

C-O-P-Y

Kochi City Japan
8 September 1949

SUBJECT: Petition for Release of the House
Procured by the Occupation Force
(U. S. Dependent House #62, P.D. #JPNR-2866)

THRU: Special Procurement Board, Kure Branch

TO: Lt. General Walton H. Walker
Commanding General
Eighth Army

FROM: Keitaro Nonaka
#28 Yaoyacho Kochi City

Your Excellency:

I fear it may be very impudent of me to present a petition to your Excellency directly, but I am in a very pressed circumstance and suffering from an unbearable pecuniary difficulty resulting from the procurement of my house by the Occupation Forces here. I have presented several petitions for the release of the house to the local authorities already, but it seems to be almost impossible to have these petitions actually delivered to the Commanding Officer of the Kochi Civil Affairs Team, and I feel there is no other way than to appeal to Your Excellency in order to be rescued from present hardship.

The specific details of the house is as follows:

Location: #26 Takajo-machi, Kochi City
Style: Japanese, two storied, with four wings
Bldg Area: 108.77 Tsubo
Premises: 350 Tsubo
Owner: Keitaro Nonaka

The above mentioned house is what I bought in May 1948 for the purpose of making it my residence and the residence and cite of business of Miyazaki family, one of my relatives (2 widow and her two daughters), for my and Miyazaki's house were burnt to ashes during the war. After the end of the war, Mrs, Miyazaki was quite at a loss having no means to make her living, but fortunately she had a license for operating a hotel, so we planned to operate a hotel through joint management at the house after I purchased the house with my capital. The house costed ¥1,000,000. At that time, however, I had only ¥150,000 and had to get a loan of ¥850,000 from the Shikoku Bank. This was a pretty big sum of debt, but I thought if we could operate a

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hotel we could pay the interest with no difficulty and redeem the debt gradually. But just in a few months after I purchased the house or in October 1948 it was procured by the Occupation Forces stationed here. At that time I made every efforts to ask the authorities to eliminate the procurement, stating the actual circumstances, for I knew the difficulties expected after the procurement were almost unbearable to me. I presented a petition to the governor, another to the Chief of the Liaison Section and another to the Commanding Officer of the Kochi Civil Affairs Team. The former two, however, refused to take any steps for me probably fearing that they might offend the Commanding Officer, and the petition addressed to the Commanding Officer, was returned without any signature of the Commanding Officer on it or any written answer, and I presume it might not have actually handed in to the Commanding Officer himself.

Also at that time I was told that the rent of ¥4,000 per month would be paid to me, but it has so far never been paid yet.

As the result of the procurement of my house the Miyazaki family were obliged to move to a small room of a factory, from where they are being demanded to move in the near future again.. I myself was driven to a corner of the Tosa Food-Stuff Company's office of which I am the president. This makes me suffer greatly from many inconveniences as a member of the Prefectural Assembly and the president of a company. I would endure these inconveniences, for some people must do this in order to furnish residences to the Occupation Forces and it would even be an honor to that we offer such service to the Occupation personnel, but the vital reason I cannot afford this service is the pecuniary matter.

The loan is redeemed a little, and the balance is ¥650,000 at present, and the sum of the expenditure required for maintaining the above mentioned house, which has been reported to the Special Procurement Board, Kochi Branch, is as follows:

Interest for the loan.....	¥70,200	(Annually)
Fire Insurance Fee	8,100	"
Tax	2,576	"
Total	¥80,876	

This amount is more than I can afford to pay from income of my business, and if such a circumstance should continue for following months I could help but fall in a bankruptcy. Mrs. Miyazaki's family, too, are in a very pressed circumstance, being unable to operate their business and their only income being the salary of a daughter who works in the Shimizugumi Contractor Co. receiving a pay of ¥3,000 per month.

We are quite willing to furnish as many services as possible to the Occupation personnel, but as explained above, the house was not what I had owned as my own property but it was bought not only as two family's residence but also the foundation of a business, risking to borrow an

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enormous sum of money from the bank. At present it is almost impossible to get houses to let in Kochi, and the loan of the above mentioned house is a vital blow to us two families.

Under these circumstances I am daring to forward this petition to Your Excellency hoping for the release of my house from the procurement.

If Your Excellency's special consideration and sympathy toward this humble petition be given, we shall be very grateful.

Thanking you in advance for Your Excellency's concern and favorable judgement.

Respectfully yours.

I remain, Sir,
Your most faithful servant

KEITARO NONAKA