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April 8, 1943

ASW 342.18 JAPANESE AMERICANS
General

Classif. No. ASW 230.2223

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2:

(Through: Civilian Personnel Division, ASF,
Civilian Personnel Division, OSW,
Office of the Provost Marshal General.)

Subject: Employment of American Citizens of Japanese
Ancestry in Army Posts and Establishments.

1. In order that action may be expedited in opening up employment in Army posts and establishments to American citizens of Japanese ancestry, a proposed directive dated April 2, 1943 has been drawn up and is hereby submitted for comment or concurrence.

2. Your attention is directed to the following points already raised:

a. The Director, Civilian Personnel Division, ASF, states that it will be helpful if the proposed War Department letter is an open document. Unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, it is felt that this recommendation should be followed.

b. In Paragraph 2h of the original draft, dated February 17, 1943, prepared by G-2, it is provided, "In general, the applicant shall not have gone to Japan. However, in exceptional cases this prohibition may be waived." It is felt that since information of this nature will in any event come to the attention of the Joint Board, nothing will be gained by including this particular criterion in the War Department letter. Failure to include this clause in the letter will not mean that the Joint Board will not give appropriate consideration to the circumstance of the applicant's having been in Japan.

g. The contention can be raised that the suggested procedure has the appearances of subjecting American citizens of Japanese ancestry to greater scrutiny than other citizens, and is thus discriminatory. Whatever technical basis there

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may be for this contention, it is felt that the security of Army posts and establishments must be deemed paramount to other considerations, and that furthermore the proposed letter is in effect a relaxation of old, rather than an imposition of new, restrictions.

~~ADJUTANT~~

JOHN M. HALL
Captain, F.A.
Assistant Executive

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Room 2-E 776, Pentagon

Enc.

Proposed directive, Capt. J.M. Hall to the AG.
Memo 3-20-43 James P. Mitchell to AG of S, G-2 and file.

EASW:JMH:MGB

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