WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

November 5, 1942

Mr. John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Lt. Hall

Dear Mr. McCloy:

In our recent phone discussion of the kibei phase of student relocation, your indication of the War Department's present judgment is that these cases must be given special handling, each to be considered separately on its own merits and in relation to a particular school to which admission had been granted. After checking here with F.B.I., such cases will be submitted to your office for further inspection. This will occasion delay for some students, but since the bulk of the fall enrollees have now been placed we expect we can send you a few names soon, and I am asking the Student Relocation Council to start processing several deserving applications they have withheld because of the kibei restriction.

The definition of kibei is difficult and where strictly defined can be unfair. There is pretty general agreement, I think, among all who are familiar with the problem, that everyone who has returned to Japan is not a kibei—many have gone back for short visits with their parents, on American student tours, and on business. Inasmuch as individual attention will be given each case, I see no reason why we need set up number of months or years spent in Japan or dates of such visit or stay as limiting factors. Those whose major education was in Japan during their formative years, and particularly after 1930, would probably stand slight chance of relocation at present, and neither the Student Relocation Council nor W.R.A. would expect to make recommendations for such persons.

The issei problem poses a similar question of interpretation. According to reliable estimates there are on the relocation centers between 4,000 and 5,000 issei who, though born outside the country or on board ship en route to the country, were so young at the time of their entrance that they can be considered as much American as the citizen born. The Japanese themselves recognize these people by a separate term, hansei, the prefix "han" meaning "half". Included in this hansei group are several born outside the United
States while their parents were visiting abroad after 1924 and who later returned to the country. Should issei applicants later be submitted for clearance in student relocation, the hansei category should be borne in mind.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Provinse, Chief
Community Management Division