SUMMARY

1. A letter dated 29 March 1945 to the Secretary of War from the Secretary of the Interior alleges discrimination against Japanese-Americans who are attempting to secure war plant employment but are prevented from doing so by action of The Provost Marshal General in withholding approval in certain cases. The letter cites two examples of individuals who are permitted to return to the West Coast but are disapproved for war plant employment. The letter draws the conclusion that because the Western Defense Command has cleared these persons for return to the West Coast, the disapproval by The PMG for war plant employment is based upon group discrimination.

2. Inclosed reply states that the screening procedures by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, are for the purpose of approving residence rather than employment in war plants. The seemingly inconsistent actions by different agencies of the War Department are the logical results of screening procedures which have different objectives. The reply also states the reasons for the disapproval for employment in war plants of the two individuals named in the letter from the Secretary of the Interior.

3. Not included in the inclosed draft is informal information received from the field that local WRA representatives who will lose their jobs upon the successful relocation of residents of these centers have apparently been discouraging the Japanese-Americans from reporting for work after approval.

4. It is recommended that the inclosed reply be signed and dispatched.

COORDINATION

5. Western Defense Command.