

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1942

DECLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(E) and 5(D) or (S)

NND 740062

By ERC NARS, Date 6-24-74Subject: Control of German and Italian Alien Enemies
and Other Potentially Dangerous Persons.

1. This is responsive to your memorandum of May 5, 1942, regarding General Drum's (Eastern Defense Command) Military Area.

2. Although General Drum initially had some further form of regulation in mind (evacuation of German and Italian aliens and other persons from sensitive areas on a selective basis), for the time being, he has been directed to confine action under the proclamation to control of lighting along the Atlantic seaboard. Press statements prepared for release at the time when the proclamation is issued will emphasize this and, in addition, affirmatively state that no mass evacuation is contemplated.

3. I have the following specific proposals for action with respect to alien enemies and other potentially dangerous persons, including citizens:

a. For the present there is to be no collective action against Italian and German enemy aliens in the Western Defense Command. However, it is our feeling that the investigation work of the F.B.I. should be intensified and a larger number of suspicious persons should be apprehended and detained than is now the case.

b. I propose to direct the Commanding General, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, to rescind his curfew against German and Italian aliens as soon as Japanese evacuation is complete and to take no action respecting collective evacuation of German or Italian aliens, unless directed so to do by the War Department. The power of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, to issue an individual exclusion order under Executive Order 9066, directed toward either a citizen or an alien requiring him to move from a particularly sensitive area, is to remain in force. This is not to be used as an instrument of collective evacuation. Weekly reports by radio are to be made to the Assistant Secretary of War of the number of individuals excluded under this authority.

c. The foregoing should apply to the Eastern as well as to the Western Defense Command.

d. I recommend that you call upon the Attorney General to push the enemy alien internment program throughout the country with vigor and in cases of doubt resolve the doubt against the alien.

4. If you approve, I will initiate necessary action immediately.

APPROVED

Secretary of War.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~