

*29/6 Woodward*

CC.1.1.-dat.-

The Swiss Legation has the honor to inform the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs that they did not fail to communicate the contents of the note No. 110/C.R. of April 22nd last, to their Government, for the information of the Government of the United States.

This latter Government has requested the Federal Government to insist, once more, in their name, to obtain on behalf of the Swiss delegates, the right to talk without witnesses to the prisoners of war in the hands of the Japanese forces.

I, immediately take this opportunity, to request the kind intervention of Your Excellency in order to ask the Ministry of War if they could not meet this request from the Government of the United States.

The American Government has, once more, given its assurance that the delegates of countries charged with Japanese interests in the United States and in other American territory, have full right to talk without witnesses with Japanese subjects, whether they be internees or prisoners of war whom they are visiting. Thus, in the event of a favorable reply from the Imperial Government the absolute reciprocity would be assured to Japan in this matter.

The Legation takes this opportunity to renew to the Imperial Ministry assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 4 June 1943

The Imperial Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
**RETURN TO ROOM 361**

THE GAIMUSEO  
TOKYO

No. 189/C.R.

VERBAL NOTE

The Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honor to acknowledge receipt from the Swiss Legation of a note, No. CC.1.1.-dat., dated the 4th of this month, informing us of the desire of the Government of the United States for an arrangement to let delegates of the protecting Powers interview prisoners of war without the presence of guards.

The Ministry hastens to inform the Legation that Article 13 of our country's detailed Regulations Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, stipulates that a guard shall be present when prisoners of war are interviewed, and that it is not possible to modify our treatment of prisoners of war practiced in conformity with the said article.

24 June 1943

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CC.1.2.7.-deu.  
CC.1.1.-

Tokio 28 June 1943

M. le Ministre,

By letter of 2 June I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency certain questions concerning the visits to prisoner of war camps, particularly to camps situated in the metropolitan area.

It appears from a recent communication from the Government of the United States of America that it attaches the greatest importance that I be able to visit as soon as possible the prisoner of war camp at Hakodate.

I would, therefore, be very much obliged to Your Excellency if you would inform me of the decision of the Imperial Government on this subject, and take this occasion to renew, M. le Ministre, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

FILE COPY  
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CC.1.1.-deu.

2078

The Swiss Legation has the honor to acknowledge receipt of Note No. 189/C.R. of 24 June from the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs by which it is made known that as Article 13 of the Regulation regarding treatment of prisoners of war provides for the presence of a witness for every visit which is made to them, it was not possible to change the treatment of prisoners in this respect.

The Legation had not failed to make known this information to its Government for the attention of the Government of the United States of America.

At the same time, it would be very much obliged to the Imperial Ministry if it would provide for its files the text of the above mentioned regulations, and takes this opportunity to renew assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 8 July 1943

To Imperial Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.5.1/2.1.2/1.1.-dgu.

Tokio, 16 July 1943

M. le Ministre,

Referring to <sup>your</sup> letter of 26th May last, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I am required by my Government to send to the Imperial Government the following reply from the United States Government on the subject of treatment of prisoners of war and civil internees in the hands of the Japanese authorities:-

"The United States Government has received the Japanese Government's communication of 28th May 1943 to the Swiss Minister at Tokyo (see letter No. 151/ C.R. of 26th May last) and has noted both the assurance that the Japanese Government will communicate the results of the investigation of each instance of mistreatment of an American national in Japanese hands which has been reported by the United States Government and the reassurance that the Japanese Government will apply the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 to the treatment of prisoners of war in its hands and that it will apply reciprocally the provisions of the same Convention to the treatment of civilian internees in so far as those provisions are adaptable.

"The United States Government continues to attach the greatest importance to the granting of Japanese permission for Swiss representatives to visit all prisoner of war and civilian internment camps in Japan and Japanese occupied territory, particularly those in Taiwan, the Philippines, Java and Malaya and the camps in Indo-China operated by the Japanese Authorities and for the appointment of delegates of the International Red Cross Committee for these areas to carry on the recognized functions of such delegates including the visiting and reporting on conditions in camps. In this connection the United States Government wishes to remind the Japanese Government that Article 86 of the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention provides that representatives of the protecting Power shall be permitted to go to any place without exception where prisoners of war are interned.

"Note has been taken of the Japanese Government's statements that in some areas the necessity of protecting the security of Japanese Armed Forces and other strategic considerations make it unavoidable for the time being not to allow free activities by nationals of a third State in those areas. It is observed, however, that Taiwan has been under Japanese control for many years and that the Philippines, Java and Malaya have been occupied by Japanese Military Forces for many months.

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"The Japanese Government is also reminded that Article 7 of the Geneva Convention provides that prisoners of war shall be evacuated from the zone of combat in the shortest period possible after their capture. The United States Government considers that the Japanese Government has obligated itself under this provision of the Convention to remove American nationals held as prisoners of war or civilian internees from areas where active military operations are being carried on to camps outside those areas where representatives of the Swiss Government and the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee may visit them.

"Recognizing that rumors with regard to conditions of internment naturally tend to arise in time of war whether or not they have any basis in fact, the United States Government has granted every facility to the Spanish representatives charged with the protection of Japanese interests in the Continental United States and to the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee to the end that the Japanese Government might have unbiased neutral reports on conditions in prisoner of war camps, internment camps and relocation centers where Japanese nationals in the United States are gathered. Moreover, visits by Swedish and International Red Cross representatives have been permitted to those camps in the Hawaiian Islands where any Japanese are interned.

"The best assurance that Japan is fulfilling its undertaking to apply the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention to the treatment of prisoners of war in its hands and to the treatment of civilian internees in so far as those provisions are adaptable to civilians would be afforded by allowing representatives of the Swiss Government to discharge their obligation to visit all camps where prisoners of war and civilian internees are held and by allowing delegates of the International Red Cross Committee to carry on the recognized functions of their office. The failure of the Japanese Government to grant reciprocal facilities for the neutral inspection of civilian internment and prisoner of war camps in all areas under Japanese control can lead only to the conclusion that the reports of American nationals held by the Japanese Authorities being treated in a manner far below the standards of the Geneva Convention are not mere rumors but are grounded on fact."

Please accept, M. le Ministre, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

THE GAIMUSHO  
TOKYO

No. 244/C.R.

23 July 1943

H. le Ministre,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter No. CC.1.1.dew. dated 2nd June last, communicating the desires of the Governments of both the United States and Great Britain regarding the problem of visiting prisoner of war camps.

As regards prisoner of war camps in the occupied areas, a notification will be made to Your Excellency if the time comes when permission can be granted; and as regards prisoner of war camps in Japan proper which have not yet been visited, permission will be granted gradually at a favorable opportunity. Permission for periodic visits to those camps that have already been visited, shall not be granted in advance; but in case a visit is desired, consideration will be given to applications made on all such occasions.

I wish to send Your Excellency the above reply.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest esteem.

/s/ Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
(SEAL)

Minister of Foreign Affairs

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.5.1/2.1.2/1.1.-dau.

Tokio, 29 July 1943

M. le Ministre,

Following my letter of July 16th, I have the honor to inform you that considering the very great importance which is placed upon the welfare of their nationals in the Philippines, the Government of the United States of America insists once more in demanding that the Minister of Switzerland be authorized to designate a delegate charged with visiting the camps of war prisoners and civilian internees situated at Manila or in other localities.

In this respect, I dare to observe that no control could be carried out until now in the Philippines respecting the application of the Covenant of Geneva through the Military Authorities. The International Committee of the Red Cross has not obtained to this day the right of having an authorized representative in the Philippines. Therefore, the Federal Authorities will be happy if the Imperial Authorities see the possibility of assuring in the Philippines, as in Japan Proper, the normal functioning of the code of war prisoners.

By reason of the notable importance which is placed upon this question of principle, I shall be extremely grateful to Your Excellency if he will consent to examine once more with the Military Authorities if it will not be possible to remedy the present situation, in the proper interest of the great principles which are the basis of the Covenant of Geneva of 1929.

Please accept, M. le Ministre, the assurances of my high regard.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
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CC.1.1.- deu.  
CC.1.2.4.

2018

By letter of 23rd July, Mr. SHIGEMITSU gave to the Swiss Minister certain information on the subject of visits to prisoner of war camps. He informed him in particular that a new request must be made each time the Swiss Minister desired to visit a camp which had already been visited.

The Swiss Legation has the honor to inform the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs that the British Government considers it extremely important that it obtain information concerning camps at Tokyo and Yokohama.

The Legation would be extremely obliged to the Imperial Ministry if it would inform me when the delegate of the Swiss Minister may be able to visit the above mentioned camps which have only been visited once in December last.

In thanking the Minister in advance for his kind response, the Legation takes this occasion to renew the assurances of its highest esteem.

Tokio, 23 August 1943

The Imperial Minister  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

FILE COPY  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

2016

CC.1.1.-  
CC.1.2.7.-dsu.

By letter of 28th June, 1943, the Swiss Minister had the honor to inform M. SHIGEMITSU that the Government of the United States considered it extremely important that the Swiss Legation be authorized to visit prisoner of war camps at Hakodate.

This favor having been granted to the International Committee of the Red Cross, one cannot see why it has been refused to the protecting power.

Having had no reply, the Legation once more brings this matter to the attention of the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Legation would be obliged to the Minister if he would inform the Legation as to the intentions of the military authorities on the subject of visits to other camps (camps already visited and camps not yet visited). It would be happy to be able to accomplish its duty in conformity with the stipulations of the Geneva Convention.

It takes this occasion to renew assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 4 September 1943

The Imperial Minister  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1.-deu.  
(CC.1.2.4.-  
CC.1.2.7.-  
CC.1.2.8.-)

By letter of 23rd July, M. SEIGEMITSU gave the Swiss Minister certain information concerning visits to prisoner of war camps. He informed him, in particular, that a new request must be made each time the Swiss Minister desired to visit camps already visited.

