

*H.S. Congress, House Select Committee  
on Investigation and National Defense Migration*

**NATIONAL DEFENSE MIGRATION,**

**FOURTH INTERIM REPORT**  
 OF THE  
**SELECT COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING**  
**NATIONAL DEFENSE MIGRATION**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
 SEVENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS  
 SECOND SESSION

PURSUANT TO  
**H. Res. 113**  
 A RESOLUTION TO INQUIRE FURTHER INTO THE INTER-  
 STATE MIGRATION OF CITIZENS, EMPHASIZING  
 THE PRESENT AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE MIGRATION  
 CAUSED BY THE NATIONAL  
 DEFENSE PROGRAM

**Findings and Recommendations on Evacuation  
 of Enemy Aliens and Others From  
 Prohibited Military Zones**

MAY 1942



UNITED STATES  
 GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
 WASHINGTON : 1942

## SPECIAL APPENDIX

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No. 1.

[From the New York Times, Monday, April 27, 1942]

### TEXT OF GENERAL DRUM'S STATEMENT

The text of the statement by Lt. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, commanding general of the Eastern Defense Command and First Army, with headquarters at Governors Island, announcing preliminary plans for the establishment, at an early date, of an Eastern Military Area along the Atlantic coast follows:

The President in Executive Order 9066, dated February 19, 1942, authorized and directed military commanders whom the Secretary of War designates, whenever the designated commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to describe military areas in such places and of such extent as the appropriate military commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which the right of any person to enter, remain in or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate military commander may impose in his discretion. All Federal departments and agencies are directed to assist the Secretary of War and military commanders in the execution of said Executive order and authority is granted to accept the assistance of State and local agencies.

The Secretary of War has designated Lt. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, commanding the Eastern Defense Command and First Army, who is charged with the defense of the eastern seaboard, to designate military areas. General Drum will designate the entire Eastern Defense Command as a military area, called the Eastern Military Area. The Eastern Military Area includes the New England States and the Middle and South Atlantic States and Florida west of the Apalachicola River, and the District of Columbia. The object of prescribing a military area is to facilitate control so as to prevent subversive activities and aid being given the enemy, such as by lighting along our coasts. The military area system is an important and necessary adjunct to the defense of our eastern seaboard.

The functional subdivisions for control will be the four existing corps areas in the military area—namely, the First Corps Area, with headquarters at Boston, Mass.; the Second Corps Area, with headquarters at Governors Island, N. Y.; the Third Corps Area with headquarters at Baltimore, Md.; and the Fourth Corps Area, with headquarters at Atlanta, Ga.

Control throughout the area will be decentralized in most particulars to the corps areas and will be maintained primarily by means of a system of definitely described zones. The Department of Justice together with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other Federal agencies will assist in the execution and enforcement of the regulations prescribed. State and local officials will be requested to assist. A zone embraces generally a public utility; a military, naval, or civil installation; a commercial or defense facility; a territorial region, or a strip of coast line or water front, or other place, whose individual importance to the national defense and security will vary in accordance with local or other conditions.

The plan embodied in the administration of the Eastern Military Area contemplates the control of conduct within the area on the part of enemy aliens, as well as of all other persons, so as to safeguard the national security, and will be effected by means of general restrictions and orders issued from the headquarters of the Eastern Defense Command.

The fundamental policy embodied in the plan is not to interfere in any manner whatever with the lives of the great mass of loyal Americans in the States included in the military areas, or with the economic life of the area, but it does express the determination of the military authorities to prevent any enemy sympathizer, whether alien enemy, alien of other nationality, or disloyal American, if any exist, from committing any act detrimental to the national security. Those persons whose conduct reflects their patriotic motives will not be affected by this administration.

Enforcement of restrictions, and consequently control of the area, will be accomplished by the application of penalties provided by law for violations of the restrictions and orders of the commanding general. These include exclusion from the area, internment of aliens, prosecutions under Public Law No. 503 of March 21, 1942, and evacuations. However, regulation or control of conduct is the keynote of the plan, rather than evacuations.

