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*- WAR CRIMES
OCCUPATION*

PETER M. NAKAHARA
GEORGE HINOKI

November 28, 1990

Mr. Tom Sakamoto
P. O. Box 2350
San Jose, California 95109-2350

Re: War Crimes Trials

Dear Tom:

Reference is made to your letter concerning the Panel Discussion on the War Crimes Trials scheduled during the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion in October 1991.

The War Crimes Trials were classified into two (2) separate categories: (1) The trial of the policy makers such as Hideki Tojo, General Oshima and other members of the Japanese High Command who waged a war of aggression and atrocities were committed against soldiers and civilians in occupied countries. (2) The trial of field commanders, individual officers and soldiers who committed atrocities in the field.

Hideki Tojo and other officers of the high command were tried by the International Military Tribunal, composed of members of the 11 nations who waged war against Japan. These were called the Class "A" War Crimes Trials and were conducted in Tokyo, Japan. I participated as an Official Court Interpreter for the trial of General Tamura, Chief of the Prisoner of War Information and Administration Bureau. He was tried for numerous atrocities allegedly conducted against Allied prisoners of war in camps throughout the Japanese mainland.

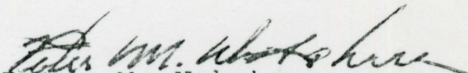
Field commanders, individual officers and soldiers who perpetrated acts of atrocities in or about the battlefield against civilians and soldiers were tried in the Class "B" War Crimes Trials, conducted in Yokohama, Japan. These tribunals were composed of three officers (American, British and Australian).

Each tribunal was assigned an Official Court Interpreter (2 interpreters), a prosecution monitor or monitors and a defense monitor or monitors. The duty of the monitors was to correct any errors made by the Official Court Interpreter. If a question arose concerning the accuracy of any translation or interpretation it was resolved by a conference of the Official Court Interpreter and the Defense and Prosecution Monitor.

Mr. Tom Sakamoto
Page 2
November 28, 1990
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An effort was made to assure that defendants charged with alleged war crimes received a high standard of justice in accordance with Anglo-American concepts of justice.

Sincerely yours,


Peter M. Nakahara

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