

DECLASSIFIED

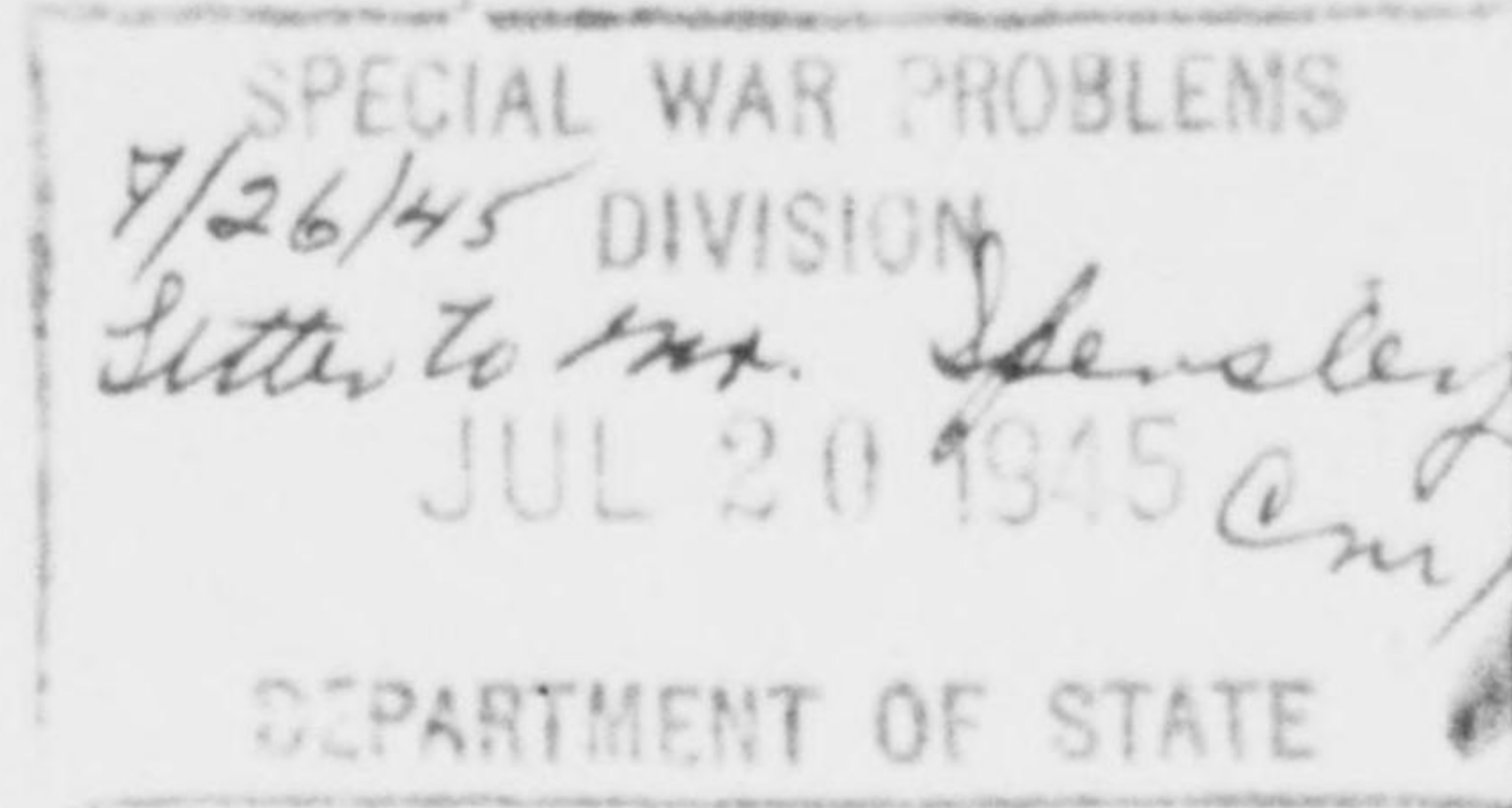
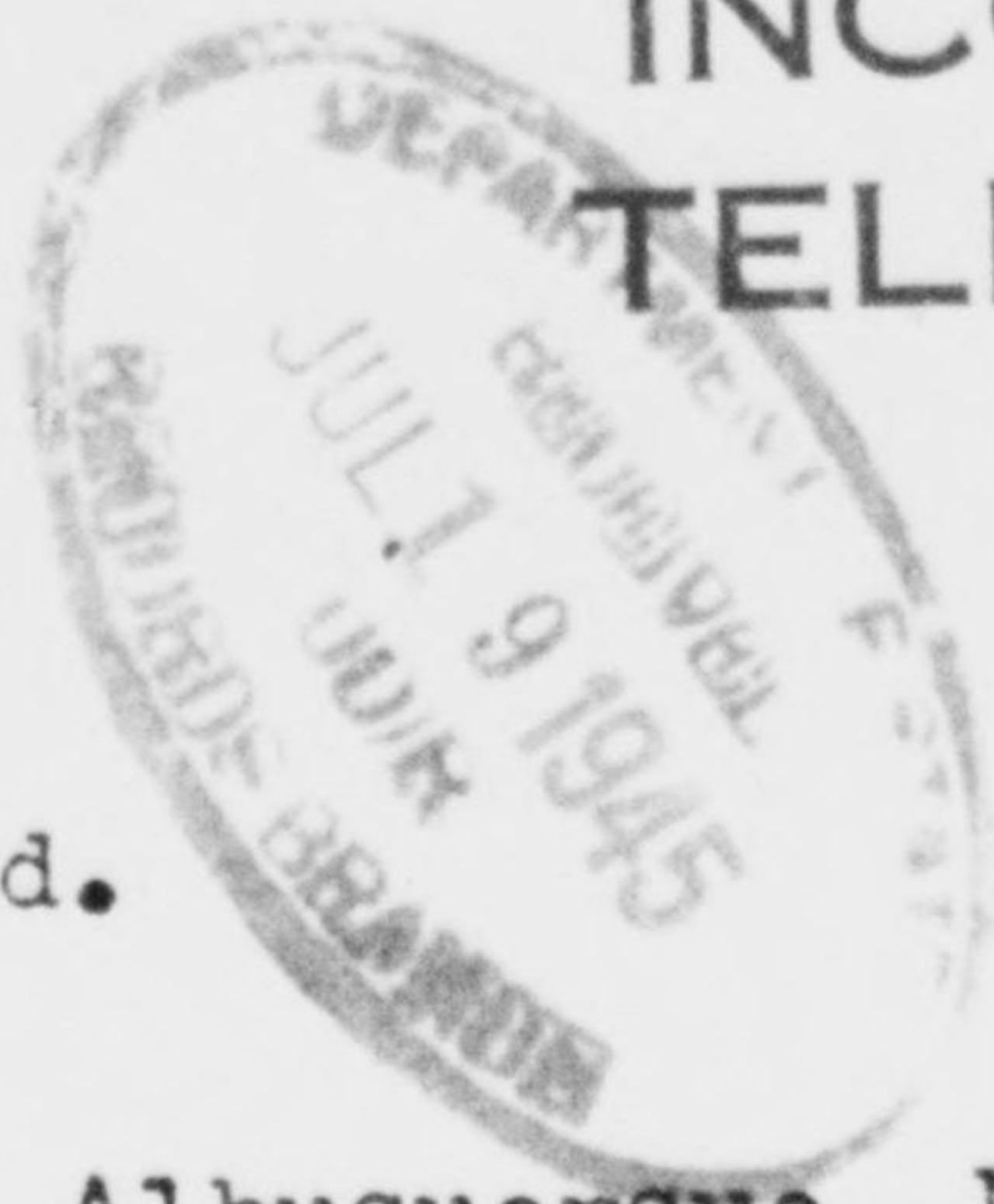
E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

711.94114A/7-1345 -- 7-2345

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION



29wu fs DL. Paid.

Albuquerque, N. Mex. 1205pm July 18-45

Honorable

Joseph C. Grew. Department of State, Washington

Imperative that all Americans regardless of rank be considered in any exchange negotiations with Japanese stop Unparalleled opportunities now existing for President Truman to secure cooperation Russian government effecting such exchange or at least internment of prisoner Americans in Russian territories for duration stop Many Americans insisting this matter be immediately transmitted to President in Berlin.

V H Spensley, President Federated Organizations For Batan Relief.

322pm

711.94114A/7-1845 OS/LE 11.94114a/7-1845

Routing slip with fields: Adm., Div., Out., Dist. and handwritten initials.



AUG 9 1945

July 18, 1945

TO: Francis Russell

FROM: Loren Hall

SUBJECT: Revised draft of press release concerning the mistreatment of Americans by the Japanese.

Attached is a revised draft of a proposed press release on the treatment of American nationals by the Japanese. I have added a section on atrocities, beginning on page 5, and have edited and cut down other portions of the release in an effort to hold the over-all release to a minimum length without omitting pertinent facts.