Mass evacuation is not contemplated. Instead thereof, such evacuations as may be considered necessary will be by selective processes applicable to enemy aliens, or to other persons deemed dangerous to remain at large within the area or within its zones.

As an initial step in the enforcement of the restrictions to be prescribed for the military area, the Fourth Corps Area commanders indicated above have been directed forthwith to assume control over all lighting on the seacoast so as to prevent the silhouetting of ships and their consequent destruction by enemy submarines.

In accordance with the provisions of the President's Executive order the governors of all the States and civil officials have been requested to assist the corps area commanders in the enforcement of the necessary restrictions.

No. 2.

NEW YORK, N. Y., April 20, 1942.

Hon. JOHN H. TOLAN,  
Chairman, Special House Committee on Defense Migration,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: At the request of Mr. John W. Abbott, chief field investigator of your committee, an informal meeting was held at Hotel Pennsylvania on Friday evening, April 17, 1942, to discuss the situation confronting American citizens of Japanese extraction and permanent alien Japanese residents in the Greater New York area. Those participating comprised of Americans and persons of Japanese antecedents from several of the various religious, welfare, and social organizations representing a large majority of the people involved. Those present felt that a letter incorporating pertinent information in a brief form may be helpful to your committee in its work.

## I

Unlike the Japanese communities on the west coast, the New York Japanese population is not concentrated geographically or socially. This fact is borne out by their membership in American fraternal and religious organizations throughout

the metropolitan area and by their participation in the typical activities of an average American. Consequently, it is obvious that the problem presented here should be given different treatment than that formulated for the west coast.

## II

The Japanese population in the New York metropolitan area has diminished considerably since the compilation of the 1940 Federal census. Possibly the most accurate guide would be the recent registration for enemy-alien identification. An accurate statistical data of Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese extraction in this area remains, at best, an estimate, but we believe it is substantially correct. Taking into account the foregoing, we estimate that the present Japanese population in this area consists of 650 American citizens of Japanese extraction and 850 Japanese aliens most of whom are permanent residents. These figures do not include treaty merchants and temporary visitors, who have returned to Japan with their families or have been interned since the war. As intermarriage is not uncommon, there is a considerable number of Eurasian children. Of the total of approximately 1,500 persons, 250 American citizens and 650 alien Japanese are of working age.

## III

Prior to the war, citizens had been primarily employed as clerks, secretaries, bookkeepers, and salesmen in Japanese commercial and financial concerns. While the majority of these people have special training along professional or technical lines, they have been forced to accept these clerical positions in Japanese concerns because of the difficulty in finding satisfactory employment elsewhere. In addition, there were some artists, physicians, and attorneys, and other professional workers. The majority of the resident Japanese aliens (excluding treaty merchants and temporary visitors) were employed as domestics, restaurant workers, and shopkeepers. Other aliens were in various professions and arts.

This diversity of vocation indicates a wide range of education and aptitudes.

## IV

While only a few Japanese and citizens were dependent on relief prior to the outbreak of the war, about 15 percent of the total are now receiving aid from private or public sources. This figure does not truly describe the actual situation since most are reluctant to seek relief. Many families of internees and detainees are especially presenting difficult problems.

Generally we may classify the present employment status of citizens and aliens alike under the following three categories:

First. Those whose employment or business did not cease and are still continuing, such as restaurant workers and those employed in American firms. These constitute a very small number.

Second. Those whose employment or business ceased and who have since found new employment. These persons are mostly stenographers and typists who are now employed for the most part by religious and charitable organizations. Therefore, we can assume that most of the qualified women have found new work.

Third. Those whose employment or business ceased and who are still unemployed or unable to resume their business. The great majority of men of working age are in this category.

## V

In an effort to meet the problems created by the repercussions of this war several of the representative groups of Japanese and citizens held conferences with vocational experts, local and Federal employment officials, and representatives of private employment agencies. The consensus of opinion expressed at these meetings was that primarily due to racial discrimination, the outlook for employment of Japanese as a group, whether aliens or citizens, was not hopeful.

