

W 2041

To H. E. Monsieur Masayuki Tani
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Tokyo

CC.1.2.3/1.2.7/-cr.-

Tokyo, 21 September 1942

Monsieur le Ministre,

By letter No. 385 T/3 dated August 25, Your Excellency has been good enough to inform me that the lists of civilian internees and prisoners of war would be, as in the past, sent as fast as they are prepared, to the International Red Cross Committee which would send them to the Government of the United States. Your Excellency added that it was by error that it had been stated that the lists had been sent by the "Asama Maru".

I have the honor of informing you that the Government of the United States has asked me to send to the Imperial Government the following answer:

"American Government has taken note of information obtained by Swiss Government and International Redcross Committee regarding the activity of the official Japanese Information Bureau and that since the receipt by the American Information Bureau of Redcross telegram US 70 of June 16 reporting the presence of 29 prisoners of war from Wake Island at Zentsuji only occasional individual names of internees of prisoners of war held by the Japanese have been reported to the American Bureau by the Committee's Information Bureau. The records of the American Bureau still contain the names of only approximately 2000 American prisoners or internees in Japanese hands.

The American Government is unable to accept as a satisfactory reply the statement of the Japanese Foreign Office that lists of civilian internees and prisoners of war are communicated as in the past as prepared to the International Committee of the Redcross and urges both the Swiss Government and the International Redcross Committee to impress upon the Japanese Authorities the great importance that the American Government attaches to prompt fulfillment by the Japanese Government of the obligations it has assumed under article 77 of the prisoners of war Convention and 4 of the Redcross Convention. It desires that the Swiss Government and the International Redcross Committee call on the attention of the Japanese Government that the American Information Bureau transmits to the Central Redcross Information Bureau weekly lists of all Japanese nationals interned, released, paroled, detained, taken prisoner of war, transferred from one

No. 2041

camp to another, etc. that are based on official information regularly and promptly furnished to the Bureau by the Government Agencies concerned and point out that the American Government has a right under the Geneva Conventions to expect Japanese Agencies concerned to furnish the Japanese Information Bureau promptly with like information for transmission through the central Information Bureau to the United States. In this connection it desires that the Japanese Government be reminded of its agreement that such lists shall be transmitted by cable to the Central Information Bureau at the expense of the state of origin of the Prisoners of War or internees.

The American Government would like to know at the earliest possible moment whether American prisoners of war held by the Japanese have been allowed to prepare and post the capture cards which paragraph 2 of article 36 of the Prisoners of War Convention specifies may be written by each prisoner of war "within a period of not more than a week after his arrival at the camp" and which "shall be forwarded as rapidly as possible and may not be delayed in any manner". If American have been permitted to prepare and post such cards the American Government would like to know urgently how the cards are being forwarded to the United States. If they have not already been forwarded by some other route it is urgently suggested that they, as well as complete lists of prisoners and internees containing information supplementary to that furnished by telegraph be forwarded on future trips of the exchange vessels."

While requesting Your Excellency to enable me to cable to the Government of the United States of American the information asked for, I take this opportunity to renew, my dear Minister, the assurances of my very high respect.

The Swiss Minister

Certificate:-

I, Yale Maxon, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 8445.

/s/ Yale Maxon