I call your attention particularly to the following points to be considered in connection with this draft:

1. According to information obtained from SWP, the atrocities covered include virtually all that have been protested by the State Department, a notable exception being the murder of the Doolittle flyers which was reported in 1943. There have been many cases of mistreatment which are not considered as atrocities by SWP.
2. A press release dated January 31, 1944, contains a chronological list of protests from the beginning of hostilities. The SWP Division has kept this list up to date but it has not been published. Many of the protests have dealt with matters other than those relating to mistreatment or atrocities.
3. In addition to the atrocity incidents protested by the State Department, more than 50 newspaper clippings have been found, from papers representing widely scattered areas of the country, which deal with atrocity stories reported mainly by columnists. These were largely individual accounts reported by returned prisoners of war or civilian internees.
4. Evidence shows that prisoners from the same camp give widely varying accounts of treatment received, thus increasing the difficulty of obtaining responsible information upon which to base protests.
5. Indications are that, based upon experience in connection with the clearance of the previous draft, there are likely to be serious clearance obstacles in the path of this version. I refer particularly to the Army.
6. If the Army should balk on this version, would it be possible to use the previous draft by adding a paragraph announcing that the State Department will shortly begin the release of atrocity incidents?
7. There is now in draft form a strong warning to the

F. W. 711.94114A/7-1845

CS/A 711.94114a/7-1845

Dorothea M. Laurion
ed

AUG 24 1945
FILED

2.

Japanese Government by the Allied Governments of Australia, Canada, France, The Netherlands, New Zealand, The United Kingdom, and the United States, concerning the treatment of the nationals of these Allies by the Japanese.

711.94114A/7-1845

CS/A

711.94114a/7-1845

July 18, 1945

My dear General:

This is in reference to the subject we discussed on the phone today.

The proposed release on treatment of Americans in Japanese hands seemed to me excellent except for the fact it (1) gave the impression of being an over-all summary and (2) left out certain instances of Japanese inhumanity which had been widely publicized in this country and absence of which would be noticed by the press with adverse affects to the three Departments concerned.

The best way to meet this seemed to me to be to incorporate in the release references to such instances. The inclosed "revised draft" does this beginning with the red mark on page five and running through to the red mark on page seven.

If you feel that this revision is undesirable for any reason, I suggest as an alternative that we state in the release that earlier releases on specific instances of Japanese inhumanity have been issued and that the three Departments propose to prepare at a suitable time an over-all summary of the entire matter.

Personally, I prefer the first method to the alternative method but I should wish to be guided by your opinion.

Faithfully yours,

Archibald MacLeish

General A. D. Surles,
Director, Bureau of Public Relations,
War Department,
Pentagon Building,
Washington 25, D. C.

A-M/AMaL/asb

Anal.	DOR - GEC 1111 <i>Dorothea M. Laurion</i>
Rev.	
Col.	<i>eb</i>

Press Release

July 30, 1945

Revised Draft of Proposed Press Release Statement on
Situation of Americans in Japanese Custody

On page five at "INSERT" substitute following paragraph for last two paragraphs on page five and all paragraphs on page six.

These protests have related to reports of the assassination of American civilians; the mistreatment, torture and execution of American air personnel; the use of American prisoners of war in war related projects and forcing of officer personnel to perform labor, both contrary to the provisions of the Geneva Convention; the corporal punishment of prisoners of war kept on starvation rations; instructions issued by Japanese military authorities for the murder of persons surrendering or captured in the Philippine Islands.

Release then continues from top of page seven except that the second paragraph on page seven is to be rewritten by Mr. Plitt to reflect the new situation created by Japanese agreement to permit the Swiss to visit camps in Japan.

When the release is completed I will return it to General Surles for complete War Department clearance.

Archibald MacLeish

OCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal	<i>Dorothea M. Linn</i>
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Cal	<i>PL</i>
Dist

A-M/AMacL/asb

711.94114A/7-1845

CS/V

711.94114A/7-1845

AUG 7 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-1845

My dear Mr. Spensley:

I have received your telegram of July 18, 1945, in which you suggest that all Americans, regardless of rank, be considered in any exchange negotiations with Japan and that unparalleled opportunities now exist to secure the cooperation of the Soviet Government.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them.

The Soviet Government would undoubtedly give full consideration to any request of this Government for assistance in having our prisoners of war removed from the dangerous areas in Japan and Manchuria to the Soviet Union. The difficulty in a proposal of this nature, however, is that the Japanese Government must consent to the release to the Soviet Union of able-bodied American prisoners of war in Japanese custody.

The

Mr. V. H. Spensley, President,
Federated Organizations for Bataan Relief,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dist.	
Out.	
Rec.	
Adm.	

D. I. G. C. Dept.
MRS

SWP 711.94114A/7-1845

The Japanese Government has consistently rejected proposals to repatriate even the seriously sick and seriously wounded which it is obliged to do under treaty provisions which it has agreed to apply. It is not likely therefore that it would consent to the transfer of able-bodied American prisoners of war to the Soviet Union.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph G. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosure:

Summary.

A true copy of the signed original.

AUG 10 10 26 AM '45

9 CM/B
SMP:CMarcy:lmv

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JA
JPD

GA
EE
JPD

7/26 - 8/1/45

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL DIVISION

7/26/45

cr:

It is suggested that Mr. Grew sign this letter to Mr. Spensley since he originated the proposal that prisoners of war be repatriated via the Soviet Union and wrote an article concerning the possibility of obtaining their release by ransoming.



HUGH BUTLER
NEBRASKA

JOHN H. COMSTOCK
SECRETARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
BANKING AND CURRENCY
FINANCE
IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON REDUCTION OF
NON-ESSENTIAL FEDERAL EXPEN-
DITURES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary wishes
an acknowledgment sent
immediately if this
communication cannot be
answered in three days.

July 18, 1945.

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 19 AM 11 48

Honorable James F. Byrnes
Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

One of my constituents in Omaha, Nebraska,
who is engaged in business and supplying our armed
forces, has sought my help in behalf of his cousin,
Major Leo F. Gittner, Prisoner of War, Zentsnji Prison
Camp, Island of Shikplsu, Japan. He has asked for
my assistance in an effort to have him included in
the next exchange of prisoners.

Of course, I understand that only the sick
and wounded are exchanged, and I am wondering if you
have any record of the state of this prisoner's
health, and if there is any chance he may be one
to be exchanged.

Very truly yours,

Hugh Butler, USS

HB EW

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
7/20/45 DIVISION
Letter to Senator Butler
JUL 20 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/7-1845

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

FILED
JUL 20 1945

711.94114A/7-1845

JAMES C. AUCHINCLOSS
30 DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

TELEPHONE:
NATIONAL 3120
EXT. 783

COMMITTEES:
RIVERS AND HARBORS
WORLD WAR VETERANS' LEGISLATION

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

July 18, 1945

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 19 PM 2 36

DC/R
RECORDS BRANCH

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
JUL 19 1945
SRNT TO DCR FOR INDEXING

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
7/24/45 DIVISION
Letter to Mr. Auchincloss
JUL 20 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Bernard Gufler, Chief
Internee Branch, Special War Problem Division
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gufler:

I would appreciate it very much if you would advise me the latest information concerning the plight of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese.

Any information you can give me in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Auchincloss
JAMES C. AUCHINCLOSS, M. C.

A:md

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS
JUL 22 - 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DCR - GP-9 001
And. *London*
Rev. *AB*
Dat. *A*
Dist.

Returned by hand to Dept to bring paragraph on disks of our prisoners by about 10/1/45 to date
AUG 6 1945

711.94114A/7-1845

711.94114A/7-1845

CONFIDENTIAL

August 2, 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-1845

My dear Mr. Auchincloss:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 18, 1945, addressed to Mr. Bernard Gufler of the Special War Problems Division, in which you ask for the latest information concerning the situation of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese.

Reports which have been received in the Department of State in recent months concerning American prisoners of war held by the Japanese have not been very encouraging. During the early part of this year the Japanese Government greatly restricted the activities of representatives of the protecting Power and of the International Red Cross Committee. The Japanese Government gave many excuses why these representatives could not visit prisoner of war camps. The Department expects that the matter of permitting neutral representatives to go into prisoner of war camps may be improved now that the Swiss Government has assumed the protection of Japanese interests in the United States after having obtained from the Japanese Government agreement in principle to permit Swiss representatives to visit all camps in the Far East where Americans were held. I enclose a copy of a press release regarding this matter.

Reports which have been received from the few camps visited during early 1945 indicate that the food situation at many camps is deteriorating. This condition is apparently attributable in part at least to food shortages throughout Japan and Japanese occupied territory. In view of the quality and quantity of food to which Americans are accustomed, however,

I fear

The Honorable

James C. Auchincloss,

House of Representatives.