Following this principle, the Swiss Legation had the honor to inform the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs on 23rd August that it desired to visit camps at Tokyo and Yokohama. It has not yet received any reply.

Also in the above mentioned letter the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Swiss Minister that, as regards camps in Japan not yet visited, permission to visit would be given from time to time.

The Legation therefore applied to the Ministry by notes of 28th June and 4th September that it be allowed to visit the camp at Hakodate and on 29th July to visit the camp at Hirakawa. These requests have also not been replied to.

The Legation informs the Imperial Ministry that it considers it extremely important that it obtain as soon as possible permission to visit the above mentioned camps.

In thanking the Minister in advance for his kind response, it takes this occasion to renew assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 22 October 1943

The Imperial Minister  
of Foreign Affairs.  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
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2076

CC.1.1.-deu.  
CC.1.2.4.  
1.2.7.  
1.2.8.

The Swiss Legation had the honor on several occasions, the last by letter of 22nd October, to seek the good offices of the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs for the purpose of visiting as soon as possible prisoner of war camps at Tokyo, Yokohama, Hakodate and Hiraoka. As the Ministry will remember, the delegate of the Swiss Minister has only once visited camps at Tokyo and Yokohama, in December last, while those at Hakodate and Hiraoka have never been visited.

Having had no reply, the Legation once more brings this matter to the attention of the Ministry. It considers it to be of extreme importance to know the decision of the Imperial Government.

The Legation takes this opportunity to renew to the Ministry assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 10 December 1945

The Imperial Minister  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1.-EDGd.

Tokio, 12 February 1944

M. le Ministre,

I had the honor on several occasions to draw the attention of Your Excellency to the importance which the British and American Governments attach to visits to prisoner of war and civil internee camps.

On 23rd July last, you informed me that, so far as concerns prisoner of war camps in occupied territories, authority to visit would be given to me when it was opportune to do so. Also you informed me that a new application must be made each time I desire to visit camps which have already been visited.

In view of the foregoing, I requested by letter of 29th July the right to send a delegate to the camps in the Philippines. My Legation intervened with the Minister for Foreign Affairs by notes of 23rd August, 4th September, 22 October, 17th November, 10th December, 25th January and 4th February, asking for the right to visit camps at Hakodate, Hirakawa, and Niigata, and to revisit camps at Fukuoka, Tokyo and Yokohama. None of these requests have yet been replied to.

The Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India have requested my Government to make to the Imperial Government a formal demand to authorize the protecting power and the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit all camps of prisoners of war and civil internees in Japan and in occupied regions.

Please accept, M. le Ministre, assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1.-EGc.  
CC.1.5.2.-  
CC.1.2.4.

2016

Referring to previous communications, the Swiss Legation has the honor to inform the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs that the British Government has expressed a desire that the Swiss Minister be enabled to visit as soon as possible prisoner of war camps. The Government of the United Kingdom considers it especially important that camps at Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka may be visited again, for they have only been visited once.

Furthermore, having learned that new camps have been established in Tokyo and in the district of Fukuoka and that prisoner of war hospitals were being established at Shinagawa and Moji, it has requested that prisoners of war in such places be visited without delay. In this regard, the British Government has stressed that in other countries representatives of the protecting power are able to make frequent visits to prisoner of war camps. This is so even in Germany where camps are visited by representatives three or four times a year.

In addition, the Government of the United Kingdom has received very alarming reports on the physical condition of prisoners of war in Japan and it believes that they are made to perform very severe work. It is desirous of obtaining information on this matter.

In these circumstances, the Legation once more asks the Imperial Minister when the Swiss Minister will be authorized to send delegates to prisoner of war camps in Japan. It would be obliged, furthermore, to the Minister if he would communicate the information requested by the British Government on the physical condition and work of prisoners of war.

In thanking the Minister in advance for his kind and prompt response, the Legation takes this occasion to renew assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 13 March 1944

The Imperial Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

FILE COPY  
RETURN TO ROOM 331

CC.1.5.1./2.1.2./  
CC.1.1.-EGc.

2070

The Swiss Legation has the honor to inform the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs that, according to a communication from the British Government the Domei agency has recently quoted in a radio broadcast an article in the Nippon Times in which appears the following phrase: "The Japanese Government will take steps to facilitate extensive observations by objective parties, should more proof be needed about the treatment of prisoners of war."

The Legation informs the Ministry that the Government of the United Kingdom is referring no doubt to a phrase in the article in the Nippon Times of 13th February last (morning edition) entitled "Atrocity Stories Again." It contains the following sentence: "If still more proof were needed, there is no doubt that the Government will take steps to facilitate more extensive observations by objective parties."

The London Government considers that this indicates that the Japanese Government is prepared to agree to the requests to permit representatives of protecting powers in the Far East to visit camps of prisoners of war which have not yet been visited and to revisit those already visited.

The Legation would be glad to know the intention of the Imperial Authorities on the subject of visits to prisoner of war camps, and takes this opportunity to renew to the Ministry assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 25 March 1944

The Imperial Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

FILE COPY  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1.

Personal

Tokio, 30 March 1944

You know that I have not been satisfied with my activities as representative of foreign interests in Japan. The results do not correspond to the efforts. I can see this in a concrete fashion as shown by the statistics of my services and requests which have been made by my Government probably at the request of the Governments who have confided their interests to us. I desire to confine myself for the moment to my requests to visit prisoner of war camps. Reviewing the many personal requests made over more than two years, I find that from 1st February, 1942, to 15th March, 1944, I have intervened 134 times in writing. These 134 notes or letters have brought exactly 24 replies from the Gaimusho. Most of these replies are either negative or forward to me decisions made by competent authorities. It also appears that since last July - and this is confirmed by what I have mentioned to you several times - the Gaimusho does not even reply to most of my requests. I have received, in fact, three replies in nine months.

You will realize without difficulty that this result is not brilliant, especially if one takes into account the fact that my requests are all founded upon the well-known stipulations of the Geneva Conventions. It cannot be doubted that the requests made are those which are generally made between belligerents on the treatment of prisoners of war.

These facts speak for themselves and I believe that it would perhaps be of interest to submit them to your chiefs and particularly to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I take into account not only my own difficulties, but also our common difficulties, for I know that in this respect you reply each time you receive a response from the military authorities, and who knows, after all, if the above summary, which is eloquent of the results obtained, will not aid us to get over the impasse in which we have been for months. The impasse has existed, as you well know, since before the "atrocities" campaign launched by the American and British Governments. It is perhaps necessary to search for the reasons for the public protests made by the Governments at London and Washington. The fact is that I have not been enabled to send them replies following the many requests which I have been ordered to make to the Imperial Government. I do not desire to do more, as I have often said to you and as I have myself expressed to Mr. SHIGEMITSU, than to contribute to the improvement of the situation, but it is necessary that the many requests of the Legation receive better response.

I do not wish to abandon hope in this matter, and I beg you to accept, my dear Minister, my kindest regards.

To His Excellency  
M. Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI  
Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio



CC.1.1. - EGH.  
22 1.1.

Tokio, 10 May 1944.

M. le Ministre,

Following previous communications relative to camps of prisoners of war and civil internees in the Far East, I have the honor to bring to the knowledge of Your Excellency that the Government of the United States of America has furnished the following information as to visits to Japanese prisoners of war and internees' camps in the metropolitan area of the United States and at Hawaii:

"Representatives of the Spanish Embassy and the Swedish Legation, which have undertaken the protection of Japanese interests in the continental United States and territory of Hawaii respectively, have made frequent visits in the course of the last two years to all places without exception where Japanese nationals have been held as prisoners of war, evacuees, internees or detainees and have been freely allowed to interview them without witnesses and have been permitted the greatest freedom in inspecting all features of the various places of detention.

"The Representatives of Spain visited Tula Lake relocation center 5 times, Central Utah relocation center 4 times and to the other 8 relocation centers 3 visits have been made to each of them.

"Fort Missoula and Kenedy internment camps under Department of Justice have been visited 5 times, Santa Fe internment camp has been visited 4 times and 4 visits were made to Seagoville before the Japanese nationals were transferred elsewhere.

"Since the opening of the Crystal City internment camp to Japanese nationals in March 1943, 2 visits have been made there and also to Kooskia, which was opened in May last year.

"Before the removal of the Japanese nationals from Tuna Canyon and Fort Lincoln, these camps were visited at least 3 and 2 times respectively.

"During such time as Japanese nationals were held in the detention stations at Seattle, Chicago, San Pedro, Denver, Griffiths Park, Fort Howard, Salt Lake City and other cities, frequent visits to them were made by the Representatives of the Spanish Embassy.

"The Spanish Consuls at San Francisco and New York may visit at will, upon application to the Commander of the two stations, the Japanese held at Sharp Park, San Francisco and Ellis Island, New York.

"The Spanish Representatives made 1 visit to Fort Sill, 2 visits each to Camp Livingston, Lordsbury, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Lewis and 4 visits to Fort George Meade during the time when Japanese civilians were held in custody of the War Department.

"One visit has been made by the Spanish Representative to the Japanese prisoners of war at Camp McCoy and previously many of these same prisoners were visited at other camps.

"Japanese nationals held in detention in the territory of Hawaii have recently been visited by the representative of the Swedish Legation in Washington. These Japanese were previously visited several times by the Swedish Consul at Honolulu."

The State Department has also made known that it has received from the Spanish Ambassador at Washington a request to visit all places in the United States where Japanese subjects are interned. In order to assure reciprocity in this matter, the Washington Government desires to know the steps taken by the Japanese Government to authorize Swiss representatives to visit all places not already visited in which American citizens are detained.

