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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Manzanar, California

December 6, 1943

In reply, please refer to:

VMM

Leave Clearance Board Interview and Recommendations

TO: Mr. Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director

FROM: Leave Clearance Board
Mr. Walter Heath, Chairman
Mr. Virgil Morgan

SUBJECT: ^{Shinjo} ~~Shi~~ Nagatomi, Male, Married, Alien, Age
41, Address 14-1-4

DATE OF HEARING: November 23, 1943

Background:

Subject lives in Manzanar with his wife and three daughters. His family is not going to Tule Lake. His original answer to the loyalty question was "yes" which answer he maintains at the present time. Subject has resided all his life in Japan, except for the four years which he lived in Canada during 1930 to 1934, and from September 1934 to the present time during which time he resided in the United States. He is a graduate of a University in Kyoto, Japan. Has no property in this country or in Japan, unless a church could be considered his own personal property. His record on the project is very satisfactory and is employed in the Family Welfare Department as a Head Counsellor at present.

Summary:

Subject answered "yes" to the following question, "I swear to abide by the laws of the United States and to take no action which would in any way interfere with the war effort of the U.S." He answers this question at present with the same answer. Since he is an alien, he was not asked which country he wanted to have win the war and he said that the nisei boys should be drafted the same as any other boys. He does not plan to relocate as he feels his work among the Japanese Buddhist people here is important. He maintains that he will abide by the law of this country as long as he is in this country. After the war, he wishes to return to Japan to take charge of the church which was left by his father who died four years ago.



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Recommendation:

Leave clearance is recommended. The board is unable to find any dangerous un-American influences in his record and is of the opinion that his release would not jeopardize the national security.

It is recognized, on the other hand, that this gentleman looks forward to returning to Japan. Before any final decision is made a careful study should be made to determine whether or not the Rev. Nagatomi gave a true picture of the teachings of his sect of the Buddhist church. The board is of the opinion that he presented an accurate picture.

Walter A. Heath
Virgil Morgan

Project Director's Recommendation:

See memo January 4 attached
Ran Brumby

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