Although the prospects until now have not been favorable, these people by their own initiative are determined to overcome these difficulties. It is believed that on an individual basis it may be possible to work out a satisfactory solution. Indicative of this has been the reemployment of a small number in business when recommended by responsible individuals and organizations interested in their welfare. This shows that given proper and intelligent support many qualified individuals can be similarly placed and be reemployed. Perhaps the most effective line of approach toward a satisfactory solution of this problem would be through proper public-relations work.

We reaffirm our loyalty to this country and faith in its ideals. America's productive capacity will play a most important part in the successful prosecution of this war. Because of the potential contributions we can and wish to make to this end, we urge that appropriate steps be taken to enable us to participate more fully in the common effort. Recognition and utilization of our united efforts will most effectively demonstrate the principles for which we are fighting.

In view of the issues at stake in this war, any action based on racial lines cannot but be viewed with serious misgiving.

We desire to express our gratitude to the city, State and Federal authorities for the exemplary manner in which they have handled the many difficult problems that have arisen in this connection. This is reflected in the very favorable behaviour of the public-at-large towards us at this critical time. We are glad to report that we are not aware of any sabotage or fifth-column activities among the Japanese population in this area.

A more complete survey will be furnished later if you deem it desirable. A copy of this letter with your permission will be sent to the Honorable Milton S. Eisenhower, Director of the War Relocation Authority.

The undersigned organizations represent the majority of alien Japanese and citizen population in New York.

Respectfully,

THE NEW YORK CHURCH COMMITTEE FOR JAPANESE WORK,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

THE JAPANESE METHODIST CHURCH AND INSTITUTE,  
323 West One Hundred and Eighth Street, New York, N. Y.

THE JAPANESE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,  
453 West One Hundred and Forty-Third Street, New York, N. Y.

THE JAPANESE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE,  
330 East Fifty-seventh Street, New York, N. Y.

JAPANESE-AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY,  
1133 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FEDERATION OF NEW YORK,  
323 West One Hundred and Eighth Street, New York, N. Y.

THE TOZAI CLUB OF NEW YORK,  
323 West One Hundred and Eighth Street, New York, N. Y.

No. 3. NEW YORK, N. Y., April 18, 1942.

HON. JOHN H. TOLAN,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.:

At Abbott's request sending you information concerning Japanese aliens. Fifty-eight applied for assistance; we are caring for thirty-one. Balance either not eligible or got employment through private agency. Do not believe serious problem in New York, nevertheless when problems of caring for German and Italian aliens in addition to Japanese arises, matter will be serious. Strongly of opinion that Federal Government must take over all responsibility using other Federal, State, and local agencies to assist in administration. Major responsibility for financing belongs to Federal Government.

WILLIAM HODSON, *Commissioner of Welfare.*

[Telegram]

SEATTLE, WASH., April 27, 1942.

HON. JOHN H. TOLAN,  
Chairman, Committee Investigating National Defense Migration,  
Washington, D. C.:

Disposition of Japanese property in Seattle going along well. Office for Emergency Management and Federal Reserve bank have done excellent job. No demolition in prospect. Some Japanese stores have been liquidated, some sold outright and some leased. First two zones to be evacuated this week do not touch heart of Japanese district. Evacuation thus far very quiet and orderly. No other official comment deemed necessary.

EARL MILLIKIN, *Mayor of Seattle.*

[Telegram]

PORTLAND, OREG., April 27, 1942.

JOHN H. TOLAN,  
Chairman, Committee Investigating National Defense Migration,  
Washington, D. C.:

In re your telegram of April 25, no demolition contemplated. Most all Japanese properties have been disposed of satisfactorily and with little or no sacrifice on part of Japanese owners. White farmers have leased or purchased farm properties of evacuees with result that the Food for Victory program will be little impaired.

EARL RILEY, *Mayor of Portland.*

[Telegram]

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., April 24, 1942.

