

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS NINTH SERVICE COMMAND
 OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
 FORT DOUGLAS, UTAH

By *[Signature]*
 DATE: 1/16/43

(Office of Headquarters)

Salt Lake City, Utah

January 16, 1943

Subject: Manzanar Relocation Center

Summary of Information:

The following statements were made December 29, 1942 regarding trouble makers and leaders of the disloyal element in the Manzanar Relocation Center by Private KOJI ARIYOSHI, Private CARL YONEDA and Private JAMES ODA, students in the Military Intelligence Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota, to KARL T. GOULD, Major, Cavalry, Director of Personnel at that school. These men were evacuees residing in the Manzanar Relocation Center prior to their enlistment in the army. These men have no objection to the use of their names or statements ^{and} are willing to testify regarding these matters if that should be necessary.

1. Statement given by Private KOJI ARIYOSHI

a. JOE KURIHARA was World War Veteran. Lived in Los Angeles. Before I left Manzanar and went to Idaho to work I was informed that the Hawaiian soldiers were to train for combat duty. I then thought of enlisting with the Hawaiians for training at Camp McCoy. Thought of making a petition to the President for using Japanese for combat duty. Many others wanted to help in the War effort and would do anything for our country. After two weeks of petitioning, I was able to get 218 signatures. After the petition was sent KURIHARA said we weren't doing the Japanese any good. Many of the men definitely wanted to be drafted or enlisted for combat service. I had my first meeting of the Japanese American Citizens League around August 23. After I spoke and a few others spoke of this plane, KURIHARA said, "What is the use of having any Citizens Organizations. Let's have a Japanese Organization in Manzanar." He told me I must do everything to better the Japanese conditions. TOKI and KURIHARA began asking that KURIHARA be given the floor, but I wouldn't give it to him. Two weeks later we had another meeting -- KURIHARA packed the assembly with his men. MIYA,

Previous Distribution:

None
 Distribution:
 G-2, WDC & 4th Army, 3 copies
 Colonel Wilson, HNCS, 1 copy
 FBI, Salt Lake City, 1 copy
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-of source	Evaluation	-of information
_____	Reliable	_____
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Mr. KIMBALL, and Mr. PROVIDENCE came just as spectators. KURIHARA sat in front of the gentlemen. KURIHARA stood up and said to disband the organization. "Let's found an organization for Japanese. Look at the Japanese soldiers fighting for us Japanese." KURIHARA said to me, "You are an Hawaiian. Let's be pals together. You should not try to do anything for this country or Manzanar." The day before I enlisted I met KURIHARA with UYENO. They said, "The Poston riot was pretty bad; the Manzanar riot will make the Poston riot a small incident."

b. HARRY UYENO. I first met him in the beginning of September. My wife and I moved to block 22. He lives in block 22 and works in Mess Hall 22. One day I went to Mess Hall 22 to eat. He said, "You are Hawaiian, I am Hawaiian too. I want to have a frank talk with you." He took me to the back of the mess hall. TSUJI was with him. They asked me about the petition I made. UYENO asked me why I made it. I said I wanted to get into the Army. "You are a damned fool," he said. "What would you do if the Japanese landed on the Coast, or if the Japanese win the war?" I said, "The Japanese will not win the war. If the Japanese win the war, and they are not going to win, I will stand before the firing squad." Then he said, "What about those who signed the petition?" Many of them did not want to sign but they signed. You and the 217 others have jeopardized the Japanese living here and in Hawaii. After Japan wins the war, the Japanese government will not take us into its confidence if you do this." UYENO came up to me and said, "I am going to ask you to disband the Japanese American Citizens League. You are the leader. We are going to form an organization for the people in Manzanar. We are going to get as much as we can from the organization. We will do nothing for the War effort. I will give you a few days to think it over." "No, I will not disband it," I said. The next day I went again to the mess hall and he came up to me and said, "Have you changed your mind? You are a damned fool Hawaiian. If you do not disband something will happen." I asked what he meant. He said, "We Kibei are going to form an organization opposing the Manzanar Citizens League." I told him, "You go ahead and form an organization." He said, "What good will it do you when the war is over -- we are all going back to Japan any way. Even a man like you who feels the way you do will be sent back to Japan." I told him, "I will not disband the organization." Then he said, "I am going to form an organization which will oppose you." I asked him what he meant and he said, "Don't fool around with my organization." He came again after that and said the same thing. "If you are smart you will stop fooling around," he said. "If you want to fight, why not have it out with me?" I asked. He said, "We will make you change your mind and many others change their minds." He meant the JACL members and others. The day before I left I enlisted. He and KURIHARA were together and they told me that I was a damned fool for enlisting. If selective service comes, the government will not find many like you. We will be happy to go on to the CO Camp.

