

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 11, 1943

Dear General DeWitt:

The enclosed letter from the Director, War Relocation Authority, requesting authorization for return of certain evacuees to Military Area No. 1, with statements of fact of six specific cases attached, is referred for your consideration and report. In his letter, Mr. Myer asks for a reconsideration of your mixed marriage policy.

While I have no desire to insist that you grant clearance in the specific cases submitted herewith, nor to urge a revision of your policy on mixed marriages, I do feel the time and situation is such that a re-examination of policy can be made. The War Department policy in the treatment of the entire Japanese problem is, as you know, undergoing some revision. Authorization has been given for the formation of an American-Japanese combat team, plans are under way for the acceleration of the release of loyal Japanese from relocation centers, and War Department policies are being revised to permit the employment of released American-Japanese in war industries.

In the early days of the evacuation steps had to be taken which involved rough lines. However, at present instead of denying spouses of mixed marriages residence in the military area solely on the arbitrary establishment of racial background, would it not be better to establish the loyalty or disloyalty of the individual as a guide to granting a clearance? It seems difficult to predicate the loyalty test of a Japanese spouse on the status of whether or not the union possessed unemancipated children, or as to whether or not a Japanese spouse is married to a civilian or a soldier.

I appreciate that you are concerned with taking adequate measures to guard against dangerous or potentially dangerous Japanese from entering Military Area No. 1; but where evidence is conclusive that the spouse of a mixed

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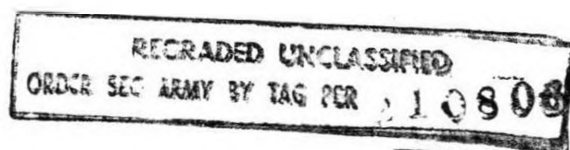
marriage is not only not potentially dangerous but actually is loyal to the United States, would it not be desirable to accept that conclusion as the basis for approving an application for return? As in the cases of Italian and German aliens, you always have power of individual exclusion.

My concern in this matter is actuated by the influence your policies will have on the related War Department policy which recognizes the loyalty of individuals rather than assuming disloyalty to a group as a whole, and to the efforts of the War Department to assist in a general solution of the Japanese problem.



JOHN J. McCLOY  
Assistant Secretary of War

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