Jan 17 1942

The Honorable,

The Attorney General.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The American Government has heretofore declared its intention to apply the provisions of the Geneva Convention to both prisoners of war and enemy aliens until a contrary course is indicated.

Under the provisions of the Convention, confinement in jails and prisons is prohibited. The Joint Committee agreed 3 months ago that where the Department of Justice lacked suitable facilities for temporary detention, the Army would undertake to supply them.

Nonetheless, it appears from the Department of Justice report of January 8, 1942, that 32 German, 5 Italian and 69 Japanese aliens, or a total of 106, are confined in city and county jails. Furthermore, it is learned from the State Department that the enemy Governments may be expected to adopt retaliatory measures against our own nationals because of this fact.

This letter will serve as an expression of my concern in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

Original sent to
Gen. Gullion 1/17/42
for dispatch by OASW