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711.94114A/7-1845

I fear that reduced rations in prisoner of war camps may have a serious effect upon the health of American prisoners.

Reports also indicate that despite our vigorous protests, the Japanese Government is not moving camps from areas which are subject to aerial bombardment. Several camps where Americans were held have been destroyed by aerial attacks. American aviators are, of course, briefed on camp locations but the failure of the Japanese Government to inform us of the location of all camps leaves many camps subject to aerial action. I enclose a copy of a recent press release regarding this matter.

The matters set forth above have been the subject of numerous protests by this Government to the Japanese Government but in many respects the protests have been ignored.

I want to assure you that the Department of State is doing everything it can through diplomatic channels to protect Americans held by the Japanese. It appears, however, that for many of our prisoners the trials from which they are suffering will only be relieved when they are liberated by our armed forces.

There is enclosed an information sheet regarding the steps taken by this Government on behalf of American nationals held by the enemy.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph G. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Press release, July 21, 1945.
2. Press release, July 31, 1945.
3. Information sheet.

AUG 2 1945 P.M. CRW

J. Grew
S.M.P.:CMarcy:LMV

A true copy of the signed original.

Rewritten 8/2/45 because it took 7 days to get from SWP to JA and in meantime page 2 had become dated.

JA *CRW* 7/24 - 8/1/45

JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT., CHAIRMAN
 ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA. ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
 JAMES M. MEAD, N. Y. GEORGE A. WILSON, IOWA
 TOM STEWART, TENN. KENNETH S. WHERRY, NEBR.
 CLAUDE PEPPER, FLA. C. DOUGLASS BUCK, DEL.
 JAMES G. SCRUGHAM, NEV. THOMAS C. HART, CONN.
 BRIEN MCMAHON, CONN.

DEWEY ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

United States Senate

Special Committee to Study Problems of
American Small Business

July 18, 1945

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
- o -

The Secretary wishes
an acknowledgment sent
immediately if this
communication cannot be
answered in three days.

The Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D. C.

ml
 SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
 7/34/45 DIVISION
Letter to Senator Wherry
 JUL 20 1945
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 19 AM 11 35

Dear Mr. Secretary:

DC/R
RECORDS BRANCH

In re: Major Leo F. Gitter
American Prisoner of War
Zentsnji Prison Camp
Island of Shikolsu, Japan

Enclosed please find inquiry
regarding Maj. Gitter which is self-explanatory.

Would appreciate any information
which you can get for these people. Please return
the communication along with your reply.

Thanking you for your usual
cooperation and courtesy, I remain

Sincerely yours

Kenneth S. Wherry

KENNETH S. WHERRY

KSW:f*
 Anal. *font*
 Rev. *aw*
 C. *lv*

JUL 31 1945

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711.94114a/7-1845

JUL 28 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-1845

My dear Senator Wherry:

I have received your letter of July 18, 1945, with which you enclosed a letter addressed to you by Mr. Fred Haarmann of Omaha, Nebraska, concerning the possibility of arranging for the exchange of Major Leo F. Gitter, a prisoner of war held by the Japanese at the Zentsuji Prison Camp, Island of Shikoku, Japan.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

The Honorable

Kenneth S. Wherry,

United States Senate.

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There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

The communication from Mr. Haarmann enclosed with your letter is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

W. C. Clegg
Acting Secretary

C
Enclosures:

- 1. Summary.
- 2. From Mr. Haarmann,
July 16, 1945.

A

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JUL 27 1945

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W

Be
CM
SMP:CMercy:lmv
Phil

7/24/45

TOM CONNALLY, TEX., CHAIRMAN
 WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
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 ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

OFFICE OF CLERK
ROBERT V. SHIRLEY, CLERK

The Secretary wishes an acknowledgment sent immediately if this communication cannot be answered in three days.

July 18, 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
 7/24/45 DIVISION
 Letter to Senator Green
 JUL 20 1945
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

United States Senator Theodore Francis Green of Rhode Island is in receipt of a communication from Honorable John W. Moakler, Councilman in Providence, Rhode Island, and written at the request of Mrs. Charles Lusignan, 72 Hope Street, Providence., regarding her husband, Charles Lusignan, BML/c, Camp Osaka, Nippon, a Japanese prisoner of war.

Mrs. Lusignan asked if it could be possible to have her husband's name placed on the list of war prisoners to be exchanged between Japan and the United States, if and when such a change occurs.

Senator Green has advised Mr. Moakler that he is writing the State Department regarding this request. An appropriate report and your comments will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Edward J. Higgins
 Edward J. Higgins
 Secretary to Senator Green

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DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 19 AM 11 48

RECORDS BRANCH

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JUL 28 1945

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JUL 20 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-1845

My dear Senator Butler:

I have received your letter of July 18, 1945, in which you make inquiry regarding Major Leo F. Glittner who is held as a prisoner of war of the Japanese at the Zentsuji Prisoner of War Camp, Island of Shikoku, Japan. You ask if there is any possibility of having him included in the next exchange of prisoners of war.

Since the beginning of the war the United States Government has made repeated efforts to arrange for the repatriation to the United States of military personnel entitled to repatriation. There is enclosed an information sheet part of which indicates the efforts made by this Government to effect the repatriation of Americans held by the Japanese. You will observe from the information sheet that the Japanese Government, despite its international obligations, has thus far repatriated only five American military personnel who were nurses on Guam at the time of its capture.

You may be assured that everything possible is being done for the protection of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese. The Department of State will not abate its efforts in any particular no matter how discouraging the circumstances may appear.

Sincerely yours, Joseph G. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosure:
Information sheet.

The Honorable
Hugh Butler,
United States Senate.

SWP:CMarcy:lmv

7/24/45

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711.94114A/7-1845

JUL 25 1945 P.M.

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Bonnie

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-1845

JUL 26 1945

My dear Senator Green:

I have received the letter from your office dated July 18, 1945, concerning a communication which you received from the Honorable John W. Moakler of Providence, Rhode Island, concerning Charles Lusignan, a prisoner of war held by the Japanese. Your letter indicates that Mrs. Lusignan wants to have her husband's name placed on the list of war prisoners to be exchanged between Japan and the United States.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

The Honorable
Theodore Francis Green,
United States Senate.

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711.94114A/7-1845 CS/LE 711.94114A/7-1845

-2-

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

~~The enclosed~~ Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosure ✓

Summary.

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JUL 26 1945

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It is a true copy of the signed original.
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Boumae

7/24/45

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

ETB DLK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECORDS BRANCH
JUL 19 1945
INDIA

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32wu fs DL. Paid.

Albuquerque, N. M. 147pm July 18-45

Honorable

Joseph C Grew, State Department, Washington

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
7/25/45
Letter to Lt. Governor Jones
JUL 20 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Fully endorse stand of V.H. Spensely Albuquerque concerning exchange or internment of Japanese held American prisoners of war

Rawson

James B. Jones
Lt. Governor New Mexico

422pm

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DSR - GPO Unit
Andl. *[Handwritten]*
Rev. *[Handwritten]*
Cat.
Dist.

JUL 27 1945

OS/LE

711.94114A/7-1845

JUL 26 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-1845

My dear Mr. Jones:

I have received your telegram of July 18, 1945, in which you indicate that you endorse the suggestion made by Mr. V. H. Spensely of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who has suggested that ransom be paid for the relatives of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese.

I am enclosing for your information a recent statement issued by the Department concerning the treatment and repatriation of American nationals in Japanese custody which surveys in detail the problems concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war from the Far East. This information sheet will indicate to you the unceasing efforts made by this Government to effect the return to the United States of American military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands. You will realize, however, that this Government is powerless to bring about their return without the cooperation of the Japanese Government. In view of the fact that the Japanese Government has been unwilling to repatriate even seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war, which its international commitments obligate it to do, it is improbable that it would agree to the repatriation of American prisoners of war through ransoming, or by reason of the intervention of the Soviet Union. It is unlikely therefore that any able-bodied American prisoners of war will be freed from their imprisonment by the Japanese until they are liberated by the American armed forces.

You

The Honorable
James B. Jones,
Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico,
Albuquerque.

SWP 711.94114A/7-1845

Dist
1945 - 62-0114
JW

-2-

You may be sure, however, that this Government will continue in the future as it has in the past to exert every effort to obtain the release of American prisoners of war.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph O. Grew

Acting Secretary

✓
Enclosure:

Statement.

A true copy of the signed original.

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OR 1175
JUL 26 1945

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SWP:CM:Marcy:lmv
Philly

7/25/45

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WAR PROBLEMS
SPECIAL DIVISION

SEP 28 1945

SEP 17 1945 *File*

July 19, 1945

At the conclusion of the meeting I attended on July 6 in Mr. Gardner's office at the British War Office, the Director of the Finance Branch asked me what plans we had in mind for safeguarding our prisoners in Japanese hands from possible massacre as the war went progressively in Japan's disfavor. I said that I was not familiar with the matter but understood that warnings were being issued but did not know what other action might be under consideration. He said the War Office was giving the matter serious consideration and would probably soon submit some proposals for our consideration.