JOHN H. TOLAN,  
Chairman, Committee Investigating National Defense Migration:

Reurtel 23d requesting particulars on arrangements with property owners in Japanese district, San Francisco, city planning commission holding meetings jointly with housing authority and department of public health. So-called Japanese district comprises 24 blocks involving 728 houses, of which 29 are hotels. These houses or hotels are occupied in 433 instances by Japanese, 256 instances by whites, 123 by Negroes, 69 by Filipinos, and 12 by Chinese. As to ownership, 580 are classified as being owned by whites and 133 by Japanese. Seven are owned by Filipinos, 6 by Negroes and 2 by Chinese. Immediate problem is one of improving substandard dwellings to make suitable for housing war workers. Observations point to fact general condition of Japanese-owned property perhaps better than other property in this area. Greatest substandardness occurs in plumbing facilities. No municipal or Federal funds available for immediate subsidizing improvements. Nothing more can be done unless such is undertaken through agents or managers of Japanese properties. Unless Federal Government decides to take over entire area or greater portion thereof, there seems to be no reasonable solution for immediate or long-range problem created by evacuation regulations. Question of demolition has not been discussed by city planning commission. Board of supervisors by resolution memorializing Congress to create a moratorium on mortgages on Japanese-owned and Japanese-occupied properties within the city and county of San Francisco. No action taken by board respecting rehabilitation of said properties.

ANGELO J. ROSSI, *Mayor of San Francisco.*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,  
Los Angeles, Calif., April 27, 1942.

HON. JOHN H. TOLAN,  
Chairman, House Committee Investigating National  
Defense Migration, Washington, D. C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TOLAN: Immediately upon receipt of your telegram requesting comment relative to the disposition of the Los Angeles Japanese district, I asked for information from city sources and through Federal officers, and submit the following as a statement that I believe to be fair and accurate relative to the situation:

The Alien Property Custodian has taken over very little Japanese property. He has title to only a limited amount of property and of not great value, which appeared to be in the name of Japanese aliens at the time of evacuation. A considerable portion of the real property in that section of the city familiarly referred to as "Little Tokyo," where there was a concentration of Japanese business houses, hotels, and rooming houses, has at all times been owned by American citizens. Many parcels of real property in this and other sections of the city were ostensibly owned by American-born Japanese at the time of evacuation. A few of these parcels have been sold, some rented, and most of them listed with several local real-estate firms for business management for the duration.

I know of no buildings either owned by native-born Japanese, or previously occupied by Japanese, that are to be torn down. Inquiry made of those who either own or who have the control and management of such properties indicates that some of the stores or other buildings will be remodeled to suit the needs or

requirements of new tenants. The Japanese Specie Bank building is now being remodeled in order that it may be used for other business purposes.

Reference to the files of the Los Angeles Police Department shows that there have been no complaints by Japanese or on their behalf of anyone defrauding them or otherwise taking undue advantage of them in connection with the acquisition of their property because of the forced evacuation of Japanese from the city of Los Angeles.

While many of the Japanese had to leave going businesses, many of them were transferred to American citizens and are still being conducted. It is undoubtedly true that many of the Japanese families were forced to sacrifice articles of personal property and probably received less than the fair value thereof because of the necessity of making quick sales. There is no indication that undue losses have been suffered by reason of forced sales of real property.

I have not made a careful investigation and have depended upon reports from reliable sources for the statements I make. However, everything indicates that the evacuation of the Japanese has been orderly, that their legal rights have been protected and that property within this city formerly occupied or used by the Japanese will not remain idle or fall into a state of disrepair, and that the so-called Japanese section of the city will soon go forward with a normal business development.

Very truly yours,

FLETCHER BOWRON, *Mayor.*

No. 4.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES IN EVACUATION PROJECTS

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY,  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL,  
*Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., April 23, 1942.*

Subject: Japanese evacuation operations.

To: All Sector Commanders.  
All Civilian Agencies, Wartime  
Civil Control Administration.

#### 1. References:

- Public Proclamation No. 1, this headquarters, March 2, 1942.
- Public Proclamation No. 2, this headquarters, March 16, 1942.
- Public Proclamation No. 3, this headquarters, March 24, 1942.
- Public Proclamation No. 4, this headquarters, March 27, 1942.
- Public Proclamation No. 5, this headquarters, March 30, 1942.

2. The following instructions will guide the activities of sector commanders and civilian agencies in the evacuation processes. The instructions contained herein will replace the separate directives which previously have been forwarded for each evacuation project. The practice of distributing such separate directives is discontinued. It is contemplated that only such advance information as is pertinent to an evacuation project will be forwarded.

