

6/2020

Resident Ordinary No. 459

19 June 1943

From: Kuma SUZUKI, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Office for the residents in enemy countries,
Foreign Office

To: Chief of the POW Information Bureau

Regarding the Proposal of the American Government Pertaining
to the Treatment of POW

The Government of Switzerland has, by request of the American Government, recently inquired of us if it is all right for a representative of the Swiss Minister to ask the questions enumerated in the attached questionnaire when he visits the POW camps or the civilian internee camps.

Accordingly we are sending you the said questionnaire and its translation.

Please give us your instructions.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are civilian internees required to perform labor without their consent?
2. Are non-commissioned officers used in other than supervisory capacity without their consent? Are officers required to perform labor?
3. Are officers and civilian internees given gainful employment if they volunteer? If so what is the nature of the employment?
4. How many men are absent from the camp to perform labor? Into how many groups have they been divided?
5. In a camp where men return to camp each evening specify number of men who generally go out in work parties.
6. Who determines which prisoners of war must work and which need not work? Has this official any rules which he must follow in making his decision? What are those rules?
7. What official is charged with the responsibility of seeing that the standards of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention as well as those set up by the detaining Power are met?
8. Where is labor performed?
9. What kind of labor is performed?
10. Under what industrial, sanitary and climatic conditions is labor performed?
11. Does the detaining Power provide food, clothing and medical care to the prisoners as contemplated by the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention? Does the detaining Power make employers responsible for the observation of these sections of the Convention?
12. What provision is made for the religious and recreational needs of the men in labor groups who do not return to the base camp each night?
13. What are the hours of labor? On how many days per week is labor not required?
14. What wages are paid? Are these wages larger or smaller than payment prescribed by Article 34 of the Geneva Convention?
15. How much of the wages are paid in cash, in script?
16. How much of the wages are deducted for maintenance?
17. What can the men buy with funds given them?

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. _____
 I.F.S. No. 1432-D

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, IIDA, Yukio, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Chief of General Affairs, Prisoner of War Information Bureau, and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 4 pages, dated 19 June, 1943, and described as follows: Resident Ordinary No. 459 Regarding the proposal of the American Government pertaining to the treatment of POW, and questionnaire.

I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): Prisoner of War Information Bureau.

Signed at Tokyo on this
12th day of Nov., 1946.

/s/ IIDA, Yukio
 Signature of Official

SEAL

Witness: /s/ Keji Yokoi

Chief of General Affairs
 Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, J. A. Curtis, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this
12th day of Nov., 1946.

/s/ J. A. Curtis, 2nd Lt.
 NAME

Witness: /s/ Marian A. Linhart

Investigator
 Official Capacity