

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA15 February 1942³Honorable John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. McCloy:

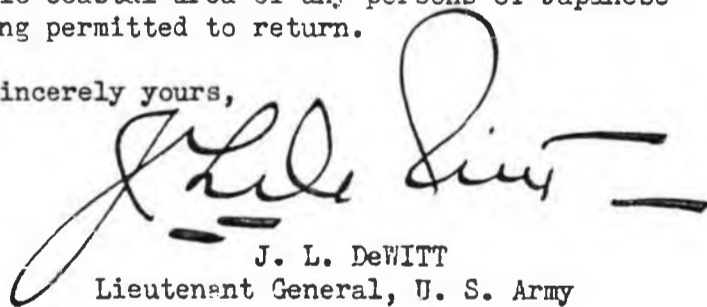
This will acknowledge your letter of February 11, 1943, concerning proposed modifications of the mixed-marriage policy under which certain persons of Japanese ancestry are permitted to return for residence within the evacuated area of the Western Defense Command.

At the time of evacuation, the Japanese were regarded with suspicion and mistrust by the average resident of the West Coast. To curtail mounting hysteria, rioting and public demonstrations, and for many other military reasons, the Japanese were evacuated under complete Federal supervision. Voluntary migration had to be abandoned because of danger to Japanese. The situation with respect to the re-acceptance of Japanese in the evacuated areas has not altered. Although certain individuals are prone to believe that persons of Japanese ancestry would be acceptable to the communities from which they were evacuated, I am convinced that this belief can be regarded only as wishful thinking.

If the present mixed-marriage policy is modified on the theory that loyalty can be determined and Japanese wives who are allegedly loyal be permitted to return to the evacuated area, there would be no real justification for not allowing any such Japanese to return. The proposal to extend the policy to include childless families is highly objectionable because it will pave the way for large numbers of Japanese women to return to the evacuated areas, and has no relation to the original objective of protecting mixed blood children and adults from a Japanese environment.

It is unwise to initiate any policy which will lead to the return to the evacuated Pacific Coastal area of any persons of Japanese ancestry beyond those now being permitted to return.

Sincerely yours,



J. L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army

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