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April 19, 1943

Dear Mr. Miyake:

Your letter of April 15, expressing your resentment to the recent remarks of Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt, is acknowledged. Officials in the War Department noted the news accounts of General DeWitt's testimony in the hearing before the Naval Affairs Sub-Committee. As General DeWitt is quoted in the newspapers, his statement is, of course, at variance with War Department policy, in which it publicly stated its faith in the loyalty of many American citizens of Japanese descent.

The War Department commends you for volunteering to serve in the United States Army and it proposes to protect your interests and to accord to you as a soldier, the privileges which any other soldier of the Army enjoys. Your high ideals of citizenship and responsibilities pertaining thereto, even to the extent that you are willing to sacrifice your life, constitute the ideals of a genuine American.

It is to be regretted that remarks not approved by the War Department might be interpreted by some Japanese Americans as constituting our national policy. I trust that the psychological effect will not be as bad as you have intimated.

By the time you receive this letter I believe you will have information that Japanese American soldiers have full rights to go into the restricted area of the Western Defense Command. This will be publicly announced in a proclamation from General DeWitt's headquarters.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBEE
Colonel, General Staff
Executive

Mr. Roy Miyake
221-3-A, Unit 11
Poston, Arizona

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Colonel Scoby
 Office of War Department
 Washington, D. C.

Sir:

This letter is to show my resentment to the recent remarks of Lt. General John L. DeWitt in regards to our future. His words were clearly directed at me as well as other Americans of Japanese Ancestry, who have made America our home. These remarks are very dangerous to the security of the United States, as they are a direct contradiction to the principles which our Constitution stands for. The Americans of Japanese Ancestry, a minority group, are a part of a Union of various nationality groups which combine to form America.

Lt. General John L. DeWitt states that a person (Japanese) cannot be changed by giving him a piece of paper (presumably citizenship). Perhaps this is true to a certain extent, but why should he pick on the Japanese alone. The FBI is constantly taking into custody many Germans for having association with the German Bund Society. I presume that Lt. General DeWitt believes these people to be harmless. These Germans are citizens of the United States of America.

I have volunteered to serve in the United States Army to protect and preserve the freedom of Democracy of the United States. To be a citizen of a great country is the most cherished possession I have and I am willing to give my life to keep our country free.

General DeWitt's statements are directed against the whole Japanese race. To my knowledge this war is being waged against the Axis powers, rather than the people. To fight against a race is dangerous because the United States is composed of many nationalities, who are fighting for the common cause.

Such a statement as, to wipe the Japs from the face of the earth, is a direct threat to the Japanese race as a whole. It has a bad psychological effect on the soldiers of Japanese Ancestry, who are loyal to the United States.

I hope and believe these statements of General DeWitt do not represent those of the War Department, as they are a threat to the security of our nation and also to the rights set forth by the Constitution of the United States of America.

Very truly yours,

Roy Miyabe

rm/mm