The Government of the United States is particularly anxious that visits be made to camps in Thailand, in Burma, in Malaya, in the Netherlands East Indies and in the Philippines, which have not been visited since their establishment, which took place in some cases more than two years ago. It considers it of extreme importance that the Swiss representatives be granted the facilities provided by the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention of 27th July, 1929, which are enjoyed by the Spanish and Swedish representatives in American territory.

I would therefore be obliged to Your Excellency if you would inform me of the intentions of the Imperial Government concerning visits to camps not already visited in the Far East, particularly those which are in the above mentioned regions.

In thanking Your Excellency for his kind response, I beg you to accept, M. le Ministre, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellence  
M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

CC.1.1.EAb.

To His Excellency  
M. Minister SUZUKI.

M e m o r a n d u m

Visits to Prisoner of War  
Camps in Occupied Territories

In the course of the exchange of views with the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of visits to prisoner of war camps in territories occupied or controlled by Japanese authorities, the Swiss Minister drew attention to the fact that these visits were rendered most difficult because the Swiss have not obtained the authority to protect American and British interests in the said Territories.

Referring to the advice of the competent authorities, it is possible to point to a contradiction between the fact of the Swiss not being authorized to represent these interests in general and the authority which was given to them to visit prison camps in occupied territories. The Swiss Minister has had occasion to state to the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, in particular, to SEIGEMITSU, that the Swiss for their part do not contend that an authority to visit the camps in question will be an implied abandonment of the principle which the Imperial Government believes should be adopted so far as concerns the protection of American and British interests in the said territories. The Swiss have obtained in exceptional cases authority to visit prison camps at Hong Kong without having contended that their mandate to protect foreign interests should be extended in a general manner to Hong Kong. The Swiss Minister has communicated to his Government the difficulty which according to the Imperial Government is an obstacle to the making of visits to camps in occupied territories and the Federal Government has forwarded this advice to the Government of the United States.

The foregoing has been confirmed by the Swiss Government, which states that it will not consider that the fact that the Swiss have been authorized to visit the said camps will be interpreted as a change in the attitude adopted by Japan on the question of the representation of American interests in occupied territories. The Washington Government states, in effect, that the two questions should be dealt with separately. It states that on 25th April, 1943, Spain was charged with the representation of German and Italian interests in French North Africa. At the same time the Swiss had been charged with protecting German and Italian prisoners of war in the United States. This establishes that the question relating to prisoners of war can well be separated from the general representation of foreign interests.

The Swiss Minister thought that this example cited by the United States itself would be of interest to the Imperial Government, and asks for its generous consideration of the competent Imperial authorities.

RETURN TO ROOM 361 Tokyo, 30 June 1944

CC.1.1.-EAb.

Tokio, 1st July 1944

M. le Ministre,

As I have had occasion to refer several times to the competent services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of the United States of America has learned with great satisfaction that Your Excellency is exploring with the competent authorities the possibility of authorizing me to visit prisoner of war camps in occupied territories. It has informed me that it awaits with great interest the result, and emphasizes once more the great importance which it attaches to a satisfactory decision on a matter which has caused it great concern.

After the interview which I had with Your Excellency on 3rd May last on the subject of the reply of the Imperial Government to complaints made by the Government of the United States relating to the treatment of American prisoners of war in the power of Japan, I have informed my Government for transmission to the Government of the United States of the attitude which the Imperial authorities have adopted towards the American protests. In this regard the Government of the United States has requested me to inform Your Excellency that "the published reports to which M. SHIGEMITSU objects are accounts of the sufferings of American nationals in camps in Japanese occupied territories that come into the hands of American agencies from reliable sources." It adds that "to end the publication of such accounts, Japan has only to remove the conditions giving rise to such accounts and permit Swiss representatives so to inform the United States Government."

The Government of the United States sets out in addition that it is obliged to "inform its citizens of the condition of its nationals in enemy custody" and makes the following observations:

"The persistent refusals of the Japanese Government to allow the visits by the representatives of the protecting Power to camps located in Japanese occupied territories leads naturally to the conclusion that conditions in these areas continue to be unsatisfactory and such as to make Japan ashamed to have them observed by Neutrals. The Japanese Government has at its command the most effective method of removing the causes of unfavorable reports and thereby preventing the future publication of such reports if it gives reality to its numerous professions of its intentions of applying humanitarian considerations in its treatment of civilian internees and prisoners of war and if it makes the improvements promised by Minister SHIGEMITSU. The American Government will be in a position to reassure the relatives and friends of the American nationals held by Japan with regard to their condition and treatment when the Japanese Government accords the American nationals the humanitarian treatment it has promised and when it permits the Swiss representatives to visit all places where American nationals are held and to verify and confirm that their treatment is in accordance with the promises of the Japanese Government. The American Government keeps entertaining the hope that the Japanese Government will be persuaded without further delay to enable the representatives of the Swiss Government to visit all detained Americans wherever they may

be detained. There would seem to be no reason why such visits - without prejudice to the juridical position taken by Japan on the question of representation of enemy interests - should not be permitted by the Japanese Government."

As Your Excellency has stated, the Government of the United States refers to the Japanese promise relative to visits to camps. It cannot refer to a formal promise, Your Excellency having only promised to examine the question, without giving any guarantee as to the result of this examination. I consider it necessary to be precise in this matter in order to prevent any misunderstanding.

Concerning the last point mentioned by the Government of the United States on the subjects of visits to prison camps and the general representation of American interests in occupied territories, I sent only yesterday a memorandum relative to the competent services of your Ministry.

It would be of great interest to me to know the reactions or the decisions of the Imperial Government which these remarks of the United States Government caused, and, in awaiting a communication as to this matter, for which I am very much obliged to Your Excellency, I beg you to accept, M. le Ministre, assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Memoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio.

CC. 1.1.-EAc.

M e m o r a n d u m

The Imperial Authorities have recently informed the Swiss Minister that he will be authorized to visit all prisoner of war camps in Japan.

The Swiss Legation recently visited camps at Kawasaki. It considers it extremely important to know when it can visit other camps.

The Governments of Great Britain and the United States of America insist that these visits take place.

Also, the Legation would be obliged to the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs if it would inform it, if possible, the intentions of the Ministry of War.

Tokio, 21 July 1944

THE GAIMUSHO  
TOKYO

12 August 1944

No. 222/C.R.

M. le Ministro,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter No. CC.1.1.FAG of 1st July, regarding the treatment of American nationals in the hands of the Empire, and the visiting of prisoner of war camps in the Japanese occupied areas.

As regards the protest by the United States Government to the treatment of American nationals now in the hands of the Imperial Government, communicated through Your Excellency's letter of 2nd May, the Imperial Government's opinion and general principle on the above treatment are just as I have already related in detail to Your Excellency in my letter dated 28th of April.

Your Excellency has also been already informed of the Imperial Government's opinion on the scandalous propaganda which the United States Government had launched against Japan at the same time with the above protest. I wish to inform Your Excellency that the Imperial Government shall make no changes whatever in its attitude in this regard.

The reasons for the difficulty at the moment to grant persons of a third country permission to visit prisoner of war camps in the areas occupied by the Japanese Army, have also been stated in my letter of the 28th April. However, the fact that I had informed Your Excellency that the above permission to visit the camps shall be considered, only goes to show the Imperial Government's fair attitude towards the problem of treating enemy nationals according to the above mentioned established principles in the face of difficulties. The result of this consideration shall be communicated to Your Excellency later.

Moreover, what I would like to once more call the careful attention of the United States to, at this moment, is that it is considered a matter of greatest importance that treatment of enemy nationals should be managed according to the spirit of the 1929 Convention, even in situations not predicted by it.

Especially it is expected that the United States Government will give prompt and full consideration from the standpoint of humanity to the requests of the Imperial Government on this point expressed to Your Excellency in my letter of the 28th April, and that the results will be made known to this Government. The Imperial Government requests Your Excellency to properly communicate with the United States Government on this matter.

/s/ Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

THE GAIMUSHO  
TOKYO

No. 223/C.R.

VERBAL NOTE

The Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honor to acknowledge receipt, from the Swiss Legation in Tokyo, of a memorandum No. CC.1.1.EAG, dated 21 July, requesting permission to visit prisoner of war camps in Japan. In reply, I wish to send Your Excellency the opinion of the Imperial Government as follows:

In the above memorandum, the Swiss Legation in Tokyo has stated that, "Recently, the Imperial Authorities have notified the Minister of Switzerland that visits to all prisoner of war camps in Japan shall be permitted." However, if this is a quotation of the said statement by the Imperial Minister of Foreign Affairs in the conversations with the above Minister on 3 May, I wish to point out that the statement, "I shall do as much as I can as regards visits to camps in Japan proper and China," was made at that time by the Foreign Minister.

Actually, a delegate of the Swiss Minister has successively visited the prisoner of war camps in Nagoya, Niigata, and Tokyo, after the above conversations, and the Swiss Legation has expressed its satisfaction to the Imperial authorities concerned.

It has already been explained that it is our policy to let the Imperial Authorities concerned gradually grant permission to visit other camps when applications are made on each occasion by the Swiss Legation.

15 August 1944

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361



CC.1.1.-EAA.

2016  
Tokio, 17 August 1944.

M. le Ministre,

I had the honor to receive your letter of 12th August in which Your Excellency informed me of the views of the Imperial Government concerning visits to prisoner of war camps requested by the Government of the United States of America and also treatment in general of subjects of enemy countries. As Your Excellency has asked me to do, I have forwarded the contents of the letter to my Government to be transmitted to the Government of the United States.

I take advantage of this opportunity to acknowledge receipt of the memorandum of 15th August in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed me that it is not correct that Japan has agreed to authorize visits to all camps of prisoners of war in Japan and that it cannot undertake to do so. I have noted this communication and have informed my Government in order to prevent any misunderstanding.

