



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.

COMMITTEE FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Division of Overseas Ministries

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William P. Thompson, President Claire Randall, General Secretary

October 26, 1981

MEMO TO: John Coventry Smith
Kyoji Buma
Arthur Kamitsuka
Robert Smylie
June Kushino
Jovelino Ramos
Patricia Patterson
✓ Ms. Sasha Hohri
Mrs. Michi Kobi

FROM : Robert Northup *Robert Northup*

RE : Hearings on Redress for Americans of Japanese Ancestry

Because of the time and communication limits we all have before the hearings before the Presidential Study Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which is to be held in New York City on Monday, November 23, I want to share this information with all of you.

1. Today, Monday, October 26, I talked with James Hamilton about (a) NCCCUSA recognition of Dr. John Coventry Smith as the appropriate person to represent the NCCCUSA at the hearings and (b) a draft testimony (7 pages plus attachments). I indicated that the draft was edited and redone once and that it will be reconsidered and redone again.
2. James Hamilton telephoned back to say that Claire Randall approved naming Dr. Smith as the NCCCUSA representative.
3. I sent a mailgram to the Commission in Washington naming Dr. Smith and asking that he be invited to testify with Americans of Japanese ancestry (NOTE: with, and not "on behalf of"). June Kushino will check with her friend in Washington, D.C. to be sure that mailgram is received and to seek to have confirming action on it. June should check with others on this matter.
4. I telephoned John C. Smith. He is glad to be able to represent NCCCUSA. He will meet with Robert Smylie, Art Kamitsuka and others in Art's room, 1149, at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 4, to edit further and prepare testimony.
5. Today I talked with William J. Butler, eminent human rights person and member of International Commission of Jurists. He noted that Edward J. Ennis, head of ACLU, had participated in the Chicago hearings on September 8, 1981 with an exceptionally fine testimony. He also mentioned that we should deal fully with the Japanese-Americans Claims Act of 1948: Citation 50 - U.S. Code APP. Secs 1981-1987. Under that a 1948 Commission on Recompense for Property Losses was set up. Some information is given in the book "The Bamboo People." J. Kushino's friend says that what started out as intent to recompense people became very inadequate; people were required to prove value from receipts, etc., most of which were lost/mislaid, so in the end only a few were recompensed and those at only a very low level.

John Coventry Smith et al.

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6. I have made four copies of draft plus appended material and hope this will prove adequate. They are going to:

John C. Smith
Pat Patterson
Art Kamitsuka
Robert Smylie

Sincerely,

Bob Northup

Robert W. Northup

RWN:esf