

29 December 1944

Honorable Abe Fortas  
Under Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fortas:

There is attached a copy of the understanding of Interior, Justice and War Departments on Japanese Relocation Program which I have initialled on behalf of the War Department.

You should be informed, however, that due to the necessity of giving special treatment to those persons to whom leave clearance has been granted, the service of the exclusion orders may not be completed January 2, 1945 and the list provided for in Section 1 (b) of the understanding may not be available by that date. Accordingly it has been necessary for me to initial this understanding on two conditions, both of which are merely temporary and will not effect the permanent operation of the understanding. The first is that the War Department Proclamation referred to in Section 1 (a) will not necessarily be effective on January 2, 1945 but will be effective as of the date that the serving of the exclusion orders is completed. The second is that until such time as the detention recommendations referred to in Section 1 (b) are transmitted, estimated to be by January 20, 1945, the War Relocation Authority will not, except with the concurrence of Western Defense Command representatives, permit any person to leave the centers who is not on the so-called white list which has already been made available. Insofar as the requirements of the Endo case and the provisions of Section 2(a) of the understanding make it necessary that there be a specific request by the Army that you detain these people, for this interim period, you may consider this letter such a request.

In order to avoid errors, I suggest that local War Relocation Authority representatives, even after January 20, 1945 use the white list as a check and consult with the Western Defense Command representatives at the centers as to any discrepancies that appear.

With those limitations, the understanding is submitted for initialling on behalf of the Interior and Justice Departments as a document stating the present intentions of the several Departments as to action to be taken in connection with the revocation of mass exclusion. I am sure you will agree that it is not intended to be binding in the event of any relevant change in the military situation or other alteration of the circumstances in the light of which it was prepared.

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ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG PER

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Sincerely,

(Sgd) J. J. McCloy

John J. McCloy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ASW 014.311 WDC EXCLUSION ORDERS  
ASW 014.311 WDC Permits-enter-live

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