c. BEN KISHI is in the same group. When I first went to Manzanar I never thought KISHI a big man or a thinker. After I held my second

Manzanar JACL meeting BEN KISHI, acting as chairman, held a meeting for the Kibei to oppose my group. At the meeting they expressed pro-Japanese sentiments.

d. SAM TATEISHI is also pro-Japanese.

e. KARL YONEDA was also a speaker at the second meeting. During the meeting they began to riot and express pro-Japanese sentiments. The meeting was stopped by Mr. TEMPLE.

"Do you consider JOE KURIHARA, HARRY UYENO, SAM TATEISHI, and TSUJI as pro-Japanese who should be removed from that section?"--Major GOULD.

"I definitely do. I told FBI that if they were allowed to remain at Manzanar we would some day have a riot. They have pro-Japanese sentiments and they think Japan will win the war. Any who say that Japan will not win the war will get strong words from them. The fact that they lived all these years in this country means nothing to them."

f. TAD OKAHOSHI is also one of them. He was taken into the confidence of the Project Director. He had meetings and spoke to the people. He said, "Let's make this a good center." He is also pro-Japanese. I do not believe, if I were you, I would take such an active part in the meetings, he told me. When I was in Idaho with a group working the beet fields, I let some 129 men and TAD OKAHOSHI came with the Project Director, Mr. NASH, to visit us. I asked him, "Tad, do you think we will be sent back to Manzanar again?" Then he told me, "I think you can go back to Jap-Manzanar again." At that time my friend SUMITAKA EUCHIMUR told me that he was always thinking about Japan, and that came out. The Owner of the field was there and OKAHOSHI said, "Of course, you will go back to Manzanar." Then after I went back to Manzanar I went with six men who asked him to get us out in the California farm area to work. He said to me, "Don't try to make any friends in the center. JACL expresses pro-American sentiments. Do not think of your immediate future. If you bow your head right now then how will it be after the war. We should be proud of our race and not bow our heads and think only of the immediate future." He then said, "We should not try to go to California. When Japan wins the war we can be proud if we do not bow our heads in this crises. After the war we can raise our heads."

g. FRED OGURA was very friendly. He is the amiable type of person. Easy to get along with. But when I was in Idaho later he came up to me and said, "You are getting many good things for us. We are going to recommend you. OGURA has good connections with the Japanese government. He has friends in the high government of Japan. He is very much interested in taking the Nisei back to Japan and getting them the breaks."

(3)

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h. KUMARA MENO told me OGURA told many Isei like him to tell the Nisei leaders that they will have a good position after the war in Japan.

i. YAMAGUCHI - Leader in Manzanar. After OKAHOSHI resigned he became chairman of the other group. We saw him so much with the Kurihara bunch that I feel that he is connected with them. When I held one of the meetings in Manzanar he walked up to me while the meeting was going on. "Change the name of your meeting as KURIHARA suggested," he said. When the WRA authorities proposed a new government setup, making the citizens take an active part, he opposed it very strongly. "Well, what's the use of making the citizens take part," he said. "We will have to answer to the Japanese after the war. You will make the position of the Japanese difficult after the war." That is the same propaganda that UYENO and KURIHARA use. They hope that their deeds will be heard by the Japanese government. It is my opinion that the people who are pro-Japanese should have been picked up long ago when the trouble first started.

