

January 25, 1945

Mr. Edward J. Ennis, Director  
Alien Enemy Control Unit  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I was advised to write to you by Mr. Ballin of the U.S. Attorney's Office here in New York City in regard to changing my enemy alien (Japanese subject) status to Chinese-Formosan.

Before I present my personal history to you I must explain what steps I have previously taken to acquire this change in status. On January 6, 1943 I wrote a letter to the Alien Registration Division, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, Philadelphia, Pa., asking them for a consideration of my proper status. Because of my unfamiliarity with the procedure of making such a change I asked the advice of my professors, Dr. Albert W. Palmer and Dr. Robert Cashman, 5757 University Ave., Chicago, Ill., who have always shown me great kindness and consideration throughout the six year period I have been student resident at the Chicago Theological Seminary.

On February 2, 1943, I received an answer from the Alien Registration Division stating that I should go to the nearest office of Immigration and Naturalization Service to secure application forms. I spoke to Dr. Palmer about going to the Immigration Office to fill the necessary forms. He advised me to ask Dr. Cashman to go with me to help me in the event of any difficulties connected with the filling out of the forms. Dr. Cashman asked the officer in charge for further information and directions. After he talked to the officer he told me that it would not be wise for me, first, as a Protestant minister, to take such action, as I should not limit my services to any country or nationality, and secondly, that I must consider the safety and welfare of my parents, brothers and sisters still living in Formosa, under Japanese domination. At the time I insisted that I should take the opportunity for changing my status but he was opposed to my idea and I finally signed the letter which he wrote for me to withdraw my case, with deep sorrow.

Two years have passed and I have continually felt that my status should be Chinese-Formosan, not a Japanese subject.

Nine months ago I was offered a position with the Naval School of Military Government and Administration at Columbia University, New York City, to work with a new project which concerned mainly my country, Formosa. I was glad to have this opportunity to work for the winning of this war in this definite way and I accepted immediately. My interest has always been to see a victory of the United Nations and, as one of two Chinese-Formosans in this country, I knew I could contribute materially to this task.

I came to this country September 1, 1938 for the purpose of studying at the University of Chicago Divinity School. After Pearl Harbor I was told that I must register as a Japanese subject, according to the regulations released by the U.S. government.

But I am a Chinese-Formosan and have never considered myself a Japanese. Under Japanese colonial policy a Chinese-Formosan does not have the rights, privileges, and liberty of a Japanese. To free Formosa from this suppression it is my desire to contribute in some way to the war effort of the United Nations. But as long as I am classified an enemy alien I cannot participate in the work I can do best.

I sincerely hope that you will consider my special case and instruct me so that I can freely do my part for this country and for Formosa. I have American friends who will testify as to my whole-hearted support of the United Nations' effort and my loyalty to this country. I have sufficient papers also to prove that I am a Chinese-Formosan.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ai Chi Sai  
414 W. 121st St.  
New York 27, New York