On the other hand, the same memorandum states that "the competent authorities intend to authorize visits to other camps as and when the Legation requests it."

As I have frequently expressed to M. SUZUKI, it would be difficult for my Government to assume such responsibility. The Swiss have never received a list of prisoner of war camps in Japan and it would be therefore impossible to apply to visit camps the existence of which it does not know. Your Excellency will understand that the Swiss Government cannot be made responsible for the fact that a camp has not been visited simply because, not knowing of its existence, it has not made any request to that effect.

In reality, the Federal Government has requested since the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific to be allowed to visit all camps of prisoners of war belonging to the countries whose interests the Swiss represent. In conformity with my instructions, I have made numerous requests both verbally and in writing on this matter. I have applied also to the military authorities to inform me of the camps which I may visit. I am entirely at the mercy of the Ministry of War and am prepared to visit any camp at any time.

If for one reason or another the Ministry of War considers it preferable that I renew my requests to visit for each particular camp, I will be prepared to do so, but I request Your Excellency that you procure for me a complete list of prisoner of war camps in Japan. Such list has always been denied me and it would give me great help.

I consider that it will be sufficient to inform Your Excellency of the impossibility of my Government accepting a responsibility for camps not yet visited and that Your Excellency will consent to reconsider what I think is a simple misunderstanding.

FILE COPY

RETURN TO ROOM 361

The misunderstanding appears more apparent since the Legation has not only done all which it is required to do in relation to visiting prisoner of war camps without exception; it has already demanded that it be informed at what interval of time it will be allowed to visit once more camps already visited. It has insisted in conformity with its instructions on the regularity of visits, but this question is still unanswered and I do not know yet the opinion of the Ministry of War on this subject.

I would be extremely happy - and Your Excellency will also share my sentiment which is also that of my Government - if it would be possible to prevent in such an important matter misunderstandings on the obligations and responsibilities of my country. The Swiss will not neglect anything in order to accomplish conscientiously the many duties of protection which they have assumed and it does not request to visit one camp more than another. All prisoners of war belonging to the countries which she represents are entitled to equal assistance from her. It goes without saying that for practical reasons it will be impossible to visit all the camps the same day or the same week. Visits ought necessarily to be staggered, but it is for the Imperial authorities to decide the camp to visit and the day of such visit. I will accept, I repeat, only the decision of the Ministry of War: I am in this matter at its entire disposition.

With the idea that these explanations have definitely removed the misunderstanding which has occurred and in the knowledge that Your Excellency will understand the attitude which is prompted by the conditions under which it is bound to visit prisoner of war camps in Japan, I take this occasion to renew to you the assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

CC.1.1.-EGc.

Tokio, 12 September 1944

M. le Ministre,

By letter of 1st July, I had the honor to bring to the knowledge of Your Excellency a communication from the Government of the United States of America on the treatment of American subjects in the hands of Japan and on visits to prisoner of war and civil internees' camps in the Far East, particularly in occupied territories. On 12th August Your Excellency sent me the reply of the Imperial Government to the above mentioned letter and as I informed you by letter of 17th August, I sent the reply to my Government to be transmitted to the Washington Government.

In the meantime, the British Government has expressed the desire to be joined in the request which I made on 1st July in the name of the Government of the United States.

In this regard, I repeat the terms of the American communication and request that the Japanese Government accord to British subjects in the Far East humane treatment in conformity with the principles which it has promised to apply and that it authorize as soon as possible Swiss representatives to visit all British in the Far East who are detained or interned.

I will be obliged to Your Excellency if you will let me know the reply of the Imperial Government to this British request, and beg you to accept, M. le Ministre, assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1. EAJ. CC 1.5.1./2.1.2.

M e m o r a n d u m

According to a communication to the Swiss Government, the British Government is very anxious to get positive information on the Japanese Government's intentions regarding the visits by the Protecting Power of the prisoner of war camps in occupied territories. It drew especially the attention of the Federal Government to the fact that since the interview in May last between H. E. the Japanese Foreign Minister and the Swiss Minister, the question did not realize the least progress in spite of all and incessant efforts made by the Protecting Power.

In that respect His Majesty's Government - it did not know yet at that time the definite reply of the Japanese Government about the shipment of food and medicines through a Russian port - presented the following remarks:

There is no improvement to be noted, except a slight increase in the volume of mails from the Far East and better facilities to visit the camps in Japan proper. But this latter point is a minor concession since the camps referred to are those in which the least unsatisfactory conditions exist. There is no doubt that the very strong public feeling existing in the British Commonwealth on this subject is fully known to the Japanese Government, also that a public demand for a further statement elucidating conditions of British war prisoners and civilian internees in the Far East is rising. A public statement cannot be avoided and, in the present state of things, it cannot be a reassuring one. His Majesty's Government will be compelled to publicly repeat their resentment at the lasting unsatisfactory conditions to which British war prisoners and civilians are exposed while held by the Japanese, unless it can announce before long some definite improvement as to underline the Japanese Government's particular agreement to the granting of permission to visit all camps not yet visited.

The Swiss Minister would be very glad to know whether the Imperial Government is of the opinion that some improvement could be brought about in the near future to the present situation where no visits to the camps in occupied territories, except in China, are allowed.

Tokyo, October 28, 1944

FILE COPY  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1.-EAA.-

Tokio, 10 November 1944.

My dear Minister,

The reply which you have given to my colleague Bossi on the subject of a written confirmation which I am awaiting from Minister SHIGEMITSU has put me in an extremely embarrassing situation.

As you know, M. SHIGEMITSU spontaneously offered to confirm in writing that which he had stated verbally concerning visits to prisoner of war camps in occupied territories. I have duly informed my Government that I would be sending to it in two or three days the text of the written reply from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. My Government would certainly have advised London and Washington. It appears now that you will have learned of M. SHIGEMITSU's offer. He has not given me a confirmation, but a new communication made after certain exchanges of views between the military authorities and the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. What I desire to obtain is exactly what was offered to me by M. SHIGEMITSU - written confirmation of the decision of the Ministry for War.

I know that you will realize that it will be difficult to inform my Government that a misunderstanding has arisen. The confirmation which M. SHIGEMITSU promised me is so simple that I make once more an appeal to your goodwill to get me out of the very unfortunate situation in which I am at the moment. If you think it opportune, I am prepared to request an audience with M. SHIGEMITSU to prevent any further misunderstanding.

You will do me a great service in sending this simple confirmation. I ask for nothing more.

Please accept, my dear Minister, my kindest regards.

His Excellency  
M. Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI  
Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio.

100 GAIMUSHO, TOKYO

Tokio, 13 November 1944.

Dear Minister,

CC.1.1.

I wish to reply to your letter of 10th instant expressing my regrets that you are in an embarrassing situation. It seems that it is only a misunderstanding. Mr. SHIGEMITSU said in the course of the interview of 28th October:-

"The question of visits to camps in occupied territories has been the subject of full consideration on our part and we have already come to a conclusion which ought to give great satisfaction to interested Governments.

"Permission will be given to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit these camps on condition of reciprocity. I do not know exactly where they will be allowed, but I think that those of Shonan, Manila and Thailand can be visited. As to these matters, please consult Mr. SUZUKI. We wish to reply in writing to the memorandum which you sent to us on this subject."

And Mr. SHIGEMITSU added that he did not desire to do anything to discredit the Federal Government.

It is true that we have taken a long time in sending the written reply. I think that your sympathetic colleague has given to you at my request my sincere excuses. The fact is that the promised details are important and we wish to give them in writing, but that does not mean that certain exchanges of views are necessary between the military authorities and the International Committee. Briefly, our reply will be to confirm and complete what Mr. SHIGEMITSU has told you, but what has happened is that the representatives of the Committee can commence their visits to Manila, Shonan and Bangkok.

I understand through Mr. Bossi that you have informed Berne of this new situation following your conversation with Mr. Shigemitsu. You have done this and your communication will not be ignored. In the meantime, if you like, you can consider this letter as confirmation in spite of its form not being official, for which I apologize. But I have replied as soon as possible. On the other hand, a written reply will not be delayed very long now.

I hope that these few lines will rid you of embarrassment, and I beg you to accept, my dear Minister, my kindest regards.

/s/ T. SUZUKI

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1.-EGd.

The Swiss Legation has the honor to bring to the attention of the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs the subject of visits to prisoner of war camps. It was able to visit at least some camps in Japan, such as Nagoya, Niigata, Kawasaki (Tokio), Hakodate, Wakayama. There are, however, many camps which have not been visited for a long time, and many others which have never been visited at all by the Protecting Power.

The Legation would be very much obliged to the Ministry if it would indicate the camps which his delegate may next be able to visit, with the date of visits.

The Ministry is not unacquainted with the fact that the British Government and the Government of the United States of America attach to this question the greatest importance. They have expressed the desire that the delegate of the Swiss Minister be able to inspect as soon as possible the camps not yet visited and the camps which have not been visited for a long time.

In thanking in advance the Imperial Ministry for its kind response, the Legation takes this opportunity to renew assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 16 November 1944

The Imperial Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1.-EAA.-

Tokio, 17 November 1944

My Dear Minister,

Your letter of 13th November concerning my interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs is in my possession and I thank you for it.

The procedure followed is different from that which I was led to believe. Instead of a confirmation pure and simple of what was said to me by Mr. SHIGEMITSU, I have received a detailed communication on the intentions of the Imperial Government. The result will be practically the same and I am pleased that I will not have to go back on the cable to my Government, since you have been good enough to give me official confirmation of the statements which were made to me by Mr. SHIGEMITSU. I am extremely obliged to you for having done so.

