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**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
M. I. D.  
**HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH SERVICE COMMAND**  
**Army Service Forces**  
**Office of Director of Intelligence Division**

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(c) and 5(D) of (E)  
Authority **NNA 40062**  
By **ELC** NARS, Date **6/28/74**

(ID) 091.41 (Japanese) U. S.

Dallas, 2, Texas  
24 August 1943  
(Date)

Subject: **Proposed Resettlement of Japanese near Presidio, Texas.**

Summary of Information:

Information has been received that Harold MUNDRELL returned to Marfa, Texas, on the night of 17 August 1943, by direction of the Denver Office, War Relocation Authority, to contact objectors to the proposed resettlement of the Japanese near Presidio, Texas, and to go ahead with the arrangements.

Mr. MUNDRELL is reported to have stated that he had the approval of all government agencies, and had found no opposition to the proposed plan for the resettlement of Japanese near Presidio, Texas, except among the cotton interests at Presidio, but later admitted that he had considerable opposition voiced elsewhere. He displayed a copy of a telegram he had received from his Denver office and stated that he inferred from the telegram that all government agencies concerned had approved the plan, and that he presumed clearance had been arranged.

MUNDRELL stated that although he originally had proposed a resettlement of ten families and a land transaction involving about one thousand acres, it was his present opinion that only five would be released at a time from the resettlement center. Five Japanese who can be released have already entered into negotiations for the acquisition of 219 acres of land and are merely awaiting approval of the War Relocation Authority. These are private, direct negotiations, and the government enters into the picture only in an effort by the War Relocation Authority to find a place suitable for resettlement. Mr. MUNDRELL admitted that once five were relocated at Presidio, particularly if they were successful, that there was no limit on the number of Japanese who might subsequently settle there under the same conditions from Relocation Centers.

(Cont'd)

Source:

Previous Distribution:

IO, Fort D. A. Russell, Texas

Distribution:

CIB, MIS, WD  
G-2, SDC

Evaluation	
—of source	—of information
-----	Reliable -----
-----	Credible -----
-----	Questionable -----
-----	Undetermined -----
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Mr. MUNDELL contradicted himself by saying that the approval was still tied up in Washington, D. C. This confirmed the report received by the District Judge, from Congressman Tomlinson of El Paso, who was reported to have been promised by the Washington Office of the War Relocation Authority that no final decision would be made pending the Congressman's return to Washington.

Mr. MUNDELL finally expressed as his personal opinion that the proposed resettlement might be unwise, but stated that it was his job to try as hard as possible to relocate these people. He left the impression that he might still persevere in his efforts to work out the problem at Presidio.

It was suggested to Mr. MUNDELL that he call on the Chief of Staff, Southern Defense Command, in connection with approval of his plan, but Mr. MUNDELL expressed himself as having encountered so much opposition that he doubted if his office would authorize such a trip. He left without indicating anything further about his present plans.

It is believed that the proposed resettlement is primarily a promotion scheme sponsored by certain individuals for pecuniary reasons; that the plan has not been fairly presented by either the promoters or the War Relocation Authority to the people of this region; that a growing opposition has developed in the region which might create troublesome incidents if the plan is carried through. It is further believed that mining interests in the region on both sides of the border, which have been involved in reported illicit operations in the past, might become involved with the resettlement problem; that the importation of alien Mexican labor, if it should be arranged, would seem unwise and a potential source of trouble if the workers were supervised solely by Japanese recently released from Relocation Centers. Floods have in the past destroyed crops in the region below Presidio, and such a failure of truck crops might create problems in connection with the handling of resettled Japanese.

Mr. MUNDELL admitted that jobs for all Japanese in the Relocation Centers are available, but the Japanese are "looking for something better for themselves" than what has been offered.

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