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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(c)
NWP 740062
By: ERC
NARS, Date 7-9-74

13 August 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL BICKELL:

Your memorandum to Colonel Scobey of 12 August 1943 commenting on the attached letter has been received in his absence. I have had a copy of the letter made so that Colonel Scobey will have it on his return.

The point which Lieutenant Kanazawa raises is most important. At the time of the establishment of the Japanese American combat team last February, the General Staff was definitely in favor of a segregated unit for military reasons. There was wide spread lack of confidence in their loyalty. It was also felt they should not be scattered throughout the Army because it was thought it would be necessary to remove them from units destined for the Pacific. Mr. McCloy, however, was more interested in establishing a symbol which would call the country's attention to the fact that there were loyal Japanese Americans ready to fight. He thought that the creation of a separate unit with a high esprit de corps would go further in helping the relocation program than if they were spread through the ranks, as well as constituting a real addition to our fighting forces. He also had in mind the psychological warfare aspect vis a vis Japan and the Far East.

As was to a certain extent foreseen, there was an immediate and violent reaction by the evacuees in the relocation centers against the formation of a separate unit. There were cries of discrimination, segregation, and cannon fodder. The War Department reply to this clamor was to the effect that the separate unit was not for the purpose of segregation but to shock the country into realizing what the true situation was with respect to Japanese American loyalty.

From the point of view of the welfare of the evacuees, almost everybody familiar with the relocation program is strongly in favor of the general reinstitution of selective

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(ASW 342.18 J.A. - Infantry 442nd)

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service for all persons of Japanese descent. However, the General Staff has serious doubts whether our military assets would thereby be increased, wholly apart from whether or not it would be the best thing for the evacuees. In the event that it is ultimately found desirable to reinstitute selective service, continuation of segregation should only be prescribed after careful consideration of the possible ramifications.

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