

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

July 30, 1943

To: All Project Directors

Distribution: E

Reference is made to my memorandum of June 12, 1943, stating that the Immigration and Naturalization Service would be unable to admit additional families to the family internment camp for approximately six months. We have recently been advised by that Service that due to the anticipated sailing of the GRIPSHOLM and the repatriation of some of the Japanese nationals now interned they will have space within the next few months for approximately 50 additional families - an average of five families from each Relocation Center.

In view of the small number who can be admitted at this time, the petitions to enter the camp which we now have from residents of the Centers will have to be carefully reviewed before recommendations are made to the Department of Justice. There is also the probability that there have been changes in some family situations and desire to join the interned member since petitions were forwarded to this office. Accordingly, it is requested that you review the information you have regarding families who wish to go to the Crystal City Camp and advise us those families whom you believe should be recommended to the Department of Justice at the present time. In order that the residents of each Center receive consideration not more than 10 families should be recommended by each Center. While no specific criteria can be established in view of the many variables, it is the opinion of this office that those who should be given priority are women with no children or children under school age, families who have requested repatriation, and families in which there are serious emotional problems in which reuniting of the family may be of assistance. This review may necessitate additional interviews by the Welfare staff with families applying for voluntary internment. The attitude of the interviewer should not be one of either encouraging or discouraging such internment but rather of assistance to the family in evaluation the factors involved and in making a decision.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has recently adopted a new form to be used in their program, a copy of which is attached. Additional copies will be sent you under separate cover.

The only members of an internee's family who may join him at the camp are his wife and dependent children. If exceptional cases arise involving other family members whom you believe should be considered for admission, complete information regarding them should be forwarded to this office. Such cases will then be forwarded to the Department of Justice for a decision as to whether an exception may be made.

The statement sent you previously of information concerning the Crystal City camp stated in item 9 that, in exceptional cases, applications to leave the camp would be considered on an individual basis. We have been advised by the Immigration and Naturalization Service that at the present time they are limiting departures to two types of situations. Students who are voluntary internees will be permitted to leave on an individual basis when they plan to complete their education outside. Also, voluntary internees will be permitted to leave in cases of serious illness when the individual needs treatment which cannot be provided at the internment camp. Such persons will be given an interim parole and may be accompanied by a Parole Officer to their destination. With the exception of these two situations, voluntary internees will not be permitted to leave the camp, except when the interned member of the family has been paroled or released unconditionally.

While the terms upon which voluntary internees may be detained in camp is primarily the concern of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, recommendations are to be made for the voluntary internment only of evacuees who have expressed an understanding of and acquiescence in the limitations upon departure from the internment camp.

Upon the receipt of the recommendations of the Centers, the Welfare Section at the Washington office will review them and will select 50 families whose admission will be recommended to the Department of Justice. That Department will have the sole decision as to which families will be admitted.

The Department of Justice will send a letter to each family whose admission to the camp is recommended by the War Relocation Authority; this letter will state whether the Petition for Admission is accepted or rejected. Copies of the letters will be forwarded to this office and information will be sent to each Center as to the action of the Department of Justice regarding petitions from that Center. That Department will advise this office when the families may be admitted.

The details of transfer from the Relocation Center to the family internment camp will be arranged by the District Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service for the district in which the Relocation Center is located. As in the case of families previously transferred, the Department of Justice will pay transportation costs of the family and a limited amount of personal property. It is anticipated that an arrangement will be made with that Department by which funds will be advanced by the Relocation Center to meet this cost and the Center will be reimbursed by the Department of Justice. When an escort is necessary through the Military area, the District Director of Immigration and Naturalization will provide an escort.

Following the submission of your recommendations as to families to be admitted in the next group, you should also review all petitions received for admission to the family internment camp and advise this office of any families who have withdrawn their petition and of any changes in classification. Those which are still active will be reviewed and a list of those whose admission to the camp is recommended by WRA will be forwarded to the Department of Justice. It is expected that from time to time that Department will be in a position to admit additional families.

If the family has an application pending as of July 1, 1943 to join the head of the family at Crystal City, the family should not be moved to the Segregation Center.

We would appreciate receiving your recommendations regarding families as soon as possible.

/s/ Leland Burrows
Acting Director

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