I have noted that your letter does not mention the Netherlands Indies. Have all visits to these territories been excluded? You will remember that Mr. SHIGEMITSU did not make any distinction in occupied territories. If we spoke of the special case of Thailand, it was on my own initiative, because I have been charged by my Government, as you know, to request that the protecting Power be authorized to visit camps in a country with which we have for a long time had diplomatic relations. It would be of much interest to me to know if the military authorities cannot accede to this derogation from the general rule which has been adopted. However, I am not asking for an official reply. A word from you will be sufficient to satisfy my Government, but as far as Indo-China is concerned, I am certain that London in particular will want to know why it was included in the decision adopted by the Imperial Government. The question is too important to be passed over in silence.

You will perhaps consider it opportune to state in the note which I expect to receive from the Minister the reasons why competent authorities will not permit visits in the said territories.

In thanking you again very much for the great kindness with which you have responded to my request, I beg you to accept, my dear Minister, my kind regards.

His Excellency  
M. Minister T. SUZUKI  
Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio



THE GAIMUSHU  
TOKYO

No. 379/C.R.

His Excellency, M. Camille Gorges  
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister  
Plenipotentiary for Switzerland

8 December 1944

M. le Ministre,

Referring to the requests by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain for permission to visit American and British prisoner of war and civilian internment camps in the occupied areas, made through Your Excellency's letters dated 1 July and 12 September, the Imperial Government, after special consideration of the matter as I have once replied to Your Excellency through my letter No. 222/C.R. dated 12 August, has now decided to grant permission for visits as in the following. Therefore, I beg of Your Excellency to communicate this matter to the governments concerned, and give this Government a prompt reply as to their intentions.

The Imperial Government has been considering the problem of granting nationals of a third country permission to visit prisoner of war and civilian internment camps in various areas in the south; and it has, in conformity with the desires of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, and other Allied Nations, and in accordance to the request by the International Red Cross Committee (specially refer to Your Excellency's letter No. CC.1.1. dated 12 February), decided to recognize temporarily, at the occasion of visits, the position of Representative Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee in Tokyo to persons connected with this organization on the spot and who are accepted by the Imperial Government as appropriate; and to gradually grant such persons permission to visit prisoner of war and military internment camps situated in places that will not hinder the military operations. This will shortly be carried out in camps in the Philippine Islands, Singapore and Thailand, and necessary negotiations with the International Red Cross Committee shall be commenced simultaneously with this notification.

The above permission shall be granted on the condition that the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and other Allied Nations will, under the principle of reciprocity, grant delegates of the International Red Cross Committee permission to visit Japanese prisoners of war and civilian internment camps in their respective areas of occupation. Especially as regards the United States, the Imperial Government shall make it a condition that permission will be granted for visits to Japanese prisoner of war and civilian internment camps in New Caledonia, Saipan, Tinian and Guam.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest esteem.

/s/ Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

CC.1.1.-EAc.

Tokio, 12 December 1944

M. le Minister,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th December in which Your Excellency informed me of the decision of the Imperial Government on the subject of visits to prisoner of war and civil internee camps in occupied territories.

I have transmitted the contents of your communication to my Government to be forwarded to the interested Governments and hope to be able to inform you without delay of the attitude of these Governments, particularly concerning the question of reciprocity.

Please accept, M. le Ministre, assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellence  
M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

FILE COPY  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CC.1.1.-EGc.

By note of 16th November the Swiss Legation had the honor to recall the attention of the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the fact that many prisoner of war camps have not yet been visited and that others have not been visited for a long time.

The Legation considers it of extreme importance to know the camps which it will be possible for it to visit and the date of visits.

The Governments of Britain and the United States of America insist that the Legation visit as soon as it is able to do so the above mentioned camps.

In thanking the Imperial Ministry in advance for its kind response, the Legation takes this occasion to renew assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 3 January 1945

The Imperial Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

*F 20/0*

CC.1.1.-FGd.

Referring to previous communications, the Swiss Legation has the honor to inform the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs that it considers it of extreme importance to know what prisoner of war camps it will be able to visit immediately.

The delegate of the Swiss Minister has recently visited the principal camp of Tokyo at Omori and the hospital at Shinagawa. There are still many camps which the Legation has not yet visited or which it has not visited for a long time.

In thanking in advance the Imperial Ministry for its kind response, the Legation takes this occasion to renew assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 16 March 1945

The Imperial Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

CC.1.1.-FGd.

Tokio, 7 April 1945.

M. le Ministre,

By letter of 8th December, Your Excellency informed me of the decision of the Imperial Government on the subject of visits to prisoner of war and civil internees' camps in occupied territories. You stated, in particular, that permission to visit these camps would be given on condition that the British Government, the Government of the United States of America and the allied governments would permit on condition of reciprocity the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit prisoner of war and civil internee camps in regions occupied by those countries.

The Government of the United Kingdom requests that I inform the Imperial Government that the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have for a long time been allowed to visit Japanese prisoners of war in the British Empire and that accordingly full reciprocity already exists.

Please accept, M. le Ministre, assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Mamoru SHIGEMITSU.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

42016

CC.1.1.-FGd.

The Swiss Legation has the honor to inform the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Government of the United States of America has again requested without delay reports made on visits of the delegate of the Swiss Minister to prisoner of war camps at Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka and Nagoya.

The Legation has intervened on many occasions with the Ministry, the last time by note of 16th March, with the object of obtaining permission to visit again camps which have not been inspected for a long time. It has also requested that visits take place at regular intervals and has stressed the importance that the Governments which the Swiss represent in Japan attach to this question. All these requests have received no reply.

As the Ministry will remember, the delegate of the Swiss Minister has only been able to visit this year two camps, namely the principal camp at Tokyo and the prisoners' hospital in that city. These visits took place in the month of February, that is to say nearly four months after the visit which the delegate had made to the prisoners' hospital at Kobe and the camp at Wakayama.

The Legation would be therefore obliged to the Ministry if it would inform it of the names of the camps which could be inspected now, as well as the exact date on which such visits may take place.

In thanking in advance the Imperial Ministry for its kind response, the Legation takes this occasion to renew assurances of its high esteem.

Tokio, 17th April 1945

The Imperial Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio.

**FILE COPY**  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

CG.1.1.-A.2.5.34.-  
FAA.-

Karuizawa, 19 April 1945

M. le Ministre,

I have the honor to bring to the attention of Your Excellency that my Government has designated M. Erwin Ruch as delegate of the Swiss Minister to visit camps of prisoners of war and civilian internees.

He relieves M. Pierz, who has been acting in that place for my Legation, but has not been able to rejoin his post in Japan.

The Foreign Ministry has been informed of these changes by a separate note.

It has been many weeks since I have asked the Ministry to let me know if the Military Authorities have any reason to advance against the nomination of M. Ruch as delegate to visit the camps of prisoners of war. I believe Article 6 of the Prisoner of War Code provides in effect, "The delegates ought to be named by agreement so that they will exercise their mission." This demand has been repeated many times to the Ministry, but, in spite of all my efforts, I have not obtained any response.

After this long and inexplicable silence, my Government naturally is desirous that M. Ruch be able to exercise the power which has been confided to him, since the Military Authorities have not given any valid reason against the choice of this delegate. The good character of M. Ruch is beyond the slightest blemish.

He has been on the list of the Diplomatic Corps in the position of Attache, the Military Authorities having at different times expressed the desire that the Swiss Minister choose his delegate preferably from colleagues appearing on the list of members of the Diplomatic Corps.

It is my constant desire to give satisfaction to the Military Authorities - not only have I twice consulted on the choice of M. Ruch, but again I have called him Attache of the Legation; I hope then that M. Ruch, who already has visited some camps in his official position, will obtain all the help that the Military Authorities have been willing to give in the past to my delegates.

I thank in advance the Ministry of War, and at the same time, the Prisoner of War Bureau for their kind assistance.

In asking Your Excellency to consent to communication before going to the Imperial Ministry of War, I take this occasion to renew, M. le Ministre, the assurances of my highest regard.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Shigenori TOGO,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

CC.1.1.-FGc.  
CC.1.2.5.  
CC.1.3.15

A i d e - M e m o i r e

The Swiss Legation has made representations on many occasions to the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the subject of visits to prisoner of war camps which have not been inspected or which have not been visited for a long time. The last visit of the delegate of the Swiss Minister took place on 19th February at the principal camp at Tokyo and the prisoner of war hospital at Shinagawa.

In the meantime, the Legation has expressed a desire to make further visits in its letters of 16th March and 17th April. The Legation requested in particular that it be authorized to visit camps in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka and Nagoya.

In addition, by notes of 3rd and 6th April, the British Government demanded that visits should be made to camps at Formosa and Mukden.

All these notes have remained unanswered.

The Legation attaches the greatest importance to knowing the name of the camps which it will be able to visit soon, also the date on which the visits may be made.

Karuizawa, 28 April 1945.

(Note written in ink:  
Sent by the Minister to  
Minister SUZUKI, 28 April 1945 p.m.)



CC.1.1.-FGc.

Tokio, 10 May 1945

M. le Ministre,

By letter No. 379/C.R. of 8th December, M. SHIGEMITSU informed me of the decision on the subject of visits by representatives of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Japan to prisoner of war and civil internee camps in occupied territories. Your predecessor stated that the permission to visit camps would only be granted on condition that the British Government, the Government of the United States of America and the Allied Governments permitted on condition of reciprocity delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit camps of Japanese prisoners and civil internees in the regions occupied by those countries. The Imperial Government expressed the desire in particular that permission be given to visit camps in New Caledonia, Saipan, Tinian and Guam.

