

0.71.2

-71-

HEADQUARTERS
THIRTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
Seattle, Washington

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

December 16, 1942

MEMORANDUM

From: The District Intelligence Officer, Thirteenth Naval District
To: The Director of Naval Intelligence
Subject: Japanese Activities at Minidoka Relocation Center
Reference: (a) DIO-13ND Conf. Memo. A8-5/EF37/(B-7-J), same subject,
dated November 14, 1942.

1. A confidential informant at Minidoka reports that on December 7, 1942, in the mess hall of Block 17, "Aka-Gohan" (red-rice, prepared from boiled rice and Azuki beans) was served. Inasmuch as "Aka-Gohan" is customarily served only on festive occasions it appears that the alien Japanese residents of Block 17 with or without the knowledge and consent of the Block Manager, took this opportunity to at least make a gesture towards celebrating the first anniversary of Japan's war against the United States. This gesture, the full intent and meaning of which is cognizant to the alien Japanese could safely be undertaken as its significance was unknown to the Caucasian center authorities and to many of the nisei.

*Subversive Activity
because of...*

Unless there has been a change since October 31st which has not been reported, the Block Manager of Block 17 is Chitake YAMAGIWA formerly of Kent, Washington. Although a citizen of the United States by birth, there is nothing on file to indicate that YAMAGIWA has participated actively in the Japanese American Citizens League or any other so-called "pro-American" organizations. Active in labor circles, YAMAGIWA had also been associated with the issei Japanese-sponsored Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce.

*Subversive Activity
Self-govt*

It is understood that Thomas Shinao MASUDA, Seattle nisei attorney acquitted several months ago of charges that he was an unregistered agent of the Japanese Government, and presently located at the Poston Relocation Center, is "pulling strings" in an effort to be transferred to the Minidoka Center. MASUDA's popularity with the issei (alien Japanese) at Minidoka is such that he would probably have little difficulty in being elected head of the self-government body. He would make an excellent Quisling for the issei and would receive strong support from the kibel and agitating nisei such as Charles Theodore TAKAHASHI, Edward Yoshimi OSAWA, Shige OSAWA, Frank KINOMOTO, Tura NAKAMURA, etc.

4. There is an undercurrent of unrest at Minidoka. This is said to be so obvious that even the project attorney is concerned in view of recent disturbances at Manzanar and Poston. The opinion is prevalent that an outbreak may occur when self-government finally takes over. It is known that the group of issei leaders are up to something and have held frequent meetings to discuss ways and means of electing nisei who are favorable to their group. There are rumors that this alien Japanese group propose to elect either Shige OSAWA (elder brother of Edward Yoshimi OSAWA who was found guilty, along with Charles Theodore TAKAHASHI in attempting to circumvent the Export Control Act) or Charles Theodore TAKAHASHI.

65,100

-71-

Evacuees Suspected

5. The Alien Japanese group mentioned above includes Yoshito FUJII, Yoriaki NAKAGAWA, Seiichi HARA (all on parole from custodial detention) "Floyd" Tokuzo TOKUDA, "Richard" Toshiji KANAYA, "Roy" Ritsuji AKIYAMA, "Henry" E. TOMITA, "Harry" R. HATATE. All are "Block Managers."

6. In connection with C. T. TAKAHASHI, it is known that he recently inquired of the project legal officer (nisei), "What is the crime if we threw one of the white men into the river?" What significance should be given this question is not known.

s/

Hartwell C. Davis