"What do you think is back of all these riots?"--Major GOULD.

"My opinion is that the riots have been instigated by the pro-Axis group, UYENO, KURIHARA, etc. I do not think they have discredited all the Nisei because they are trying to play ball with Tokyo. They hope to go back to Japan after the war and they think they can help the Japanese war effort on this side. Even at the camouflage factory they agitate. I went to Mr. CAMPBELL and asked him to stop people who came into the camouflage factory. They want clothing, food and better living quarters and not to do any work if it can be helped.

"In case of any trial of investigation I would be willing to testify against these men. They should not only be taken from the centers but sent back to Japan. I think they will do anything to get even if these men are allowed to be freed after the war. They are not the kind of people you would trust in and give a responsible position.

"They want these riots in the hope that they will be broadcasted and perhaps the Japanese government will hear about it."

2. Statement given by Private KARL YONEDA

"Do you have any information on these men: JOE KURIHARA, HARRY UYENO, BEN KISHI, and SAM TATEISHI?"--Major GOULD.

a. JOE KURIHARA - I do not know him personally only that he was at the Kibei meeting in the Mess Hall at Manzanar. In fact he was born in Hawaii and never was to Japan. At the Kibei meeting he said, "I will fight for the cause of Japan and if any army or FBI will come in and take

(4)

me to CO Camp, I am willing to go. It is up to the Nisei to stand by Japan." Although I do not know anything about him he was also at the Japanese American Citizens League meeting.

b. HARRY UYENO - Very active in the Kibei group. I did not know him until he came to me and asked me to retract a statement I made about the Kibei meeting to the Manzanar council. I said what went on in the Kibei meeting and that is what they wanted me to retract. When they came to my apartment they told me they were for Japan and they stayed in my apartment for two hours and tried to intimidate me. After that we, ARIOSHI and I met personally and he made the same statement again. "As long as we are Kibei we will not fight for this country. We would be willing to go to the CO Camp if the government started drafting Nisei." Their main leaders are KURIHARA and UYENO.

c. BEN KISHI was the chairman of the Kibei meeting. In my opinion he is the puppet of KURIHARA and UYENO. He is not a big leader in the Kibei group. Would do whatever they told him.

d. SAM TATEISHI came to my apartment with UYENO. They ordered me to retract what I said about TATEISHI. I said he was born in this country and was supposed to be a citizen of the United States. He said, "If you have any citizenship rights you better forget them." I reported this to the Manzanar council. They threatened me until I finally said that if they brought enough men to the council to testify against me I would retract my statement. The following morning about 30 of them got up and said that what I said at the council meeting was not correct.

"Do you consider JOE KURIHARA, HARRY UYENO, BEN KISHI, and SAM TATEISHI as dangerous, pro-Japanese leaders?"--Major GOULD

"Definitely so."

"Would you be willing to testify in case of investigation?"

"I am willing to testify in closed doors or in public. Also in my opinion Private JAMES ODA would make a good witness. He spoke at the Kibei meeting. He was beaten up in what started as a personal fight but ended as a fight between Nisei and Kibei."

"What do you think caused these riots?"--Major GOULD.

"In the first place they should separate the good from the bad among the citizens. Secondly there is not enough activity in the camp."

"Do you think that they believe that Japan will win the war?"

"Yes sir, and they think that California should be in the hands of the Japanese. In my opinion most of the Isei believe

that Japan will win this war, About 95 to 96% of the Iser believe this."

e. TSUJI - His appearance would show that he is not the ordinary type. He was one of those who came to the apartment. When they testified at the council meeting I learned the names of almost all of them and turn this list of names in to the FBI.

L-10-1. f. UYOKOTA came to my apartment. Night checker. Used to live at

3. Statement given by Private JAMES ODA.

"Do you know JOE KURIHARA?"

"Yes, I do. He is one of the leaders of the pro-axis element in Manzanar."

"Do you know that he is definitely pro-axis?"