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SEP 28 1945

RECORDED



SECRET
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

SECRET
By Authority of
The Commanding General
Army Air Forces
7/19/45
Date Initials



19 JUL 1945

Mr. Carl Marcy
Department of State
Special War Problems Division
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Marcy:

The information which you asked for in your recent inquiry of this office has now been compiled and is furnished you herewith. In all theaters operating against the Japanese Army, Air Forces personnel listed as prisoners of war and missing in action total 11,144, of whom 3,506 are reported as prisoners and the balance, 7,638, missing. These figures are broken down by periods as follows:

7 Dec 1941 - 31 Dec 1942	POW 3,372	MIA 1,613
1 Jan 1943 - 31 Dec 1943	43	1,053
1 Jan 1944 - 31 Dec 1944	77	2,375
1 Jan 1945 - 30 Apr 1945	14	1,788
Month of May 1945	--	809

You will, of course, observe that in the more recent periods the percentage of reported prisoners of war is very small, though it is certainly reasonable to assume that much larger numbers have landed safely and fallen into enemy hands.

The Army Air Forces would appreciate the action which you suggest to assure energetic representations by the Swiss Government directed toward obtaining more comprehensive reports by the Japanese Government. Such information is, of course, of vital importance to us, to our aircrew personnel, and to their families. The Army Air Forces will certainly cooperate with you in every possible way to obtain the desired result.

Sincerely yours,

IRA C. EAKER
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Deputy Commander, Army Air Forces

DCR - GP-C Unit
Anal. Number
file
Cat.
A2. estimates
more than 2500
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Jan 1943
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SECRET

NOV 9 1945
DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS
AUG 6 - 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Confidential

711.94114A/7-1945

OS/LE

711.94114a/7-1945

SWP
File

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 27 PM 1 19

1230 Milan Avenue
South Pasadena, California
July 19, 1945

let. to Mrs. Lee

DC/K
RECORDS BRANCH

Secretarial Staff
White House
Washington, D. C.
8/4/45 SWP:ESS

I am the mother of a soldier who fought on Bataan, P.I. He walked the Death March; was imprisoned in Cabanatan, 1942 to 1944, then was moved to Bilibid Prison, October, 1944. In December he was shipped out to Japan, his prison ship bombed by a U.S. plane, and sunk. The survivors were captured, re-loaded on another ship and sent on. My son has not been heard from since. If alive, he is now a prisoner in Japan, starving slowly to death.

Is it not time for America to rescue those men, either by paying ransom or persuading Russia to negotiate with Japan for their removal to Russia for the duration? Are there any other American men more worthy or more brave? Is it not possible to do something at once for the few remaining alive, no matter what it costs in money or diplomacy?

Please refer this letter to President Truman, who said in a recent press release that the welfare of American prisoners held by the Japanese is of deep concern to him.

Yours truly,

Mabel G. Lee

Mabel G. Lee
(Mrs. Thos R.)

*File
Mrs. Lee*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON
JUL 30 1945
AUG 1 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/7-1945 CS/LE
711.94114a/9-1945

AUG 7 1945

In reply refer to
SWP

My dear Mrs. Lee:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letter of July 19, 1945, concerning the situation of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese.

The Soviet Government would undoubtedly give full consideration to any request of this Government for assistance in having our prisoners of war removed from the dangerous areas in Japan and Manchuria to the Soviet Union. The difficulty in a proposal of this nature, however, is that the Japanese Government must consent to the release to the Soviet Union of able-bodied prisoners of war in Japanese custody. The Japanese Government has consistently rejected proposals to repatriate even the seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war which it is obligated to do under the provisions of the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention which it has agreed to apply. It is not likely, therefore, that the Japanese Government would consent to the transfer of able-bodied American prisoners of war to the Soviet Union or to their repatriation to the United States even though money were offered for their return.

I am enclosing for your information a recent statement issued by the Department concerning the treatment and repatriation of American nationals in Japanese custody which surveys in detail the problems concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war from the Far East.

This

Mrs. Thomas R. Lee,
1230 Milan Avenue,
South Pasadena, California.

From M. 94114 of 9-1945

Handwritten initials and marks on the left margin.

-2-

This statement will indicate to you the unceasing efforts made by this Government to effect the return to the United States of American military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands and to provide for the relief of Americans in Japanese custody. The Japanese Government, however, has consistently rejected proposals of this nature. It has also rejected proposals for sending relief supplies on a continuing basis to Americans held by the Japanese.

The United States Government has not forgotten the sacrifices which men such as your son have made and the suffering which they have undergone as prisoners of war. You may rest assured that this Government will not abate its efforts in their behalf no matter how discouraging the circumstances may appear.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

Parmely W. Herrick
Acting Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Statement regarding
Treatment, Repatriation
and Relief Supplies

CR *HAD*
AUG 7 1945 P.M.

g. cm
SWP:Espence

8/4 - 8/6/45

A true copy of
the signed origi-
nal.

BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT., CHAIRMAN
 ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.
 EDWIN C. JOHNSON, COLO.
 TOM STEWART, TENN.
 JAMES M. TUNNELL, DEL.
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WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE
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 CLYDE M. REED, KANS.
 CHAN GURNEY, S. DAK.
 ALBERT W. HAWKES, N. J.
 E. H. MOORE, OKLA.
 HOMER E. CAPEHART, IND.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

Office of
 FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
 JUL 21 1945
 DIRECTOR
 Department of State

M. W. MITCHELL, CLERK

July 19, 1945.

ack. 7-24-45
RCA
file

Mr. Joseph W. Ballantine, Director
 Far Eastern Division,
 State Department,
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ballantine:

It has come to my attention that there has recently been brought to this country a group of Japanese diplomats and high officials which were formerly in Europe, and that they will be used in exchange for some of our American prisoners now held in Japan and other localities in the Far East.

My attention is called especially to the case of Cpl. Albert Rickert, a prisoner of war since December 23, 1941, captured on Wake Island and now interned in Japan.

If at all possible, and consistent with your policies in the matter of repatriation of our prisoners, I ask that this case be given your every consideration.

A reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Homer Capehart

C/WB

Anal. *Dorothea M. Laurion*
 Rev. *RCA*
 Cat. *CP*
 Dist.

711.94114A/7-1945

711.94114A/7-1945

XR
740.94115

SWP

In reply refer to
SWP

My dear Senator Capehart:

I have received your letter of July 19, 1945 concerning the case of Corporal Albert Rickert, and requesting that in the event of a possible exchange with the Japanese Government for those Japanese diplomats recently captured in Germany consideration be given to Corporal Rickert's case.

We have not yet opened negotiations with Japan involving this Japanese personnel. At the present time we are conferring with our interested allies regarding the status of these Japanese in exchange negotiations. When agreement has been reached in this matter, it is of course our intention to make every legitimate use of this personnel in our efforts to persuade Japan to agree to further exchanges of nationals. As you doubtless know, the Japanese Government has refused to permit the inclusion in past exchanges of prisoners of war, even the seriously ill, the seriously wounded, and the "protected" personnel whose exchange is contemplated under international agreements. You may be sure, however, that we shall make every effort to have prisoners of war included in any future exchange agreement which we may be able to reach with Japan.

Sincerely yours,

JWB

Joseph W. Ballentine
Director, Office of Far Eastern Affairs

The Honorable
Homer E. Capehart,
United States Senate.

Anal.	<i>ROR</i>	DCR - GP-C Unit
For.	<i>HTT</i>	<i>JA</i>

JUL 24 3:55 P.M.

RCE

SWP:RCEcker:FAH

7/24/45

711.94114A/7-1945

OS/MAJ

711.94114a/7-1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

by Sw.

EK-442

war-Bucee

PLAIN

Bern

Dated July 20, 1945

Rec'd 7:24 a.m., 21st.

Date JUL 29 1945 H.H. am

Secretary of State, Washington.

3638, Twentieth.

AMINTERESTS FAR EAST.

Your 947 March 5 Foreign Office note July 19 states according communication Jap Foreign Office vessel carrying American POWS captured Philippines please see Legation's airmail 12096 July 12 containing partial list names.

HARRISON

JMS

Handwritten notes: H.A. / Shaver's distributed

Stamp: SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION JUL 23 1945 C. Simpson DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/7-2045

DCR - GP-C Unit
Anal. *JMS*
Rev. *JMS*
Cat.
Dist.