I have the honor to bring to the knowledge of Your Excellency that the Government of the United States has requested my Government to furnish the following communication to the Imperial Government:-

"The United States Government has given consideration to Japanese Government's proposal to permit visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to certain specially designated prisoners of war and civilian camps in Japanese occupied territory. It is noted that Japanese Government proposes that the United States Government make arrangements to authorize visits to prisoner of war and internment camps where Japanese nationals are held on Saipan, Tinian, Guam and New Caledonia. The Japanese Government offers on basis of reciprocity to authorize visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to prisoner of war camps at Singapore, prisoner of war hospital in Thailand and to Santo Tomas civilian camp at Manila subject to exigencies of military operations. The United States Government notes with gratification the evidence of the Japanese Government's willingness to take this first step to permit visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to camps never visited before by representatives of the protecting Power or International Red Cross Committee. It points out, however, that in view of the fact that American nationals at Santo Tomas camp have now been freed by American Forces it is obvious that offer to authorize visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to Santo Tomas camp has no value at this time, thus limiting materially the reciprocity offered by the Japanese Government. The United States Government requests clarification of the Japanese Government's offer to permit visits by International Red Cross Committee representatives to civilian camps at Singapore where American nationals are held. Are representatives of the International Red Cross Committee authorized to visit prisoner of war camp in Thailand where American nationals are held by Japanese Authorities? The United States Government also desires assurance that representatives of the protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee are authorized regularly to visit and to report on all camps in Japan proper, Formosa, China and Manchuria where American nationals are held.

Upon receipt of satisfactory clarification of points raised by it, the United States Government is prepared to arrange for accredited representatives of the protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee regularly to inspect camps where Japanese nationals are held in Saipan and to report on conditions under which they are held. Although not previously proposed to the Japanese Government, the United States Government is prepared to make arrangements for visits by representatives of the protecting Power and the International Red Cross to Guam and Tinian. It will also endeavor to obtain permission from appropriate Authorities for visits to camps in New Caledonia where Japanese nationals are held in American custody."

As Your Excellency will remember, I have already informed him of the attitude of the British Government on this matter in my letter of 7th April to M. SHIGEMITSU.

I draw the attention of Your Excellency to the fact that the telegram containing the abovementioned communication only reached me on 4th May, although it had been sent from Berne on 11th April.

In asking Your Excellency for the response of the Imperial Government to the present communication, I take this occasion to renew, M. le Ministre, assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Shigenori TOGO  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

CC.1.1.-FGc.

Very Urgent

Karuizawa, 16 May 1945

M. le Ministre,

I have the honor to draw Your Excellency's attention to the many requests concerning visits to prisoner of war camps in Japan which have not been inspected or which have not been visited for a long time. I have requested on many occasions that a programme of visits be prepared and that visits be made at regular intervals. During an interview which I had with General TAMURA in the month of January last, I drew his attention to the importance which the interested Governments attached to this matter. He stated that I would receive full satisfaction.

In the meantime, as Your Excellency knows, my delegate has only been able to visit this year two camps, namely the principal camp at Tokyo and the prisoners' hospital in that city. These visits took place in the month of February, that is to say, nearly four months after the visit which my delegate made to the prisoners' hospital at Kobe and to the camp at Wakayama.

In a new communication the British Government has stated that the protecting Power has not visited for a long time prisoners at Shanghai and Bangkok. It is frankly surprising to hear of the new difficulties which Japan causes to the Swiss in carrying out their duty. It is noted, in effect, that the Prisoner of War Bureau favors the International Committee of the Red Cross and it is impossible to understand this discrimination.

The Government of the United Kingdom has requested in consequence that I express to the Imperial Government its great dissatisfaction with this state of affairs, which I also regret. It is insisted that the assurances which have been given be promptly realized and that a programme of visits be drawn up for at least three months for camps in Japan.

I would be extremely obliged to Your Excellency to intervene urgently with the Ministry of War and to enable me to give without delay a satisfactory reply. It would interest me in particular to know if, since the reorganization of the Prisoner of War Bureau, Japan has decided to modify its general attitude concerning visits to camps. The difficulties which I have experienced in obtaining permission to report if the prisoners are treated in conformity with the principles of the Geneva Convention are, in effect, surprising, and it would be extremely regrettable if my Legation should be met with new obstacles in a matter in which, by reason of its requests and its efforts, it had obtained some results which enabled it to expect favorable consideration.

Please accept, M. le Ministre, assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Shigenori TOGO  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio.

CC.1.1.-FFd.

64 2016

Karuizawa, 30 May 1945

M. le Ministre,

Following my letter of 10 May last, I have the honor to bring to the attention of Your Excellency the terms of a new communication which I have just received. The International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva asked the Government of the United States of America for authorization to visit camps in which are interned some Japanese nationals in Tinian, Saipan, Guam, and the one in New Caledonia.

The Washington Government declares it is ready to grant the request of the Committee of Geneva when the Imperial Government shall have favorably answered the communication that I transmitted by my letter above mentioned.

Please accept, M. le Ministre, assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Shigenori TOGO  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio.

CC.I.1.-FDFd.

Karuzawa, 30 May 1945

M. le Ministre,

By letter of 16th May last, I had the honor to draw the attention of Your Excellency to the number of requests which I had made to enable me to visit camps of prisoners of war in Japan which have never been inspected or which have not been inspected for a long time.

I informed you also that the Government of the United Kingdom had requested me to insist once more that the Imperial Government allow the protecting power to visit prisoner of war camps at regular intervals and that a programme of visits be established covering at least three months.

According to a further communication which I have received, the Government of the United States of America joins in the request of the British Government and on its part protests against the difficulties which I have encountered in sending my delegates to camps containing American prisoners of war.

It states, in effect, that in 1945 only the camp at Omori and the hospital at Shinagawa were visited and that no report had been furnished to it either by the protecting Power or by the International Committee of the Red Cross since 1943 on the camps of -

Hiraoka	Hirohata
Yokohama	Kamaishi
Kenagawa-Yokohama	Sakurashima
Kobe	Amagasaki
Chikko	Zentsuji-Mukoshima,

and since 1944 on the camps of -

Formosa	Hakodate
Tokyo-Kawasaki, Nos. 2 and 5	Kamiiso
Niigata	Muroran
Osaka No. 11	Hospital at Kobe.
Fukuoka Nos. 12 and 17	

The Washington Government states in addition that, to its knowledge, there still are in Tokyo, Yokohama, Hakodate, Fukuoka, Zentsuji and Kobe-Osaka prisoner of war camps which have never been officially announced by the Imperial authorities and which in consequence have never been visited. It requests me, therefore, to inform the Imperial Government that it insists that the delegates of the protecting power and the International Committee of the Red Cross be authorized without delay to visit all camps in Japan in which American prisoners of war are detained.

Please accept, M. le Ministre, the assurances of my highest  
esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Shigenori TOGO  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

THE GAIMUSHO  
TOKYO

5 June 1945

No. 143/C.R.

To His Excellency, M. Camille Gorges  
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister  
Plenipotentiary for Switzerland

M. le Ministre,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter No. CC.1.1. JGd dated 7 April last, informing us of the acceptance by the Government of Great Britain, of the Imperial Government's proposal of 8 December 1944, regarding permission to visit prisoner of war and civilian internment camps in areas occupied by Japan.

In connection with this matter, the International Red Cross Committee also had informed this government by telegram dated 6 April of the acceptance, under reciprocal conditions, of the proposal in question by the Netherlands Government as well as the Government of Great Britain. Therefore, it is expected that the Governments of the United States and the other Allied Nations will have no objection in principle to the said proposal.

In this connection, the Imperial Government has decided to lose no time in having a representative of the International Red Cross Committee visit the hospital in the prisoner of war camp in Thailand. As regards visits to prisoner of war camps in Malaya, deliberations are presently under way with the said Committee as to the particulars for carrying this out; and I wish to inform Your Excellency that it is our intention to grant permission at the conclusion of this deliberation.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest esteem.

/s/ Shigenori TOGO  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

CC.1.1.FGd.

Karuizawa, 13 June 1945.

M. le Ministre,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 5th June in which Your Excellency informed me that the Imperial Government had decided to authorize a visit to the hospital for prisoners of war in Malaya by a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Your Excellency stated that negotiations are proceeding on this matter with the said Committee.

Also Your Excellency stated that not only the British Government but also the Netherlands Government had accepted the proposition of the Japanese Government concerning visits in occupied territories. The Imperial Government is waiting for the United States Government and the other Allied Governments to state that they have no objection to the said proposition.

In the meantime, I desire to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the Government of the United States has also replied to this proposition and that I have sent to you the tenor of this reply by my letter of 10th May.

You will also remember that in the terms of my letter of 30th May the Geneva Committee has asked the Government of the United States for permission to inspect camps at Tinian, Saipan, Guam and New Caledonia where Japanese subjects are detained.

Please accept, M. le Ministre, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Signed by the Swiss Minister

To His Excellency  
M. Shigenori TOGO  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio.



CC. 1.1.-FGc.  
CC.1.1.-  
CC.1.2.-  
CC.1.4.-)

Karuizawa, 14 June 1945

My dear Minister,

You know that the Governments of Britain and of the United States of America are exhibiting great concern as regards prisoners of war in the hands of Japan. These Governments insist that the Federal Government take steps to obtain a reply to their pressing demands to obtain information about the prisoners or to ameliorate their conditions. But in spite of many requests not only to the Minister for Foreign Affairs but also to his Ministry, I have not received any reply which enables me to give to the interested Governments any information on this important question which they have awaited for a long time with impatience.

I have already called your attention to this state of affairs in my personal letter of 2nd June concerning the nomination of M. Ruch as delegate of the Swiss Minister to visit the camps.

In a new communication from Berne, the London Government has expressed the desire that an urgent solution be found for the three following serious problems.

1. The right of the protecting Power and the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit all camps of prisoners of war and civil internees in all regions of the Far East.
2. Prompt notification of the names of all prisoners of war and civil internees in the power of Japan, also of prisoners of war and internees who have died.
3. Removal of camps from the vicinity of industrial quarters and military objectives.

