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WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON

January 9, 1943

*Registration -
Joint*

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

Subject: Formulation of plan to determine (a) loyalty of Japanese-Americans so as to permit of their release from war relocation centers, and (b), if released, whether or not they may be inducted into the military service or employed in plants and facilities important to the war effort.

I. DISCUSSION:

1. By oral direction of the Deputy Chief of Staff at a conference held in the office of the Assistant Secretary of War on January 2, 1943, a committee composed of representatives of PMGO and HIS has met to prepare a study to determine by what means Japanese-Americans of the Nisei class may be released from war relocation centers, and, if released, what disposition may be made of them.

2. Following the outbreak of war it was deemed necessary to place American citizens of Japanese ancestry in certain restricted areas under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority. The Committee has been informed that some of those restricted Japanese-Americans may be released, after proper investigation, for duty with the armed forces, for employment in war production, or for other civilian pursuits.

3. The following plan has been formulated and is presented in outline form.

a. The Navy Department in conjunction with this committee is preparing a questionnaire to be filled out by the Japanese-Americans, the answers to which will indicate to a certain degree tendencies of loyalty or disloyalty to the United States. Those questionnaires will be mimeographed or printed, and will be distributed in the war relocation centers by teams consisting of an army officer and certain enlisted men, who will supervise their execution.

b. Representatives of the War Relocation Authority will assist in the execution of the questionnaires. Any information in the possession of the War Relocation Authority concerning the loyalty of the Japanese-Americans who execute the questionnaire should be made available. Upon the recom-



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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By SR, NARS Date 6/14/74

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mentation of the War Relocation Authority, the appropriate agency in the War Department will take further steps as hereinafter set out.

- c. A copy of the questionnaires submitted by male Japanese-Americans within the age limits for military service, will be forwarded immediately without analysis or evaluation to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, who will approve or disapprove such individuals for induction into the armed forces. MIS will notify FICO of the results of its action.
- d. Copies of all questionnaires, together with the information mentioned in par. 3 b., will be forwarded to FICO. A check of FEI and OMI records and an analysis of the answers given by the Japanese-Americans will be made by FICO except for those cases which were transmitted direct to MIS as provided in par. 3 c.
- e. A copy of all questionnaires, other than those covered under par. 3 c., will be referred to the Western Defense Command for investigation. Following investigation, final decision will be made by a joint board composed of representatives of the Navy, War Relocation Authority, MIS and FICO:

 - (1) whether a presently restricted Japanese-American may be released from war relocation centers; and
 - (2) whether those so released may be employed in plants and facilities important to the war effort. (Note: The controversial matter as to whether or not there shall be any determination by the board of the areas in the United States within which released Japanese-Americans will be permitted to go, is not covered in the study.)
- f. To prevent duplication of investigation, except where necessary upon the receipt of supplementary information or for other cogent reasons, a list of Japanese-Americans approved for release, and those who have been approved for employment in war production will be furnished all Service Commands.

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II. RECOMMENDATIONS:

4. That PAGO will take the necessary steps to obtain from Service Commands or otherwise the personnel necessary to supervise at war relocation centers the execution of suitable questionnaires by those Japanese-Americans of the Nisei class. Probable requirements: ten officers, twenty enlisted men.

5. That copies of the questionnaires executed by male Japanese-Americans within the age limits for military service be forwarded immediately to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, who will approve or disapprove those individuals for induction into the armed forces.

6. That ONI and FBI record checks, except cases covered in par. 5, be made by the Provost Marshal General after receipt of executed questionnaires from the field.

7. That copies of the questionnaires, other than those covered in par. 5, be transmitted to the Western Defense Command for appropriate investigation; and that the Western Defense Command refer cases to other Service Commands for collateral investigations when required.

8. That the determination of (a) whether or not Japanese-Americans of the Nisei class should be released from war relocation centers, except those to be inducted into the military service, as provided in par. 5, and (b), whether those so released may be employed in plants and facilities important to the war effort be made by a joint board consisting of representatives of the Navy, War Relocation Authority, Military Intelligence Service and the Provost Marshal General's Office.

9. That a list of Japanese-Americans approved for release and those who have been approved for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort be sent to all Service Commands.

10. That a directive be issued to effect the foregoing recommendations if the procedure outlined herein is approved.