HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH SERVICE COMMAND
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Omaha, Nebraska, November 15, 1942.

SPKGB 254 – Internment Camps.


TO: The Commanding General, Seventh Service Command, SOS, Federal Office Building, Omaha, Nebraska.

1. During the annual general inspection of the 331st MP Escort Guard Company, Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Cody, Wyoming, an oral report was made by Mr. R. O. Griffin, Chief Internal Security, of conditions existing within the camp that might endanger the mission of this company.

2. The oral report, followed by a memorandum and supported by a running account of events, indicate that the situation developed as follows:

   a. The Chief of Internal Security on October 27, 1942, compelled the resignation of the acting chief of police (Japanese) for complete insubordination. Two other men (Japanese) were subsequently discharged for similar reasons. At 4:20 PM, October 30, 1942, the entire police department deserted their duties.

   b. The responsibility for law and order was, on October 31, 1942, transferred to the Temporary Council of Block Chairmen by a memorandum signed by the assistant project superintendent, Mr. Guy Robertson, and the Chief of community services, Mr. P. W. Barber, who is the Chief of Internal Security's immediate superior. This action was approved and confirmed by Mr. C. E. Radiford, Project Director, on November 2, 1942.

   c. The block chairmen redelegated the police powers to the ex-members of the police department, still led and completely dominated by the same men who had by threats of physical violence, compelled desertion of entire force. Ex-members of the police department prevented anyone and everyone from joining a new police force.

   d. Threats direct and implied are being made against the Fire Department, apparently to force the breakdown of the moral of its personnel and cause their resignations.
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4. Since the only power within the camp has been delegated by its director to the alien body of block chairman, and they in turn have delivered it into the hands of a strong arm minority, which has this far successfully defied the authority of the United States Government, the decent elements find it impossible to challenge this rule by the "Goon Squad".

3. By agreement, the military police would enter the camp only in case of fire or riot. This may be too late to prevent incidents intended to discredit our government and to be the basis for reports to the Japanese government. It is believed that any disturbances at a relocation camp could lead to serious retaliatory measures by the Japanese.

4. Proper measures have been taken by the Director Internal Security, Seventh Service Command, to furnish reinforcements for the Guard and Escort Company on duty at this relocation center. Instructions have also been issued to the local commander to keep in constant touch with this situation through Mr. R. O. Griffin.

5. It is recommended that this matter be referred to the authorities competent to investigate this camp for the purpose of eliminating conditions as reported herewith.

SEXTON BEAG,
Colonel, IGD.
Inspector General.

2 Incls.
Incl #1 - Memo fr R. O. Griffin,
Ch Int Sec, War Reloc Proj, dated 4 Nov 1942.
Incl #2 - Copy of running account by R. O. Griffin.