

# MEMORANDUM

The Department of State refers to memoranda from the Spanish Embassy in charge of Japanese interests in the continental United States dated January 4 and 11, 1944, and to previous correspondence respecting the reunion of Japanese internees with their families.

A review of the program for the reunion of Japanese families separated as a result of the internment of one spouse indicates that on January 28, 1944, of a total of 841 families that applied for reunion, and that were not reunited prior to October 1, 1943, the cases of only 306 still remain to be settled. Four hundred and nineteen families have been reunited by the parole of the interned spouse and twelve by the release of the interned spouse. Thirty four families have already been reunited at Crystal City and seventeen additional families are now in the process of being united at Crystal City. Fifty-three applications have been withdrawn by the individuals concerned and action in the case of three families has been stopped by the death of the interned spouse.

It should be pointed out in this connection that of a total number of approximately 12,000 families of Japanese nationals accommodated in family units in internment camps and relocation centers in the United States only 306 families, constituting less than three percent of the total number, remain to be reunited.

It is the intention of the Government of the United States to continue its efforts for the reunion of Japanese families still separated by internment until all such families desiring reunion have been reunited. To this end the American authorities have offered to all Japanese now in internment whose families are segregated at the Tule Lake Relocation Center the opportunity to be reunited with their families at that Center. Exceptions to this policy will have to be made only in cases where the internee requesting such reunion with his family



has been a trouble-maker in the internment camp. Up to this date, however, no such case has been found. On the other hand, a number of persons to whom the opportunity has been offered for reunion with their families at Tule Lake have declined to take advantage of the opportunity and have insisted on being sent to the family camp operated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The cases of all the applicants for family reunion held at the Santa Fe Internment Camp have been reviewed to ascertain which of the applicants may safely be paroled for reunion with their families at relocation centers other than the segregation center at Tule Lake or whether the applicants may be set free on parole to the community at large. For this purpose a Special Hearing Board was sent to Santa Fe. This Hearing Board has completed its work in Santa Fe and its recommendations are now being examined by the appropriate authorities. It is expected that within the very near future these cases will have been settled.

Families that cannot be united by transfer to Tule Lake or to other relocation centers or by the parole to the community at large or the release of the interned spouse are being transferred as speedily as facilities can be made available for them to the family camp maintained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Because of difficulties in obtaining priorities and materials for the enlargement of this camp, which is in reality a cottage colony rather than a standard internment camp, accommodations in it will necessarily have to be restricted to those internees who cannot be reunited as family units in some other manner.

The Department of State would appreciate it if the Spanish Embassy would point out to the Japanese nationals concerned and to the Japanese Government in this connection that the family camps maintained by the Government of the United States are truly family camps in which the interned families may live as actual family units in cottages provided with individual sanitary and cook-



ing facilities and affording the privacy necessary for full family life. They are in this respect in sharp contrast to many of the internment camps in which the Japanese authorities hold American families and in which husbands and wives are accommodated in separate and overcrowded men's and women's dormitories without opportunity for privacy or for proper family life.

The Department of State suggests that it might be appropriate for the Spanish Embassy when pointing out to the Japanese Government the various methods that have been used by the American authorities to care for applicants for internment in family camps to mention that the completion of the family reunion program would be greatly facilitated and expedited in the event that the Japanese Government agrees to a further exchange of American and Japanese nationals in which those Japanese families seeking repatriation may be included.

Department of State

Washington, February 7, 1944

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