As to the first point, you know that I have this year visited only two prisoner of war camps and you know also my continual efforts to visit camps in Japan which have not been inspected at all or which have not been inspected for a long time. The approval given to the nomination of M. Ruch as my delegate is a first step and I sincerely hope that he will be allowed without delay to make the visits which the interested Governments require.

So far as concerns visits in occupied territories, I have received the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs dated 5th June in which he states that negotiations are taking place between the Ministry and the International Committee of the Red Cross for the purpose of making visits to the prisoners' hospital in Malaya. I received this news with satisfaction; I hope that this visit, as well as others, will take place shortly.

I send you herewith a copy of a letter from M. TOGO by which I acknowledge receipt of the above mentioned communication.

With regard to the second point above mentioned, the Government of the United Kingdom has complained on many occasions of the delay in communicating the names of prisoners of war and civil internees in the power of Japan and particularly of those who have died. In my letter of 19th May to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I set out that the London Government had stated that thousands of prisoners had died in Thailand and Burma without their names having been notified. It is not necessary to tell you that entire families are plunged into a great anxiety because of the lack of any news and my Government would be extremely happy to be able to inform these unfortunate families of the fate of their loved ones.

As to the last point relative to the situation of camps near military objectives, the interested Governments attach great importance to this, which importance I have stressed in my numerous letters to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and also, as you will remember, during the interview which you arranged between General TAMURA and myself. These Governments urgently demand that prisoners and internees be moved from dangerous zones so that they no longer may be exposed to the danger of bombing. I have given in my above mentioned letters by way of example the names of a certain number of camps in such zones. To my knowledge nothing has been done to remedy the position; I have not even received a reply to my requests.

I once more make an appeal to you to aid us in our humanitarian task and to help us to carry out the duty which has been confided to my country. I hope that thanks to your efforts it will soon be possible for me to inform my Government of the decision of the Imperial Government on the problems mentioned in this letter.

The Government of His Britannic Majesty insists on knowing if the Japanese Government has modified its policy concerning the treatment of prisoners of war. I would be extremely embarrassed to reply, but it is what you know as well as I do, that the situation has perhaps never been as bad as during the last six months. The efforts which have been made by M. SHIGEMITSU to bring about a change in the sense of a greater freedom to visit camps in Japan as well as overseas do not seem to have given any result at all. You will regret this no doubt as much as I do.

Please accept, my dear Minister, my kindest regards.

Attachment

To His Excellency  
M. Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio

CC.1.3.4.FAb.  
CC.1.1.

2016  
Keruzawa, 13 July 1945

My dear Minister,

Mr. Wurth communicated to me the result of the talk which you had with the military authorities on the subject of the projected visit to the camp at Shonan by the protecting Power and by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

I confess that I cannot understand the attitude of the War Minister and that I will be happy not to have to communicate to our Federal Authorities that this is his last word in this affair.

What, in effect, is the question? The Japanese Government had decided sometime ago to authorize only the Red Cross to call upon the camps in occupied areas, and very recently, it let me know that the Japanese Authorities were desirous that the visit to Shonan should be made by the Chancellor or our former Consulate. It is apparent that Mr. Wild will be able to lend his assistance only with the assent of the Government which he represents. But, until now, this assent has not been given for the simple reason that in the meantime the War Ministry had decided to authorize also Switzerland as protecting Power, to visit the same camp. It seems, indeed, at first sight, desirable that Mr. Wild, a Federal employee, shall inspect the camp preferably as a Swiss delegate and not as delegate of an institution to which he in no way belongs. That is why I immediately telegraphed to Mr. Wild to ascertain on the spot, in harmony with the military authorities, if another Swiss will not be able to visit the camp in the name of the International Committee of the Red Cross. I wait now for his reply.

The decision of the War Ministry resumes, in short, saying in effect this: I do not accept that the Swiss Authorities be allowed to pronounce the choice of their proper agent as delegate. This agent, I have designated myself as delegate, and the Federal Government has to accept. If it does not submit to my choice, the visit cannot take place, and it is Switzerland who will be responsible if there is no visit. This will be, therefore, a little of what one calls the "forced card."

Is it truly necessary to come to that at last? And is it not possible, even in the domain touching closely the war, to take towards a foreign government, which, in addition, protects the Japanese interests in several countries, if not in more respects - you know that on this matter, I have not many illusions - at least an attitude a little more conciliatory? I ask it of you personally that you endeavor to solve the difficulty amicably.

Is it truly necessary that I telegraph to my government that the War Ministry does not permit us even to decide if it is convenient that our Chancellor take charge of a mission which, at any rate, he must accomplish for us?

I cannot understand, moreover, why Switzerland cannot visit the camp from now on, inasmuch as the delegate chosen by her will be exactly the person who had already obtained the consent of the Military Authorities. One of the delegates of the Red Cross has told me expressly that lately the situation underwent the change, as you know, that it will be not only natural but even preferable that Switzerland visit the camp first. From where comes that one chicanes on a question of priority which, in a humanitarian domain like that, should not have the least importance? Inasmuch as all the preparations were made for the visit, why not leave it to us to effectuate it?

I add - and this has an importance which will not escape you - that I explained to my Government the new situation resulting from the fact that Switzerland is authorized equally to visit and that I asked it its advice respecting the question as to whether it is desirous or not that Mr. Wild act in the double capacity of Swiss delegate and of delegate of the Red Cross. The delegation of the Committee of Geneva also asked instructions from Geneva.

I think that General TAMURA - if it is to him that you have applied - will understand that it is my duty to wait now the reply of the Swiss Government and that it will be a little more amicable to solve the question without permitting myself to send advice to our authorities.

However, if the visit is delayed, we will not be responsible, as we are ready to give immediately the order to our Chancellor to visit the camp as Swiss Delegate. The intervention of our Consular Agent as well as delegate of the protecting Power does not raise, indeed, any question which cannot be settled without delay.

I shall be happy if, in the light of some of these considerations, it allows you to begin again with the Prisoners of War Bureau the examination of the question in a spirit more conciliatory to my country. I shall be very much surprised if you do not arrive at a positive result.

In thanking you beforehand for all that it seems possible for you to do in order to persuade the military authorities to reconsider the problem, I request you to believe, my dear Minister, in my best regards.

His Excellency  
M. Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI  
Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio.

AA.1.1.38.-FFc.

Karuizawa, 13 July 1945  
CC.1.5.3.1./C.1.5.5,  
CC.1.1.

My dear Minister,

Your letter of 8 July last has reached me and I thank you for the information you kindly communicated to me.

Obviously I regret the decision of the Japanese Authorities to cancel everywhere the collective monthly aid for prisoners of war, and not to accept our requests for the remaining payments in suspense for the months of April and May, but I understand also that if the money is not able to be used for State reasons of contract, it would be better not to send it.

With regard to the messages not censored, including the official mail of the Legation for the Political Department at Berne which will be sent in the postal sacks used for the correspondence of the British prisoners of war, I reserve this until I know the opinion of my Government on this subject.

As to that which concerns visits to prisoners of war camps in the southern regions, you have been very clear, and I have taken note that the reports of my delegates ought to be sent by telegrams in the clear. I have informed my Government of this. There is then no misunderstanding in this respect.

Please believe, my dear Minister, in my kindest regards.

To His Excellency  
M. Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  
Tokio.

FILE COPY  
RETURNED TO SENDER  
361

CC.1.3.4.-FAc.  
(CC.1.1.-  
CC.1.3.6.-)

Karuizawa, 31 July 1945

420/6

My dear Minister,

A telegram from my Government informed me that the British Government was satisfied that it will be possible for Switzerland to visit the camps in the occupied areas. It reiterated the assurance that as far as the British Empire is concerned, reciprocity exists already for the benefit of Japan. It relies upon that, to begin with, the visiting of the camps in Thailand and at Singapore will be made without delay and it asks me to give it the precise information on the dates for the visits.

With regard to the calls at Shonan (Singapore) by my delegate, Mr. Wild, Chancellor of the former Consulate of Switzerland in that city, I am glad to hope that you will be soon able to arrange to let me know that the military authorities will permit him to carry out his calls as well as my delegate. I wait, not without some impatience, for your reply to my letters of July 18 and 19, as I shall regret to infer from a longer silence that, since Switzerland accepted the representation of Japanese interests in the United States of America, Canada and in other countries, the good feelings manifested in these latest times by the Imperial Authorities have died. One will not be able to understand, indeed, that our Chancellor, Mr. Wild, who has been from this moment accepted as delegate by the military authorities, could not make a call as "Swiss Delegate," but only as delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. One spoke, as you know, of the discrimination between the Swiss Government and the Committee of Geneva, and the fact is that it makes no difference what the question is or nearly so - difficulties arise each time that Switzerland asks something. My Legation cannot obtain anything without long and painful efforts. One can hardly believe that in time of war, a question such as that of precedence between the Swiss Government and the Committee of Geneva could bring such delays. However that may be, after the extremely generous gesture that has just been made by the Federal Government in favor of Japan, it seems to me that it will not be the very moment to say: "Mr. Wild is 'persona grata' as soon as he declares himself delegate of Geneva; he is no longer as soon as he claims to be from Berne." On what would you rest this discrimination?

If you deem that, to settle this affair, it will be preferable that my Government shall apply directly to M. le Ministre Kase, as we have had to do very many times, not without success after all, I shall be very grateful to you if you will let me know. I shall be, however, very surprised if after having taken note of my above mentioned letters, the Political Director of the Ministry, who looks after the maintenance of relations at the very least correctly between Switzerland and Japan, approves the procedure of the War Prisoners Bureau respecting my country, especially in the present circumstances.

