

CHRONOLOGY OF THE INTERNMENT AND DETENTION OF

KUMEMARO UNO, aka GEORGE KUMEMARO UNO, GEORGE K. UNO, SR.

The following represents data taken from copies of documents in my possession which were made available to me in response to my request made in 1975, under the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA). This listing is in chronological order and identifies source and subject titles. In some instances, quotes have been included to make the listing somewhat more meaningful.

As we all know, Dad was apprehended by FBI agents on February 20, 1942, at our home, [redacted] Los Angeles, California; that he was detained at a facility for internees at Griffith Park under emergency authorization as a suspected Japanese propaganda agent. Altho his release from custody as a parolee took place in September 26, 1947, five years and seven months after his arrest, the final order vacating and setting aside his removal order did not come until August 25, 1948.

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- 2/18/42 Warrant for arrest issued by Francis Biddle, Attorney General.
- 5/ 6/42 Notice of Hearing, Ft. Lincoln, Bismark, North Dakota.
- 5/ 8/42 Report & recommendation for internment by Hearing Board (Findings attached).
- 6/ 3/42 Memorandum to Chief, Review Section: "recommend internment as suspected propaganda agent."
- 6/ 5/42 Order of internment issued by Francis Biddle, Attorney General.
- 11/ 9/42 Dept. of Justice memorandum to FBI Director refers to detention on basis of suspected espionage.
- 11/30/42 Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge memorandum to FBI Director: advises delay in prosecuting pending more comprehensive investigation, request subject not be included on repatriation list, "at this time."
- 7/29/43 INS memorandum refers to transfer to internment facility at Santa Fe, N.M., on June 17, 1943.
- 10/ 8/43 Dept. of Justice memorandum to FBI Director on continued efforts for espionage conviction to place subject in "more important category for exchange purposes." Signed by Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney General.
- 12/ 4/43 Memorandum on statement by confidential informant at Lordsburg Internment Camp regarding pro-Japan statements alleged to have been made by subject.
- 4/11/44 Ass't Attorney General memorandum to FBI Director on recommenda-

tion that prosecution be instituted for espionage. Exchange is mentioned.

- 7/ 8/44 U.S. Attorney Charles H. Carr letter to Tom C. Clark, Ass't Attorney General, stating facts in case do not warrant prosecution for espionage.
- 8/25/44 Tom C. Clark memorandum to FBI Director states that indictment suggested to "improve bargaining status for exchange purposes."
- 8/ 3/45 Application for non-repatriation filed; denial of petition.
- 10/18/45 Memorandum on reconsideration of order to deport (8 pages), no change in internment order.
- 12/18/45 Hearing Board excerpts -- deny application for non-repatriation.
- 3/11/46 Order signed by Attorney General Tom C. Clark, for removal of George Kumemaro Uno from the U.S. because he is "deemed dangerous to public peace and safety."
- 4/12/46 Personal Record submitted by Kumemaro Uno, which also includes dismay and reaction to removal order.
- 5/ 1/46 Five-page letter of appeal for release to Attorney General Tom C. Clark, from K. Uno.
- 5/16/46 Letters appealing for reconsideration of removal order by family members and friends.
- 5/21/46 Ditto
- 6/ 7/46 Ditto
- 5/21/46 Letter to K. Uno from Thomas M. Cooley, II, Director, Alien Enemy Control Unit stating denial of request for release; reaffirms Attorney General's removal order.
- 3/17/47 Memorandum to T. M. Cooley, KK, from W. F. Kelly, Assistant Commissioner, Alien Control, stating request for parole; also notes Uno was served on March 10, 1947 with removal order dated March 11, 1946.
- 4/ 4/47 Letter to K. Uno from Cooley, responding to Kelly letter of 3/12/47, reaffirming denial of parole request.
- 5/21/47 Memorandum from C. M. Rothstein to W. F. Kelly, suggesting Uno not be removed.
- 6/ 5/47 Memorandum to Officer In Charge, Crystal City, states "no change" in outstanding removal order.
- 9/26/47 INS Report of Alien Enemy: K. Uno paroled in custody of ACLU Attorney, Wayne M. Collins, Esq.

- 8/25/48 Memorandum signed by Attorney General Tom C. Clark, which orders the removal order of March 11, 1946, be vacated and "said alien enemy be released."
- 10/ 4/48 Letter from INS, signed by W.A. Carmichael, District Director, to George Kunemaro Uno, informing him of the August 25, 1948 order to vacate and set aside removal order; directs that he be released and that his is no longer subject to any restraints as an alien enemy.

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E P I L O G U E :

It would be a gross understatement to say that the wheels of justice grind slow, for one could surmise that in Dad's case, justice came to a halt and he languished in the gulag to serve out an indeterminate prison sentence.

One of the glaring ironies that surfaced in sifting thru these documents was the material which came from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Dutifully, in response to my FOIA request, via Sparky Matsunaga, INS sent me copies of what appears to be its complete file on Dad -- including his application for, and granting of, a passport in 1952; and his application and clearance for employment by INS in 1961, as an interpreter and translator! In both instances, his applications did not indicate that he'd been subject to deportation, nor the fact that he'd been incarcerated by the government as an alien enemy. The omission is inexplicable. Perhaps, we can take heart that in the end, Dad did have the last laugh on those agencies responsible for his imprisonment.

We, his children also suffered from his prolonged imprisonment, for there was the indignities and shame we endured for having a father who was branded to be an undesirable enemy alien suspected of espionage. That he "be released and no longer subject to any restraint as an alien enemy..." Is that all there is to it? No apologies for what he was made to suffer? No compensation for the prolonged imprisonment and denial of freedom in order to work and support his wife and children? Imprisoned, but not charged? What are the answers to these questions?