3. The evacuation of all Japanese, both aliens and nonaliens, from the area of the western defense command will be directed by this headquarters. Pending the resettlement of such persons by the War Relocation Authority, evacuees will be provided temporary shelter and other facilities at assembly centers and reception centers.

4. Numbered exclusion orders issued from this headquarters with instructions pertaining thereto will provide for the exclusion by a specific time of all Japanese, both aliens and nonaliens, from a specifically described area. The sector commanders are charged with the supervision of the evacuation from their respective sectors of all affected persons within such areas to assembly centers or reception centers to be designated by this headquarters. They will cause exclusion orders and instructions pertaining thereto to be posted at prominent points throughout the prescribed areas during such hours as are specified by this headquarters. A suitable supply of such orders and instructions will be furnished by this headquarters at the earliest practicable date preceding the effective date of each exclusion order. The officers specifically charged with the posting of exclusion orders and instructions pertaining thereto will execute certificates of such posting to include the area, the date, the time and manner of posting. These certificates will be forwarded to this headquarters within 12 hours after completion of posting.

5. For the purpose of registering and processing evacuees, civil control stations will be located in each area to be evacuated. The Federal Security Agency will locate, establish, organize, and operate these installations. That Agency is authorized to deal directly with the Office for Emergency Management and other Federal agencies as may be needed in the establishment and operation of control stations. Within each such station there will be included appropriate sections to render services applicable to the several interested civilian agencies. The civilian agencies concerned will provide for the personnel and the instruction of the personnel assigned to these sections. The supervisor of each section will control all matters pertaining to the services rendered by his particular civilian agency.

6. The manager of each control station will be named by the Federal Security Agency. This manager will receive instructions with reference to the evacuation project from the representative of the sector commander at the control station and will be responsible for the distribution and execution of these instructions by supervisors of sections within the control station.

7. The several civilian agencies will control the services rendered by their representatives at control stations but, insofar as the coordination and operation of the installation as a whole is concerned, supervisors of sections will receive their instructions from the manager of the control station.

8. The Federal Security Agency, the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco will provide for necessary general services such as:

- (a) The registration of all evacuees.
- (b) The medical examination of all evacuees either during processing or after their arrival at an assembly center.
- (c) Medical aid, including hospitalization, and social welfare service for and during the processing.
- (d) The settlement and protection of all the real and personal property of the evacuees, including the registration of those private automobiles belonging to evacuees to be used as transportation to an assembly center.
- (e) Storage facilities for items not otherwise disposed of, parking and immobilization of private automobiles at the assembly center or other designated place, and provision for proper policing thereof.
- (f) All forms, and operating details incidental to the foregoing, and the maintenance of an adequate filing system for all documents and other data assembled in connection with a particular project or combination of projects.

9. A physician will be made available by the Federal Security Agency at the civil control station during the entire period of registration and processing to attend invalid and other exceptional medical cases.

10. In addition to their prescribed functions, the civilian agencies mentioned above will assist the sector commander in the discharge of his duties pertaining to the evacuation.

11. The sector commander will provide such military personnel as he deems necessary for and during the registration and processing of evacuees.

12. Sector commanders will be responsible for the supervision of all movements of evacuees from affected areas in their respective sectors to the destination designated by this headquarters. Arrangements for all transportation other than by private conveyance will be made by this headquarters for movements of evacuees from control stations in affected areas to assembly centers and reception centers. Any additional transportation for evacuees within an affected area will be arranged for locally by the sector commander.

13. In certain cases where specifically directed by this headquarters, evacuees will be permitted to use their own private automobiles as transportation to an assembly center. All private automobiles so used will first have been registered with the representative of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco at the control station and provision made by that agency for the disposition of such automobiles upon arrival at the assembly center. As soon as is practicable after registration, the sector commander will cause a schedule of such movement to be prepared for the civil control station concerned and provide for adequate supervision of convoys of not more than 25 cars each. Arrivals of these groups of automobiles will be spaced throughout the travel day with emphasis being placed upon morning arrivals in order to permit the early settlement of evacuees at the point of destination.