

Present: Mr. Antonio Martin, Vice-Consul of Spain at San Francisco; Mr. Torrey of the State Department; Councilmen from Blocks 1, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, and an observer from Block 30.

Copy of memorandum regarding a number of articles permitted for the repatriates to take with them by the Department of State, Washington, August 21, 1943 was handed over by the Vice-Consul of Spain at San Francisco, Captain A. Martin, to the Council for its reference. Also a list of non-permissible articles and quantity limit was attached.

Mr. Martin conveyed requests of the Spanish Ambassador at Washington, D.C. to be transmitted him:

1. A list of names of applicants for repatriation who have requested through the War Relocation Authority but not through the Spanish representatives; date and place of application; members of family.
2. A list of names and addresses of persons who have died at Heart Mountain and also a list of names and addresses of relatives of such persons in Japan.
3. Approximate number of the Japanese nationals in this center.
4. Approximate number of applicants who have requested for repatriation in this center.

Mr. Martin disclosed that conditions of an internment camp in North China are such that no wages, no clothing allowances are provided by the Japanese Government; only shelter, food, coal, and electricity are guaranteed the internees. However, the Japanese Government allowed the clothing allowances for internees to be sent from the U.S. through Red Cross. Mr. Martin informed that the Spanish Embassy had entered complaints several times in the past to the WRA on question of clothing allowances to everyone but the matter never arrived at a definite conclusion. The Council requested Mr. Martin to convey its request for information on a feasibility of reciprocating for the Japanese Nationals in U.S. such a provision allowed the American Civilian internees in China and Japan as getting clothing allowances through Red Cross from the U.S. if it were true.

As to the petition of January 13 on equal treatment of the Japanese race as Germans and Italians and their descendants, Mr. Martin replied it is the question of American authorities to decide.

The Council requested a special attention on question of evacuee physicians and surgeons in connection with the civil service status. The Council asked him to report to the Embassy that there was no improvement in doctor's and nurse's situations. At present, the number of epidemic flu patients had reached a toll of between 2,000 and 3,000. Congestion of the center population without any access to freer movement was the cause of such a large figure.

Also the Council charged the water system as being detrimental to the health of residents. Cooking utensils and water pipes are constantly corroding, thus, contaminating food.

Overall situation <sup>remains</sup> ~~remains~~ the same as his last visit on August 13 and January 13 this year. While food is getting better, employment status is getting worse.

The Council requested that the Spanish Embassy expend effort in establishing a moratorium for evacuated Japanese whose obligations at present cannot be met due to confinement in a camp and without any means of income.

Having no other business to discuss, Mr. Nakaki reported that Mr. Todd would like to call a meeting with committees of Block Managers, Council, and Janitors on firing stoves in the latrines, laundry rooms, and recreation halls. It is a matter of distribution of time, he asserted, and not the distribution of personnel which hinders the operation.

Mr. Clarence Nishida, who has recently returned from the New Mexico Detention Camp at Santa Fe, N.M. informed that regulations of the camp have become quite lenient. Application for hearing should be made to the U.S. Attorney. Internees are allowed \$3.00 monthly allowance.

Another visitor to the Council meeting was a Mr. Torrey of the Department of State, Washington, D.C. who has returned from North China via the Gupshelm on December 1. He had been at the Weihsien internment camp in the middle of Shantung Province, North China, near Tientsin. The camp has a population of 1,500 internees of 15 different nationalities. It had been a Presbyterian church for the Chinese. Average space per person was approximately 36 square feet. Average loss weight per person during the 6 1/2 months was about 4-5 pounds. There were plenty of bread. Had to make their own bread and own work through coolies. No machinery. Allowed 3 trunks, a bedding roll, a bed, and 2 suitcases. Had to supply practically everything they had brought in with them. No wages for 12 hour manual labor, no clothing allowances other than furnished by the U.S. Government through the Swiss representatives. Impossible to buy clothes at the canteen. Sanitation facilities were poor. There were 6 or 9 wells--hand pump--but none of them were farther than 100 feet away from the cesspools, so it had to be boiled to purify it. There were 3 kitchens with a small water tank. 12 hours steady pumping was required to fill the tanks. Milk was supplied from 10 cows and 2 goats. Hospital facilities were practically stripped of everything. Internees made it operative. Most of 30 doctors they had were missionary doctors. No x-ray. Allowed a few medical apparatus. Medicines had to be procured by themselves by each chipping in the Chinese 70-80 dollars which the Swiss representatives bought for them. Attitude of the Japanese authorities was fair on the whole. All businesses had been liquidated before internment. Meat was served 4-5 times a week enough to make a stew. No coffee, no liquor, enough sugar to sweeten the tea.

Having no time for further question, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. A special meeting was scheduled for Thursday at 9:30 AM. Regular meeting on Friday, December 12, at 9:30 AM.

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