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WAR DEPARTMENT
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

Asst. Secretary of War
4F-886 Pentagon

September 15, 1943



ASW 014.311 W. J. C. General

COMMANDING GENERAL
WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND 4th ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Number 4207

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3.4 and 5.1
Authority NND 740062
By EAC NAMS, Date 6/24/74

Have considered your proposed statement for press on Japanese situation and have following comments (to DeWitt for Emmons from McCloy) I feel it unwise to refer to Gen. DeWitt's policies or your policies as distinct in any way from those of War Department. Original evacuation was authorized by War Department with approval of President and should not be identified as program of any particular officer. Your last sentence too rigid as it binds you to maintain all existing restrictions until it can be shown that the military situation has changed. Other considerations have impelled some slight alterations in the past and may do so in the future. I do not think that you can say without challenge that "Conditions which then existed have not materially changed for the better". Much better to be frank in stating the change and at same time restate the continuing need. Suggest the following: The reasons which prompted the evacuation of persons of Japanese descent from areas on the Pacific Coast were based upon considerations of military necessity and internal security. The military situation which then existed has materially improved. However, the possibility of enemy action in this area remains real. The Japanese fleet and Air Force remain in existence. They still constitute a serious threat. While this threat persists no person of Japanese ancestry will be permitted to return to the evacuated areas except with the express approval of the War Department. Such approval will not be given at the expense of national security. The general policies which have been inaugurated, developed, and maintained in the WDC with respect to persons of Japanese descent will be continued until there is a further substantial change in the military situation.

16 Sept 43

ORIGINATOR: Mr. McCloy

INFORMATION: OFD, SGS

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DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958

NMW by EAC date 3-18-71

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