Stamp: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

X

CARL A. HATCH, N. MEX., CHAIRMAN
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 PAT MCCARRAN, NEV. EDWARD V. ROBERTSON, WYO.
 CHARLES O. ANDREWS, FLA. GUY CORDON, OREG.
 ABE MURDOCK, UTAH BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, IOWA
 EDWIN C. JOHNSON, COLO.
 GLEN H. TAYLOR, IDAHO

W. H. MC MAINS, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS AND SURVEYS

July 20, 1945

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
- 0 -

The Secretary wishes
an acknowledgment sent
immediately if this
communication cannot be
answered in three days.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
 4/21/45 DIVISION
 Letter to Senator Hatch
 JUL 23 1945
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

file

Honorable James F. Byrnes
Secretary of State

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The attached communication from Mrs.
Sara Beth Dorris of Albuquerque, New Mex-
ico is self-explanatory.

It will be appreciated if you will
have proper officials of your Department
furnish me with information on which I
can base a reply.

Yours very sincerely,

Carl A. Hatch

CAH:MC
Attachment

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 21 PM 12 12

711.94114A/7-2045

DCB

And *file*

Rev. *WH*

Cat. *22*

Dist. _____

AUG 21 1945

711.94114A/7-2045

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-2045

July 30, 1945

My dear Senator Hatch:

I have received your letter of July 20, 1945, with which you transmitted a communication from Mrs. Sara Beth Dorris of Albuquerque, New Mexico, concerning her desire to obtain the release of her husband, Major Dorris, who is held as a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the

Department

The Honorable

Carl A. Hatch,

United States Senate.

Anal.	
Rev.	
Dist.	

711.94114A/7-2045

OS/LE 711.94114a/7-2045

-2-

Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

The communication from Mrs. Dorris which you enclosed with your letter is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosures:

- 1. Summary.
- 2. From Mrs. Dorris, July 18, 1945.



Routine

JUL 28 1945 P.M.

SWP:CMarcy:lmv

7/26/45

DAVID I. WALSH, MASS., CHAIRMAN
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 FRANCIS J. MYERS, PA.

M. E. GALLAGHER, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

July 20, 1945

JUL 20 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION

JUL 21 1945

SENT TO DCR FOR INDEXING

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 23 AM 10 09

DU/R
RECORDS BRANCH

Special War Problems Division
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
7/24/45
Letter to Senator Willis
JUL 23 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Gentlemen:

In compliance with the suggestion of your Mr. Herrick, I am pleased to enclose the communication from Mr. James A. Stuart, Managing Editor, The Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis, Indiana, dated July 17th, with reference to an exchange of prisoners of war.

Mrs. K. C. Waite, employed by the Muncie Star, Muncie, Indiana, wrote me about her brother, Corporal Albert P. Rickert, of the United States Marine Corps, but did not give his former serial number, nor did she supply any prisoner of war number, but did state that no packages had been reaching Corporal Rickert for quite a long time. Corporal Rickert was well known in Muncie and since his capture on Wake Island in December, 1941, all of his friends and relatives have been much interested in securing his release.

The writers of these letters have made suggestions that the diplomats be exchanged for American men, but readily admit they do not know the international law regulations.

I am transmitting the name of Corporal Rikcert in the hope that if encouragement can be offered the family, that you will list his name for consideration in the exchange when negotiations are completed.

Very truly yours,

Raymond E. Willis
Raymond E. Willis

DCS - GP-C Unit

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Rev. *[Signature]*

Cat. *[Signature]*

W:M

FILED
JUL 3 0 1945

711.94114A/7-2045
911.94114a/7-2045

JUL 28 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-2045

My dear Senator Willis:

I have received your letter of July 20, 1945, with which you enclosed a letter addressed to you by Mr. James A. Stuart of Indianapolis, concerning Corporal Albert P. Rickert, who is held as an American prisoner of war by the Japanese.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

The Honorable

With

Raymond E. Willis,

United States Senate.

Anal.	.....
Rev.	.....
Dist.	.....
DCR - GP-C Unit	

711.94114A/7-2045

OS/LE

711.94114A/7-2045

-2-

With reference to your inquiry regarding sending packages to prisoners of war held by the Japanese, I regret to inform you that there is no route by which parcels can be sent from the United States to Japan. In the event that facilities are developed for handling parcels for American prisoners of war next of kin will be promptly informed by the military authorities.

The letter which you enclosed with your communication is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph O. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Summary.
2. From Mr. Stuart,
July 17, 1945.

CR
JUL 26 1945

SWP:CMarcy:lmv
Patt

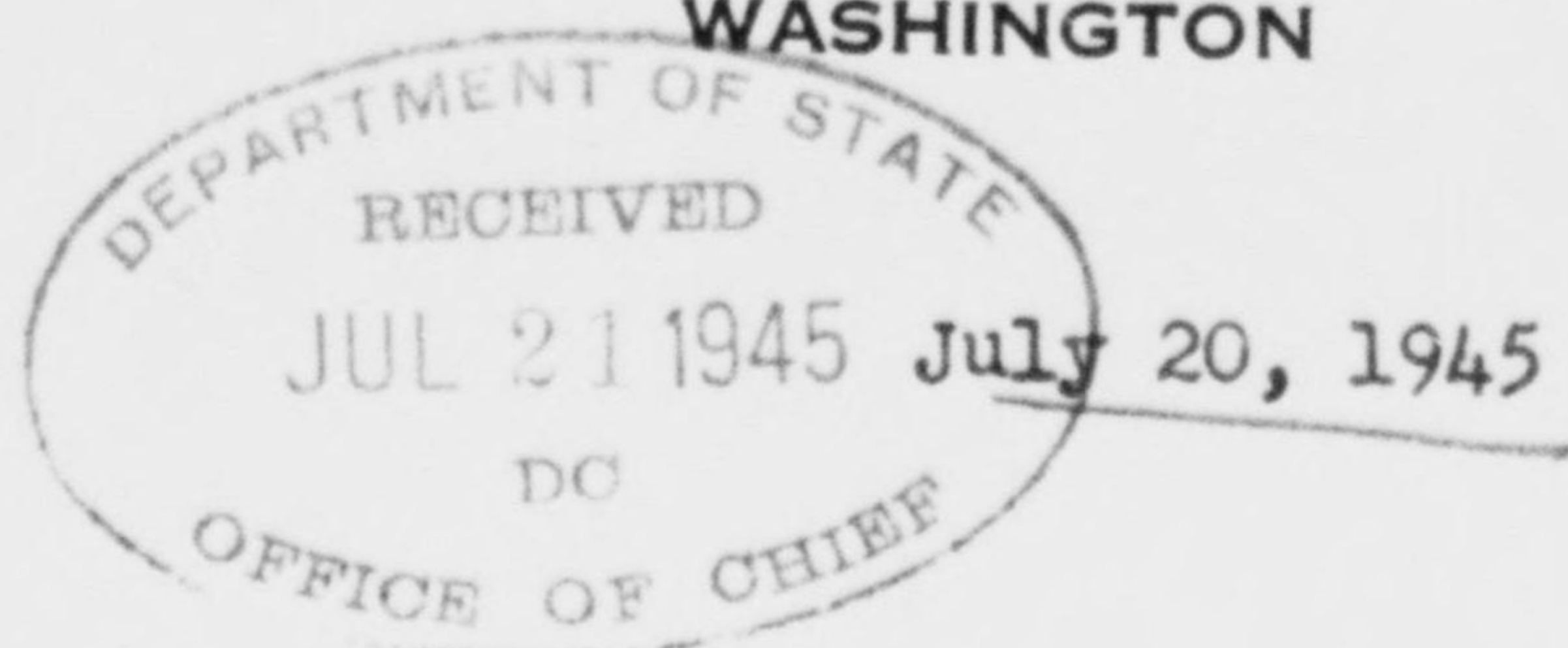
A true copy of
the signed original.

Routine
W

7/24/45

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Respectfully referred to the
Department of State.

M. C. LATTA
Executive Clerk

The White House
Washington

JUL 19 2 28 PM 1945

ETB *EH*
CH *Stat*

To Mrs. Gorman
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION *7/24/45*
JUL 23 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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~~711.94114A/7-2045~~

WB23 14

CELINA OHIO JUL 19 1945 1220P

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

I WISH MY SON TO BE MOVED FROM JAPAN TO RUSSIA AND RANSOMED

LATER

MRS MABLE GARMAN.

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WB
an

FILED

711.94114A/7-2045
JUL 27 1945

DSL-2
(6-4-45)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SPEEDLETTER

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-2045

Date: **July 24, 1945**

This form of communication is used in the interest of speed and economy. If a reply is necessary, address the Department of State, attention of the Division mentioned below.

SPEEDLETTER

To: []
Mrs. Mable Garman,
Celina, Ohio.
[]

JUL 28 1945

GPO 16-44742-1

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your communication of July 19, 1945.

