

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

141

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND
AND FOURTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO

15 January 1943

Subject: *[Faint text]*
RE: *[Faint text]*

Mr. John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
War Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With regard to the information of certain Japanese evacuees now in the W.R.A. Manzanar and Colorado River Centers, desired by your letter of January 10, 1943, I am enclosing two copies of a special summary prepared by the G-2 Section of this Headquarters. This summary shows all of the persons named in your letter to be worthy candidates for segregation or internment. A more detailed record of each can be prepared if you so indicate.

Yours very truly,

J. L. DEWITT
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,
Commanding

1 Incl:
As indicated (Dupl)

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

NND 750088

By *[Signature]* NARS, Date FEB 6 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CI-R2

WAR DEPARTMENT

G-2, HQ. WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND & FOURTH ARMY
(Office of Headquarters)

Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.

(CIB) 254 (1-10-43)

(Place)

January 15, 1943

Japanese Suspects at

(Date)

Subject: MANZANAR WAR RELOCATION PROJECT and
COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT.

Summary of Information:

1. The following Japanese residents of MANZANAR WAR RELOCATION PROJECT have been recommended for segregation because of their subversive records:

a. KEIJI ARATAKA.

(1) An alien Japanese who entered the United States in 1906. Reported to have been un-American in his utterances among the Japanese, and to have made numerous statements to the effect that when the opportunity arose, he would gladly assist the Japanese Army or Navy through fifth column activities.

(2) Has admitted membership in Seicho-no-Iye, a strongly nationalistic religious and philosophical organization which flourished in Southern California.

(3) ARATAKA was a member of the Los Angeles Japanese Chamber of Commerce, which was actually the Japanese Association of Los Angeles and an affiliate of the pro-Japan Central Japanese Association of America.

(4) Has requested repatriation to Japan.

b. JOSEPH KURIHARA.

(1) A Hawaiian-born veteran of World War I, who has been an accountant, and a navigator on a fishing vessel.

(2) At a meeting of Kibei at the Manzanar War Relocation

Previous Distribution:

(CONT'D)

Distribution:

Asst. Sec. of War (3)
MIS, WD (2)
FILE

Evaluation	
-of source	-of information
A	Reliable 1
	Credible
	Questionable
	Undetermined

141

(S of I, 1-15-43, re Japanese Suspects at MANZANAR & COLO. RIV. Projects,
file (CIB) 254 (1-10-43)

Project, July 8, 1942, KURIHARA stated that he had "Japanese national spirit" and was one hundred percent for Japan.

(3) In an interview with an agent of the FBI, October 14, 1942, KURIHARA freely stated that he felt very bitter toward the United States; that his sympathies are for Japan; and that in his opinion Japan has already won the war.

(4) KURIHARA was chairman of the Committee of Five who were intermediaries in settling the riot of December 5-6, 1942, and is believed to have been a leader of the group which was behind the disturbance.

c. KOZO "FRED" OGURA.

(1) OGURA was born and educated in Japan and has been reported to this office as one of the leaders of a subversive group seeking to gain control of the relocation project.

(2) He was taken into military custody after participating in the riot at Manzanar, December 5-6, 1942.

d. SHIGETOSHI TATEISHI.

(1) During the seditious Kibei meeting, July 8, 1942, at Manzanar, TATEISHI delivered a speech in which he stated that he had "Yamato Damashii" (Japanese national spirit) and that American citizenship rights are valueless.

(2) TATEISHI has been reported by confidential informants of this office as one of the leaders of subversive activities at Manzanar.

(3) TATEISHI was taken into military custody after participating in the riot, December 5-6, 1942, and jailed at Lone Pine, California.

e. HARRY UENO.

(1) UENO has been reported to be a troublemaker and responsible for much of the unrest in the relocation project, and to be very outspoken in his sympathies toward Japan. He is said to have made the statements, "Of course, this is a race war. We're all Japanese. We've got to realize that. This is no democracy, it never has been"

(2) UENO was jailed as a suspect after the beating of FRED TAYAMA which precipitated the riot at Manzanar, and was later

CONFIDENTIAL

141

(S of I, 1-15-43, re Japanese Suspects at MANZANAR & COLO. RIV. Projects,
file (CIB) 254 (1-10-43))

removed to the Inyo County Jail, Independence, California.

f. BOB MATSUDA.

(1) MATSUDA is reported to be a troublemaker and to be associated with the Terminal Island Yogyos and the Los Angeles Dunbar gang, both of which have caused unrest in the relocation project. He is reported to have had a local police record and to have been in the Preston Reformatory.

(2) MATSUDA is said to have "egged on" TOSHI AKASHI to attack two members of the Manzanar Free Press staff in August, 1942.

2. The following Japanese residents of COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT have been recommended for segregation because of their subversive records:

a. UMETARO HARA.

(1) HARA was a member of Hokubei Butoku Kai (Military Virtue Society of North America), a highly nationalistic organization formed to teach the Japanese "military virtues" to young Japanese boys.

(2) He received a medal from the Japanese Consulate for his long residence in the United States.

(3) He made contributions to the Japanese Army and possessed \$1,500.00 worth of Japanese Steel Company stock.

(4) A search of his premises, February 13, 1942, revealed contraband flashlights and photographic developing equipment.

(5) Paroled from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota.

b. KAZUMA MATSUMOTO.

(1) MATSUMOTO was a member of Sakura Kai (Cherry Association), a branch of Heimusha Kai (Japanese Military Conscripts Association) which was organized by Lt. Commander I. OHTANI, I.J.N., Japanese espionage agent. Sakura Kai was a sponsor for the activities of Kaigun Kyokai (Navy League) which engaged in naval espionage for Japan.

of I, 1-15-45, re Japanese Suspects at MANZANAR & COLO. RIV. Projects,
file (CIB) 254 (1-10-43))

141

(2) MATSUMOTO is reported to have been a member of the Committee of 72, which acted as intermediary in the disturbance at the relocation project, November 18-25, 1942, and is believed to have been the "steering committee" in the disturbance.

c. IWAO ROBERT OKAZAKI.

(1) OKAZAKI was affiliated with the Japanese Cultural Society of Southern California, a registered Japanese propaganda agency.

(2) He was a member of the Committee of 72 which played an important part in the disturbance of November 18-25, 1942.

(3) Has openly declared his intention to return to Japan at the close of the war.

d. HARVEY SUZUKI.

SUZUKI has been reported to this office as a troublemaker and undesirable in the relocation project. He is a Kibei, and was a leader in the strike at Poston, November 18-25, 1942 and a member of the Committee of 72.

e. MASUKICHI UEKI.

(1) Alien, paroled from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

(2) Member of Board of Directors of Japanese Language School at San Juan Bautista, California. The Japanese language schools were often centers of Japanese propaganda and frequently used texts supplied by the Japanese Ministry of Education.

(3) Officer of the Japanese Association of San Benito, Calif.

(4) Reported to have been a member of Sokoku Kai, a branch of the notorious Black Dragon Society.

(5) UEKI was a leader in the strike at Poston, November 18-25, 1942.

