The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Upon looking into the matter presented in your letter of 14 February 1945 in which you discussed the return of Japanese evacuees to Hawaii and my reply of 23 February 1945 wherein I informed you it would be necessary to contact the military commander in that area for further details, I am now in a position to inform you of the method used by the Commanding General in Hawaii with respect to the return of Japanese evacuees.

Mindful of the natural desire of persons evacuated from the Territory of Hawaii to return to their homes and in view of the military situation at the beginning of this year, I directed an extensive study be made of the over-all problems pertaining to the re-entry into the Territory of Hawaii of these evacuees. Based upon this study a policy has been established whereby the cases of each evacuee is reviewed by a Board of Officers with a view toward permitting Hawaiian evacuees to return. This Board reviews the files and records pertaining to each evacuee and recommends whether the individual's return should be favorably considered at the present time, and, if favorable consideration is recommended, the priority group in which the individual should be returned. The Board has already reviewed the cases of a number of these evacuees and has recommended that their return be authorized.

In those cases approved by the Commanding General, a request is forwarded to the Provost Marshal General to effect the return of subject individuals. While it might be desirable to have most of the Hawaiian evacuees return to their homes, it should be borne in mind that the completion of such a program by the end of 1945 will depend on available shipping. Preferences as to travel priorities will be given to those individuals having sons or daughters in the Armed Forces of the United States, the aged, the infirm and to persons deserving consideration because of unusual circumstances.
After review by the Board there may be some individuals who will not be recommended for return to the Territory for security reasons. Evacuees who express an attitude of loyalty to Japan and desire that the Japanese Empire be victorious in this War, similar to the sixty-seven (67) excluded from Hawaii in 1944, will not be allowed to return to the Territory of Hawaii for the duration of the War. While there may be only a few in this category, and the small number who may be excluded in the future, nevertheless specific provision should be made for their continued retention in the United States.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of War