There is every reason to believe that the Soviet Government would be willing to assist this Government in any move to have our prisoners of war moved to the Soviet Union from the dangerous areas in Japan and Manchuria. Proposals of this nature, however, have been consistently rejected by the Japanese Government. The Japanese Government has also rejected proposals to repatriate even the sick and wounded which it is obliged to do under treaty provisions which it has agreed to apply. It is not likely, therefore, that the Japanese Government would consent to the repatriation of able-bodied prisoners of war even though money were offered for their return.

You may rest assured that your Government will do everything possible for the protection of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese and will not abate its efforts in any particular no matter how discouraging the circumstances may appear.

711.94114a/7-2045

Routing slip with fields for 'Att.', 'Rev.', 'Dist.', and 'Int.' with handwritten initials.

Parmely W. Herrick
Acting Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

CM

SWP:CM:Marcy:DF

Official stamp and signature of Parmely W. Herrick.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE *file***Memorandum of Conversation**

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DATE: July 20, 1945.

SUBJECT: Possibility of Repatriation of High-Ranking American Prisoners of War in Japanese Custody.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. McMains in Senator Hatch's office,
Miss Dreppard, SWP

COPIES TO:

DCR - SP-C Unit
file
BF

GPO 1-1403

Mr. McMains telephoned Miss Dreppard and informed her that Senator Hatch had received the following telegram from Mrs. Clyde Ely, Jr., Silver City, New Mexico, concerning the current exchange negotiations with Japan. "Is it true that only high-ranking officers and certain hand-picked men are to be included in exchange of prisoners of war with Japan? Such an exchange is likely to make the lot of those remaining even harder and to create ill-feeling on the part of their families to whom a private is as important as a general. Why can't all be exchanged through pressure upon Russia?"

Miss Dreppard informed Mr. McMains that to her knowledge the exchange negotiations now under way make no provision for the return of high-ranking officers. She pointed out to him that under existing international agreements such as the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention and the Geneva Red Cross Convention only seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war and certain protected personnel were eligible for repatriation and that this Government's efforts to effect the return of such persons had failed to meet with success with the exception of the repatriation of five nurses from Guam at the time of the first exchange.

Mr. McMains inquired if the Department might furnish Senator Hatch with information on which to base a reply to Mrs. Ely. Mr. McMains brought out that Mrs. Ely is the wife of a newspaper editor who is critical of the efforts made by this Government in behalf of American nationals in Japanese custody, especially in view of

711.94114A/7-2045

JUL 26 1945

711.94114A/7-2045

-2-

in view of the number of prisoners of war taken on Bataan and Corregidor who were from New Mexico.

To Mr. McMains' inquiry as to how soon he might have the information he desired Miss Dreppard replied that she would endeavor to see that a letter left the Department by tomorrow. Mr. McMains suggested that in the Department's letter reference be made to the telephone conversation with Senator Hatch.

ND
SWP:HDreppard:NET

SWP

JUL 24 1945

In reply refer to
SWP

My dear Senator Hatch:

I refer to a conversation of July 20, 1945 which you had with an officer of the Special War Problems Division, during which you imparted the contents of a telegram which you have received from Mrs. Clyde Ely, Jr., Silver City, New Mexico. In her telegram, Mrs. Ely inquired if it is true that only high-ranking officers and certain hand-picked men are to be included in any exchange agreement made with the Japanese Government and whether it would not be possible to effect the return of all American military personnel in Japanese custody through soliciting the good offices of the Soviet Government.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

The Honorable
Carl A. Hatch,
United States Senate.

	There
Anal.	Jamb
Rev.	PLH
Col.	BF

711, 94114A/7-2045 OS/LE 711, 94114a/7-2045

- 2 -

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation. From this information sheet you will observe that the Department has assiduously endeavored to effect the return of repatriable military and protected personnel and that in its negotiations concerning exchanges rank or position of such personnel has carried no influence.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph O. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosure: ✓

Summary.

JUL 23 1945 P.M.

Routine

h

Bcl
SWP: HDreppard: erk
CM

7/21/45

A copy of the original

SWP

AIRGRAM SENT

TO BE TRANSMITTED
SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

Department of State

RESTRICTED

NO. A-454

Washington,

TIME _____

AMLEGATION,
BERN.

July 20, 1945

Please inform Swiss that Department appreciates Gorge's activity in pursuing prisoner of war and civilian internee matters with Japanese, and expresses hope that his recent interviews with Suzuki will prove effective.

Grey
Acting
(SAP)

711.94114A/7-2045

And.	<i>Full</i>
Rev.	<i>RH</i>
Cat.	<i>an</i>
Dist.	

JUL 19 10 15 P.M.

CM
SWP: CMMarcy:NET
PMH

7/14 - 7/17/45

MJA
PRD

OS/LE

711.94114a/7-2045

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File
AUG 22 1945

AUG 2

In reply refer to
SWP

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Glover:

I have received your letter of July 21, 1945 expressing keen interest in the securing of additional relief for American citizens in the custody of the Japanese Government.

I can assure you that the Department has the greatest sympathy for those whose loved ones have been prisoners of the Japanese and it is the responsibility of the State Department to do what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government. In this connection you may be interested to read the enclosed summary of measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to ship relief supplies to them and to bring about their repatriation.

With the cessation of hostilities, every effort will be made to remove interned American nationals to areas in which adequate relief measures may be administered at the earliest possible date. Actual repatriation will depend upon the speed with which the United States Government is able to cope with many difficult problems, among which are the ministrations of needed medical care and the securing of adequate transportation.

You may be assured that the United States
Government

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Glover,
1811 Hayes Street,
Wichita Falls, Texas.

ADC

OK'd
AUG 23 1945

Done
A M

For M. G. H. 1140/9-2145

Government will take every possible advantage of the cessation of hostilities to care properly for all American citizens who may be liberated in the Far East.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

AK
Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr.,
Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Statement. ✓

406

armg
22 1945

[Signature]
This is a copy of the signed original.

wa

SWP:WOAnderson:MA

8-20-45

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM 118377

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

70

EDW-662
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Bern

Dated July 21, 1945

Rec'd 5:15 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

US URGENT
TEL.#3644
AMINTERESTS JAPAN

Legation's 3393, July 2.

FONOFF note July 19 states Jap FONOFF gave following info Gorge concerning suspension relief.

One. Financial assistance must cease all POW camps including metropolitan Japan, Thailand and all CI camps under military control within regions occupied Jap troops.

Two. Relief requests in suspense no (repeat no) longer subject consideration.

Following this reply Gorge made pressing request Jap Govt authorize new dispatch relief either by Red Cross vessel or by Nakhodka.

Distributed by SWP to
RB *War Bryan*
Street
Fudloon RESTRICTED
Navy - J
Date **JUL 25 1945** *cn:eg*

HARRISON

DCR - GP-C Unit
Anal. _____
Rev. _____
Cat. _____
Dist. _____

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
Td Bern 8/2/45 cm
c. in SWP:eg
JUL 23 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/7-2145

RECORDED
INDEXED
JUL 21 1945

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

FILE COPY
JM-662

~~CORRECTION~~ INCOMING 118377
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Dated July 21, 1945

Rec'd 5:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

71

AMINTERESTS JAPAN

Legation's 3393 July 2.

The above message received unnumbered should be
corrected to read 3644 July 21, 9 p.m.

TELEGRAPH SECTION
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES.

CSB

RESTRICTED

*Card corrected 7/25/45
fkh*

70.711.94114A/7-2145

SWP

9
State

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

July 21, 1945

7-24

D-5 JUL 27 PM 1 22

The Hon. Harry S. Truman, President
United States of America
Washington, D.C.
RECORDS BRANCH

SPECIAL WAK PROBLEMS
DIVISION
AUG 20 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

file
AUG 22 1945

Dear Mr. President:

In a recent issue of the Bataan Relief publication there is an article stating how our Government might obtain some relief for our boys who are prisoners of the Japs.

The article discloses there is a very high Japanese Government Official stationed in Moscow for the supreme purpose of attempting to keep Russia from joining the Allied Nations in War against Japan.

It is suggested that our government attempt an agreement with Mr. Stalin, where by he in turn would attempt an agreement with the Japanese Government, to transfer our boys that are prisoners of the Japs to Russia for internment under supervision of the Russian Government, until hostilities cease.

Our boys could therefore enjoy better food, better medical attention, and much better treatment. I know you feel as all the people of the nation that these boys deserve every consideration. They have sacrificed so much for so long a period of time. Many could be saved if some kind of arrangement could be made with the Japs.

I well realize the Japs are very hard to deal with, and our Government is doing every thing in its power to see that these boys are given the best care possible. The contents of this letter is only an idea that might be given some thought and consideration.

May God bless you and give you strength in the tremendous task that lies ahead of you, and speed the day of complete Victory, for all the peoples of all Nations.

Sincerely yours,

Max Mrs Chas & Glove
1811 Hayes St
Vernita Falls Tex

And
Rev.
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DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON
JUL 30 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 28 1945

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The President of the United States
White House
Washington, D. C.

