

3 September 1943

Dear General:

I enclose a copy of Mr. Myer's letter of 30 August in reply to my letter to him of 25 July, copy also enclosed, relating to security measures governing the use of the Tule Lake Relocation Project as a segregation center.

Under date of 17 August 1943 a copy of Standard Operating Procedure for Military Police at Tule Lake Center, dated 1 September 1943, was forwarded for inspection by the War Relocation Authority. It was subsequently returned without written comment. However, from talks over the telephone I understand they were somewhat alarmed by what they termed an extension of the right of the commanding officer of the Military Police to enter the center proper. They also appeared somewhat concerned over the military's power to bar individual evacuees from labor in the fields. It was made clear to them that so far as entry into the center proper was concerned, no substantial change over existing procedures was contemplated, and that so far as barring individuals from work in the fields was concerned, this preventive action would be limited to individuals whose prior conduct at Tule Lake indicated that letting them work in the fields would jeopardize external security. In brief they were told that while the powers reserved by the military might be very broad, it was intended that their exercise would be reasonable, and consistent with the War Relocation Authority's program.

You will note that in the final paragraph of Mr. Myer's letter he states that representatives of the War Relocation Authority are available to work out any final details.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

John J. McCloy

Lt. General J. L. DeWitt  
Commanding General  
Western Defense Command & Fourth Army  
Presidio of San Francisco, California

Encs. (2)  
CC ltr 30 Aug 43 Mr. Myer to Mr. McCloy  
Cy ltr 25 Aug 43 Mr. McCloy to Mr. Myer  
OASW:JMH:MGB

25 July 1943

Box 54  
Folder 22  
Item 15  
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Dear Mr. Myer:

We have discussed from time to time your proposal to utilize the Tule Lake Relocation Center at Newell, California, as a camp for Japanese evacuees who have asked for repatriation or whom for some other reason you consider undesirable for relocation. The War Department agrees to the utilization of this project for such purposes on the understanding, however, that the security requirements of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, in whose defense area the Newell, California, project is located, will be observed.

In authorizing the use of Tule Lake Relocation Center as a segregated project, the War Department affirms its responsibility for the exterior security of the camp and the War Relocation Authority's responsibility for interior security and administration. The provisions that the local military commander will move into the center and take over complete control of the center in case of riots or disturbances upon the call of the project director is also reaffirmed.

Among the security requirements specified by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, for the Tule Lake Center under the new designation, are the following: The exterior guard will consist of one battalion of military police; the center proper will be surrounded by a manproof barbed wire fence with necessary guard towers; workers in the farm areas will be under military guard; and a head check will be conducted on personnel leaving and entering the center for work in the farm area. I understand that General DeWitt will shortly submit additional security requirements considered essential and upon receipt of this information you will be advised.

It is requested that you indicate by letter your acceptance of the proposals herein made.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

John J. McCloy

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Room 822, Barr Building  
Washington, D. C.