprised of Americans of German, Italian and Japanese descent who were classified as potential "trouble makers."

A directive of the Armed Forces of the United States forbade me to visit my mother in Manzanar. That in turn resulted in my toiling for over two years in this unit -- a unit that denied promotions and other "normal" army privileges to its members even though I held a number of responsible positions in this unit. My liberty was definitely deprived.

I can support this view with documents if you feel that those of us in this situation are eligible for reparation.

I look forward to your reply.

Cedrick M. Shimo

Cedrick M. Shimo (army serial #390172679)
2711 South Genesee Ave.
Los Angeles, CA. 90016