July 21, 1945



My dear Mr. President:

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION F. J. ...
Let. To Mrs. Piccolo
8/6/45 SWP:ESS

My reason for writing to you is of primary concern to my family and to all the other families in these United States whose loved ones are prisoners of war of the Japanese.

When I speak I do so as the mother of a son that I have not seen in four very long years and who has been a prisoner for three years. When last heard from he was interned in Camp Omori, which camp the American Red Cross believes is situated somewhere in metropolitan Tokyo.

With each passing day our period of waiting for his return home is harder to bear, especially knowing full well that the prisoner of war of the Japanese have not during their internment received good treatment at the hands of their captives, plus the fact that our Government has not expended all efforts to ameliorate the deplorable conditions which have existed and continue to exist in these Japanese camps. Surely, negotiations could have been made through proper channels whereby the necessities of life could have been provided these boys by our Government.

We, the next of kin, were only permitted once to send a parcel to our loved ones and that was in August 1943, almost fifteen months after the official date of our surrender in the Philippines (May 1942). Since that time we have never again been permitted to send parcels. I know that this parcel reached my son as he confirmed it in a letter dated March 1944, which is also the last letter I received from him. Their need has been very great, which fact was further substantiated by a postal card written by my son, Private Dominick Piccolo, on January 6, 1944 prior to receiving the package I had mailed him and from which I quote as follows:

"I have not yet received the parcel you mailed on August 25. Some of the other boys have already received theirs so chances of my getting mine soon are fair. In parcel I hope there are safety razor set and blades, talcum powder, hair oil, towel, socks (woolen), woolen sweater, gloves, etc. If parcel follows this closely then in succeeding parcels concentrate on assorted candies and cookies, concentrated foods, vitamin tablets, preserved butter, sacchrine, cashew nuts, chewing gum, powdered milk and lots more. Things edible are what I want. Send lots of parcels with socks."

I do not feel that this is asking too much when one considers the sacrifices that these boys are undergoing, but evidently they are the forgotten boys of Bataan and Corregidor. It would seem that their existence and welfare is of importance only to their respective families. But it was these same boys, who fought valiantly against great odds, who are today undergoing the fury of our bombs over Tokyo and other areas in Japan - bombs which are bringing death and destruction to the enemy - true - but this does not exclude our boys who are interned in these areas. Therefore, as suggested in the editorial of the "Bataan Relief Organization" leaflet dated July 5, 1945, why do we not ask the

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Japanese Government to transfer our American boys in Japan to Russia to be interned there for the duration of the war.

I am writing to you with the fervent hope that our Government will take immediate action in behalf of our boys who are prisoners of war of the Japanese.

Yours respectfully,

Katie Piccolo

Katie Piccolo

(Mrs. Anthony Piccolo
828 Arnow Avenue
Bronx 67, New York)

SWP

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In reply refer to
SWP

My dear Mrs. Piccolo:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letter of July 21, 1945 concerning your son, Private Dominick Piccolo, who is a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

The Soviet Government would undoubtedly give full consideration to any request of this Government for assistance in having our prisoners of war removed from the dangerous areas in Japan and Manchuria to the Soviet Union. The difficulty in a proposal of this nature, however, is that the Japanese Government must consent to the release to the Soviet Union of able-bodied prisoners of war in Japanese custody. The Japanese Government has consistently rejected proposals to repatriate even the seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war which it is obligated to do under the provisions of the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention which it has agreed to apply. It is not likely, therefore, that the Japanese Government would consent to the transfer of able-bodied American prisoners of war to the Soviet Union.

I am enclosing for your information a recent statement issued by the Department concerning the treatment and repatriation of American nationals in Japanese custody which surveys in detail the problems concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war from the Far East. This statement will indicate to you the unceasing efforts made by this Government to effect the return to

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Mrs. Anthony Piccolo,
828 Arnow Avenue,
Bronx 67, New York.

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the United States of American military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands. The Japanese Government, however, has consistently rejected proposals of this nature.

I want to assure you that the United States Government is doing everything within its power to arrange to send food and medical supplies to American prisoners of war and civilian internees held by the Japanese. You will observe from the enclosed statement that the Japanese Government has rejected proposal after proposal made by this Government with a view to sending relief supplies to Americans held by the Japanese. The Japanese Government has refused to permit neutral ships to proceed to Japanese controlled waters with shipments of relief supplies. The Japanese Government has likewise refused to conclude negotiations for further exchanges of American nationals with the result that such exchange ships have not been available for the transmission of relief supplies.

The United States Government has not forgotten the sacrifices which men such as your son have made and the suffering which they have undergone as prisoners of war. As you know, the President recently expressed his very deep sympathy for the relatives of those members of our armed forces who have the misfortune still to be held prisoners of war of the enemy. He pointed out that the eventual liberation of these prisoners would be the result of victory by our armed forces and it would depend upon the unrelenting prosecution of the war by every American.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

EB

E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Statement regarding
Treatment, Repatriation
and Relief Supplies.

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SUMMARY OF STEPS TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IN BEHALF OF AMERICAN NATIONALS IN
JAPANESE CUSTODY

1. Treatment of prisoners of war and civilian internees.

Upon the outbreak of war between the United States and Japan the United States Government, in an endeavor to ensure humane treatment for American nationals in Japanese hands, confirmed its intention to observe the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention (convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, signed at Geneva on July 27, 1929, and ratified by the United States in 1932), and to apply its provisions to prisoners of war and, so far as its provisions might be adaptable, to civilian internees. The Japanese Government, which had signed but had not ratified the Convention, thereupon notified the United States Government that it would apply the provisions of the Convention, *mutatis mutandis*, to the treatment of American prisoners of war and to the treatment of American civilian internees so far as its provisions might be adaptable to civilian internees.

The United States Government has also obtained assurances from the Japanese Government that it is applying the Geneva Red Cross Convention (convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and the sick of armies in the field, which was also signed at Geneva on July 27, 1929, and which was ratified by the United States in 1932 and by Japan in 1934).

The Conventions named above provide a humanitarian standard of treatment for prisoners of war. Specifically, they provide that prisoners of war shall be treated humanely and held in honorable captivity - not imprisoned as criminals. They establish as the standard for the shelter and diet of prisoners of war, the corresponding treatment of the garrison troops of the detaining Power and they establish fundamental rights regarding correspondence, medical care, clothing, pay for labor, satisfaction of intellectual, recreational and religious needs, and the continued enjoyment of full civil status. For persons generally referred to as "protected personnel", that is, doctors, nurses and other sanitary (medical) personnel and chaplains, they provide certain special rights and protection.

The Department of State is constantly alert to ensure observance of the Conventions. Whenever the United States Government learns that the terms of the Conventions are not being observed in any respect, it transmits through the Swiss Government, which represents American interests in Japan and Japanese-occupied territories, demands that the Japanese Government take immediate steps to remedy each such situation and to prevent its recurrence.

2. Exchange of civilians.

In the first exchange of nationals between the United States Government and the Japanese Government, which took place in the summer of 1942, over 1,300 United States officials and non-officials were repatriated from the Far East. Further negotiations lasting more than a year culminated in a second exchange of civilians late in 1943 resulting in the repatriation of approximately 1,240 nationals of the United States, including a small number from the Philippine Islands, and 260 nationals of the other American Republics and Canada.

The Government of the United States, recognizing that all American citizens have an equal right to consideration, did not select individual Americans for inclusion in the exchanges or discriminate in any other way between individual Americans desiring repatriation. Since all Americans could not be accommodated in one exchange, the Swiss representatives in charge of American interests in Japan and occupied China were given broad humanitarian directives for their guidance in compiling passenger lists for the Gripsholm. These directives gave preference to (1) those under close arrest; (2) interned women and children; (3) the seriously ill; and (4) interned men with preference being given, other things being equal, to married men long separated from their families in the United States. The Japanese Government did not permit even those broad directives to be applied in the Philippine Islands, contending that the provisions of the exchange arrangements were not applicable to Americans who were in the Philippines, Wake and Guam when those territories were occupied by the Japanese. Only after months of negotiations did the Japanese Government finally indicate that it would return to the United States in the second exchange a small number of civilians from the Philippine Islands. The Japanese Government exercised complete control over the departure of those desiring repatriation and even refused to permit the repatriation from occupied China of a number of Americans whose inclusion in the exchange Swiss representatives in charge of American interests endeavored to arrange on humanitarian grounds.

