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WDGAP 327 (13 Nov 43)

14 March 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

Subject: Induction of Japanese Americans.

1. I am inclined to agree with most of the conclusions in your memorandum of March 4 regarding the assignment of Japanese Americans. I do not agree that it would be wise to assign them to units destined for service in the Pacific or that any satisfactory safeguards could be established to insure that for the Pacific areas they would serve only in units not likely to come in contact with the enemy. This requirement alone would so restrict the assignment that the policy itself would become highly discriminatory.

2. The withdrawal of 825 of the 1440 Japanese Americans in the service commands to meet the replacement requirements of existing Japanese units was not out of line with current War Department policy. Existing instructions require that all able-bodied men under 38 years of age and having more than a year of active service be withdrawn from zone of interior installations and activities by June 30, 1944, and assigned to units or activities destined for overseas service. The men being withdrawn from the service commands would have been withdrawn under this policy in any event, and the 615 remaining in the service commands will have to be similarly withdrawn and reassigned between now and July 1.

3. I am directing that a study be prepared to provide for the assignment of inducted Japanese Americans without discrimination provided they are so trained that they can be available first as replacements for the 100th Battalion and the 442d Combat Team, and that any surplus remaining after these replacement requirements are met will be assigned without regard to racial considerations. Before the policy is presented to the Chief of Staff for approval, I will discuss it with you.

Noted  
JJMcCM. G. WHITE,  
Major General,  
Assistant Chief of Staff.Encls.  
Memo to G-1 (4 Mar44)  
fr AS/W w/encl.Original returned to  
Maj. Gen. White,  
16 Mar 44342.18 J.A. Induction  
342.18 J.A. Selective Service - Gen.

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