FILE COPY  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

As for the camps of Thailand, I will also be obliged to you if you will let me know when the first calls may be made. I have designated for these visits Mr. Lenzinger, professional consul, attached to the Swiss Consulate at Bangkok.

Please accept, my dear Minister, my best regards.

To His Excellency  
M. Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Tokio.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I.F.S. No. 2853-A (1-73)

EX 2016

Page 1

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Walter Bossi, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Government of Switzerland in the following capacity: Swiss Diplomatic Representative, and as such official I have custody of the documents consisting of seventy-three letters and notes, as listed on Exhibit A attached hereto and described as follows: True copy of letters and notes from the Minister of Switzerland addressed to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and replies thereto of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to the minister of Switzerland.

I further certify that the attached letters and notes are official records of the Swiss Legation in Japan and that they are a part of the official archives and files thereof.

Signed at Tokyo on this

/s/ W. Bossi  
Signature of Official

3rd day of December, 1946.

Swiss Diplomatic Representative  
Official Capacity

Witness: /s/ Max R. Ton

Statement of Official Procurement

I, 2nd Lt. Eric W. Fleisher, 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 Swiss Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

/s/ Eric W. Fleisher, 2nd Lt. AUSMI  
NAME

3rd day of December, 1946.

Investigator, IPS

Witness: /s/ William C. Prout



Exhibit 4

- 28534 (1) Letter dated 12 February 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (EE 4.1.2./7.1.-6a CC 2.1.)
- 28534 (2) Letter dated 17 Feb 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.2.1.2. 1.5.9.2. 1.1.)
- 28534 (3) Letter dated 3 Mar 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (EE.4.1.2.-CC.2.1.-ca.)
- 28534 (4) Letter dated 3 Jun 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.9./2.1.1.-ce.)
- 28534 (5) Letter dated 5 Jun 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.8./2.2.1.-ce.)
- 28534 (6) Letter dated 11 Jun 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.2.2.1./1.2.9.-cc)
- 28534 (7) Letter dated 12 June 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.9./1.2.4.-ce) (CC.2.1.1.)
- 28534 (8) Letter dated 29 Jul 1942 from Gaimusho to Swiss Minister, No. 342/T3
- 28534 (9) Letter dated 30 Jul 1942 from Gaimusho to Swiss Minister, No. 343/T3
- 28534 (10) Letter dated 1 Sep 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.9.-cr)
- 28534 (11) Letter dated 2 Sep 1942 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.8-cq CC.1.2.9.)
- 28534 (12) Letter dated 3 Sep 1942 from Swiss Minister to General Hideki TOJO, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (CC.2.2.1.-ck)
- 28534 (13) Letter dated 10 Sep 1942 from Swiss Minister to General Hideki TOJO, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.9./2.1.1.-ce)

- 2853A (14) Letter dated 7 Oct 1942 from Swiss Minister to M. TANI,  
Foreign Minister (FF 7.1. - CC  
(1.2.24) CC.1.3.7.  
CC.1.1.)
- 2853A (15) Letter dated 24 Oct 1942 from Swiss Minister to M. TANI,  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.24  
CC.1.2.9)
- 2853A (16) Letter dated 28 Oct 1942 from Swiss Minister to M. TANI,  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.9.-c.r.)
- 2853A (17) Letter dated 6 Nov 1942 from Swiss Minister to M. TANI,  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.20-ca.CC.1.2.9.  
CC.1.2.3.)
- 2853A (18) Letter dated 11 Nov 1943 from Swiss Minister to M. TANI,  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.2.20 ca. CC.1.2.3.  
1.2.6  
1.2.8  
1.2.9  
1.2.1  
1.2.3  
1.2.24  
1.2.26  
1.2.27  
1.2.28)
- 2853A (19) Letter dated 24 December 1942 from Swiss Minister to  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-ce)
- 2853A (20) Letter dated 5 Feb 1943 from Swiss Minister to  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-dez)
- 2853A (21) Letter dated 16 March 1943 from Swiss Minister to  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.dat)
- 2853A (22) Letter dated 27 March 1943 from Swiss Minister to  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.1./1.2.5.-dez.)
- 2853A (23) Letter dated 31 March 1943 from Swiss Minister to  
Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-dez GG 4.6.9. 24 GG 8.3.4.1.)
- 2853A (24) Letter dated 22 Apr 1943 Gairusho to Swiss Minister,  
No. 109/C.R.
- 2853A (25) Letter dated 22 Apr 1943 Gairusho to Swiss Minister,  
No. 110/C.R.

- 28534 (26) Letter dated 12 May 1943 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (A.1.5.1. dat FE/gg 8.6.4.2.)
- 28534 (27) Letter dated 2 Jun 1943 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-daw.)
- 28534 (28) Letter dated 4 Jun 1943 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-dat.)
- 28534 (29) Letter dated 24 Jun 1943 Gaimusho to Swiss Minister, No. 189/C.R.
- 28534 (30) Letter dated 28 Jun 1943 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Ministry (CC.1.2.7. - deu. CC.1.1.)
- 28534 (31) Letter dated 8 July 1943 from Swiss Minister to Jap. Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-deu.)
- 28534 (32) Letter dated 16 July 1943 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU (CC.1.5.1./2.1.2./1.1.-dgu.)
- 28534 (33) Letter dated 23 July 1943 Gaimusho to Swiss Minister, No. 244/C.R.
- 28534 (34) Letter dated 29 July 1943 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.5.1./2.1.2./1.1.-deu.)
- 28534 (35) Letter dated 23 Aug 1943 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-deu CC.1.2.4.)
- 28534 (36) Letter dated 4 Sep 1943 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-CC.1.2.7.-deu.)
- 28534 (37) Letter dated 22 Oct 1943 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1. deu. (CC.1.2.4.-CC.1.2.7.-CC.1.2.8.)
- 28534 (38) Letter dated 10 Dec. 1943 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-deu.)
- 28534 (39) Letter dated 12 Feb 1944 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EDGb.)
- 28534 (40) Letter dated 13 March 1944 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EGc CC.1.5.2.)

- 28534 (41) Letter dated 25 March 1944 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.5.1./2.1.2./CC.1.1.-EGc.)
- 28534 (42) Letter dated 30 March 1944 from Swiss Minister to Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI, Foreign Ministry (CC.1.1.)
- 28534 (43) Letter dated 10 May 1944 from Swiss Minister to Minister M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister: (CC.1.1.-EGh.)
- 28534 (44) Memorandum dated 30 June 1944 from Swiss Minister to Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI, Foreign Ministry (CC.1.1.-EAb.)
- 28534 (45) Letter dated 1 July 1944 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EAb.)
- 28534 (46) Memorandum dated 21 July 1944 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EAc.)
- 28534 (47) Letter dated 12 Aug 1944 Gaimusho to Swiss Minister, No. 222/C.R.
- 28534 (48) Letter dated 15 Aug 1944 Gaimusho to Swiss Minister, No. 223/C.R.
- 28534 (49) Letter dated 17 Aug 1944 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EAc.)
- 28534 (50) Letter dated 12 Sep 1944 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EGc.)
- 28534 (51) Memorandum dated 28 Oct 1944 from Swiss Minister to M. SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EAc.-  
CC.1.5.1./2.1.2.)
- 28534 (52) Letter dated 10 Nov 1944 from Swiss Minister to Minister Tadakazu Suzuki Foreign Ministry (CC.1.1.-EAc.)
- 28534 (53) Letter dated 13 Nov 1944 SUZUKI to Swiss Minister
- 28534 (54) Letter dated 16 Nov 1944 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EGd)
- 28534 (55) Letter dated 17 Nov 1944 from Swiss Minister to Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI, Foreign Ministry (CC.1.1.-EAc)
- 28534 (56) Letter dated 8 Dec 1944 Gaimusho to Swiss Minister, No. 379/C.R.
- 28534 (57) Letter dated 12 Dec 1944 from Swiss Minister to Hamoru SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-EAc)

- 28534 (58) Letter dated 3 Jan 1945 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-IGc.)
- 28534 (59) Letter dated 16 March 1945 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-FGd.)
- 28534 (60) Letter dated 7 April 1945 from Swiss Minister to Mamoru SHIGEMITSU, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-FGd.)
- 28534 (61) Letter dated 17 April 1945 from Swiss Minister to Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-FGc.)
- 28534 (62) Letter dated 19 April 1945 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.7.-2.2.5.34.-FAa.)
- 28534 (63) Aid-Memoire dated 28 April 1945 from Swiss Minister to Minister SUZUKI (CC.1.1.-FGc.)
- 28534 (64) Letter dated 10 May 1945 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-FGc.)
- 28534 (65) Letter dated 16 May 1945 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-FGc.)
- 28534 (66) Letter dated 30 May 1945 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-FFd.)
- 28534 (67) Letter dated 30 May 1945 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-FDFd.)
- 28534 (68) Letter dated 5 June 1945 Gairusho to Swiss Minister, No. 143/C.R.
- 28534 (69) Letter dated 13 June 1945 from Swiss Minister to Shigenori TOGO, Foreign Minister (CC.1.1.-FOD.)
- 28534 (70) Letter dated 14 June 1945 from Swiss Minister to Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI, Foreign Affairs Ministry (CC.1.5.1.-FGc.)
- 28534 (71) Letter dated 13 July 1945 from Swiss Legation to Tadakazu SUZUKI, Foreign Affairs Ministry (CC.1.3.4.-F1b.)
- 28534 (72) Letter dated 13 July 1945 from Swiss Minister to Tadakazu SUZUKI, Foreign Affairs Ministry (CC.1.1.38.-FFc.)
- 28534 (73) Letter dated 31 July 1945 from Swiss Minister to Minister Tadakazu SUZUKI, Foreign Affairs Ministry (CC.1.3.4.-F1c.)