"Whenever they had meetings he spoke in very definite terms that he was for Japan. He urged to people to follow his way."

a. HARRY UYENO - I do not know much about him but he is known to many people as a pro-axis leader.

"Have you ever heard him make any statment that would make trouble at camp?"

"When we had trouble at the camouflage factory he tried to turn the trouble into a pro-axis riot. The trouble started on account of the working hours. He is a Kibei. He was educated in Japan. He is the one who went out and visited leading people and tried to get them into the pro-axis group."

b. BEN KISHI is used by UYENO and TANAKA. BEN KISHI acted as chairman for the Kibei meetings.

c. SAM TATEISHI is pro-axis also. He spoke at the Kibei meeting. He does not consider himself an American citizen, but it is best for him to utilize his citizenship to fight against the United States.

"Do you know anything about a man named TSUJI?"

"His pen name is TSUNOKO, connected with a gambling house."

"Do you consider these men: JOE KURIHARA, HARRY UYENO, BEN KISHI, SAM TATEISHI, and TSUJI dangerous, and pro-Japanese?"

"Yes, we have urged that they be removed from the center many times."

(6)

"Do you know anything about any other leading persons in this group?"

d. MASADAKA TANAKA -- In my opinion he should be picked up by the FBI. He spoke at the same Kibei meeting. He urged that the Kibei renounce their citizenship. Besides that he was working for a music department. He held concerts about twice a week. At these concerts they played records in Japanese. Often they played pro-axis music.

"Do you know whether or not any of these people are connected with any Japanese organization?"

"I think they are working with some group outside. However, I have no absolute proof of this."

e. GENJI YAMAGUCHI is one of them. Chairman of the block leaders. Held a secret meeting of the representatives of each block the night before we left Anzanar. Then he urged that they should get in touch with the Spanish government. In my opinion the Spanish government is the very simplicity of the Japanese and leans toward the Axis.

"Some others are:

f. FRANK YASUDA -- Former chairman of block meetings.

g. RAYMOND HIRAI

h. SEIGORO MURAKAMI -- Judo instructor.

i. BEN KISHI leads a group of 20 people whom I believe beat up pro-Americans.

"Do you think that these people tried to form enough trouble to make the army take over the relocation center and treat them as prisoners of war?"

"Yes, and they also believe in the theory of the Emperor. Another thing is that they want to get credit for what they are doing after the war in case of Japan's victory. We, the pro-American element, believe that the government should step in and remove the pro-axis element."

"You can use my name in any place."

This information is forwarded to you for whatever action you deem necessary.

RECEIVED-DIO-12TH-ND-1943-JAN-25-0848

D. MATHIS BONAPARTE

RECEIVED
NAVY DEPARTMENT
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEBRUARY 16 1943

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT

Kamm Building, 717 Market Street
San Francisco - California

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

EF37/16-B-7-J (31-A)

CONFIDENTIAL

February 16, 1943

From: District Intelligence Officer, Twelfth Naval District.
To: The Director of Naval Intelligence
SUBJECT: Manzanar Relocation Project, conditions at
Enclosure: (A) Copy of report by MID, Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah, dated Jan. 16, 1943, same subject.

1. Enclosure (A) contains statement by Private Koji ARIYOSHI, Carl YONEDA and James ODA, obtained by the Military Intelligence Division at Camp Savage, Minnesota, concerning conditions at the Manzanar Relocation Project at the time they left the project shortly before the occurrence of the riot on December 6, 1942.

2. Carl YONEDA is a well-known Japanese communist and for that reason, a blue-card suspect. Koji ARIYOSHI has been a close friend of Carl YONEDA's and for that reason is also a suspect, buff color. However, all three were cooperative with the project authorities while they were residents at Manzanar, and made no statements indicating loyalty to Japan. All of them were threatened by what is believed to be the pro-Japan element at Manzanar, and James ODA was beaten at one time. It is therefore believed that the statements they gave concerning conditions at Manzanar may be considered reliable.

/s/ H. S. COVINGTON
H.S. COVINGTON

cc: 8, 11, 13ND, FBI-SF

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
NARS, Date 12/19/79

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