In negotiating for the second exchange and while that exchange was in progress the Department of State proposed to the Japanese Government that further exchanges be effected immediately. The Japanese Government at that time refused to discuss further exchanges advancing as its reason therefor that it desired first to receive "clarification on certain points respecting the treatment of Japanese nationals in the United States." Spanish representatives in charge of Japanese interests in the United States were requested to supply the information requested by the Japanese Government and there is reason to believe that they complied with this request. In March 1944 the Department of State reopened, through the Swiss Government, the question of further exchanges. A complete plan was presented under which, on a reciprocal basis, accelerated exchanges might be made. The Japanese Government informed the Swiss Government that this proposal was under study. Since then the Department of State has done everything possible to obtain the Japanese Government's views in this matter and, deeply concerned about Japan's dilatory attitude, has also advanced further proposals, including one suggesting a series of continuous small-scale exchanges involving the use of available railroad connections

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between Japanese-held territory on the Asiatic Continent and the Soviet Union. Despite such efforts, the Japanese Government has thus far not shown a disposition to discuss this subject.

The Department of State is not in a position to offer encouragement for the early repatriation of American citizens in Japanese custody. The Department emphasizes that responsibility for this situation rests not with the United States Government but with the Government of Japan. In time of war an exchange of nationals with an enemy is fraught with difficulties. This is particularly true of exchanges of the magnitude of those that the United States has twice been able to arrange with Japan and hopes to be able to arrange in the future. Such exchanges cannot be accomplished by unilateral action. No matter what efforts are put forth by the United States Government, and they have been many and continuous, an exchange cannot take place unless the enemy is willing to cooperate and deliver on its part the Americans in its custody.

The reluctance of the Japanese Government to negotiate for further exchanges of nationals will not deter the United States Government from taking all necessary and proper steps to keep the question of such exchanges continually before the Japanese authorities and to be prepared to ensure the speedy execution of any further exchanges of whatever character to which Japanese agreement may eventually be obtained.

3. Repatriation of sick and wounded prisoners of war.

Article 68 of the Prisoners of War Convention provides that:

"Belligerents are bound to send back to their own country, regardless of rank or number, seriously sick and seriously injured prisoners of war, after having brought them to a condition where they can be transported.

"Agreements between belligerents shall accordingly settle as soon as possible the cases of invalidity or of sickness, entailing direct repatriation, as well as the cases entailing possible hospitalization in a neutral country. While awaiting the conclusion of these agreements, belligerents may have reference to the model agreement annexed, for documentary purposes, to the present Convention."

The model agreement defines the degree of incapacity that shall be considered sufficient to qualify a prisoner of war for repatriation. This Government proposed to the Japanese Government that the model agreement be observed on a reciprocal basis and made insistent demands that the Japanese Government honor the obligation imposed by the Convention to repatriate sick and wounded prisoners. The Japanese Government replied, after long delay, that it could not make a favorable response to the United States Government's proposal. In its pending proposals mentioned in Section 2 above concerning further exchanges of civilians, the Department of State proposed that sick and wounded prisoners of war be included in such exchanges. Every effort will be made to arrange for the inclusion of repatriable military personnel in any further exchange arrangements which may be made with the Japanese Government.

4. Repatriation of sanitary personnel.

Article 9 of the Red Cross Convention provides, in part:

"The personnel charged exclusively with the removal, transportation, and treatment of the wounded and sick, as well as with the administration of sanitary formations and establishments, and the chaplains attached to armies, shall be respected and protected under all circumstances. If they fall into the hands of the enemy they shall not be treated as prisoners of war."

Article 12 of the same Convention provides, in part:

"The persons described in Article 9 may not be detained after they have fallen into the power of the adversary.

"Unless there is an agreement to the contrary, they shall be sent back to the belligerent to whose service they are attached as soon as a way is open for their return and military exigencies permit.

"While waiting to be returned, they shall continue in the exercise of their functions under the direction of the adversary; they shall be assigned preferably to the care of the wounded and sick of the belligerent to whose service they are attached."

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 12 of the Red Cross Convention, it was proposed to the Japanese Government that the repatriation of the personnel protected under the Convention be begun, since facilities for their return to the United States could be made available on the vessels employed for the exchange of civilian nationals. In order, however, not to deprive American prisoners of war of the care that they may require and might not otherwise receive, the United States Government also proposed to the Japanese Government, on a basis of reciprocity, that the right of repatriation be waived for protected personnel needed and permitted in prisoner of war camps or hospitals to render spiritual and medical assistance to compatriots who were in the care of that personnel at the time of capture. This Government further proposed that the selection of protected personnel to be repatriated be made by the senior officer of the unit captured.

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The Japanese Government agreed in principle to the repatriation of protected personnel in connection with exchanges of civilians but reserved to itself the decision whether the retention of that personnel was necessary for the care of American prisoners of war and civilian internees under Japanese control. The Department accordingly requested the Swiss Government to endeavor to arrange for the accommodation of American protected personnel in future American-Japanese civilian exchange operations.

Although it repatriated five nurses from Guam at the time of the first civilian exchange, the Japanese Government included no such protected personnel in the second exchange. The Department, in negotiations for further exchanges of civilians, will convey to the Japanese Government the expectation of the United States Government that protected personnel entitled to repatriation shall be included.

5. Exchange of able-bodied prisoners of war.

There is no customarily-accepted practice among nations nor provisions of international law or conventions for the return or exchange during hostilities of able-bodied members of the armed forces of one belligerent who may be captured by the forces of an opposing belligerent. In the circumstances, there is no prospect of obtaining the release and return to the United States of able-bodied members of the American armed forces taken prisoners of war by the Japanese.

6. Shipment of relief supplies to the Far East.

Early in 1942 the American Red Cross in conjunction with the interested agencies of the United States Government made efforts to find a means acceptable to the Japanese Government for forwarding to our prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East necessary supplies of food, medicine, clothing and comforts such as are regularly sent to American citizens in corresponding circumstances in other enemy-held areas. A neutral vessel to carry such supplies to Japan was obtained and chartered in the summer of 1942. The Japanese Government, however, refused to give its safe conduct for the voyage of the vessel to the Far East. In response to repeated representations the Japanese Government indicated that it was unwilling for strategic reasons to grant any non-Japanese vessel safe conduct to move in Japanese waters and that it had no intention of sending one of its own vessels to any neutral area in order to pick up relief supplies for United States and Allied prisoners of war and civilians as was suggested by the United States Government. Upon the receipt of this Japanese reply the United States Government pointed out its expectation that the Japanese would modify their position as soon as strategic reasons would permit and suggested for the interim the immediate appointment of International Red Cross delegates to Japanese-occupied territory who might receive and distribute funds in behalf of American nationals. This suggestion was eventually accepted by the Japanese only for Hong Kong and certain areas in occupied China. They have not accepted it so far for the Philippine Islands, Malaya and the Netherlands Indies. Efforts to induce the Japanese Government to abandon its position against the use of neutral ships to carry relief supplies into its waters were continued and new avenues of approach were fully canvassed, including the possibility of sending relief supplies in transit through Soviet territory. One suggestion proposed the sending of supplies by air to some point where the Japanese might lift them, with particular reference to medical supplies which might be scarce in Japan. No reply to this particular proposal was ever received. Another proposal was that the American Red Cross would provide a cargo ship to go to some point in the Pacific where a Japanese crew might take it over in order to conduct it to the ports where relief cargo should be discharged. This proposal was rejected by the Japanese. Numerous proposals were considered but were either abandoned because of insurmountable obstacles or were found to be otherwise impossible of accomplishment.

In March 1943 the Japanese Government, in response to repeated representations stressing its responsibility to cooperate in solving the problem, stated that strategic reasons still prevented neutral vessels from plying the Pacific waters but that it would explore other means of permitting the delivery of relief supplies. The following month the Japanese Government stated that it might consent to receive supplies overland or by sea from Soviet territory. There have ensued since that time long and complicated negotiations with the Japanese and Soviet Governments. Each detail of the negotiations had to be dealt with through a long and complex procedure involving the handling of communications at Tokyo, Bern, Washington and Moscow and in reverse direction through the same channels. Despite these difficulties, it has been possible with the Soviet Government's cooperation to create a stockpile of prisoner of war relief supplies on Soviet territory. Moreover, the Soviet Government has given assurance that it will facilitate the transit through the Soviet Union of such relief supplies on a continuing basis when a satisfactory arrangement for the onward shipment of these supplies is reached between the Japanese and American Governments. The United States Government has endeavored repeatedly to bring this matter to a conclusion. The Soviet Government has assisted by intervening in the matter with the Japanese Government. In May 1944 the Japanese Government communicated to this Government, through the Swiss Government, a proposal to send, at regular intervals, a Japanese ship to Vladivostok to pick up and transport to Japan relief supplies sent to that point from the United States. The Soviet Government was immediately consulted. That Government reiterated its willingness to cooperate in the matter of facilitating the onward transmission of relief supplies intended for Allied nationals in the Far East, but stated that it was not in a position to permit the entry of Japanese ships into the port of Vladivostok. The Soviet Government, however, offered to move to a nearby port the supplies which had previously been shipped as far as Vladivostok and to permit a Japanese ship to enter

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this port to pick up these supplies. Alternatively, the Soviet Government offered to move these supplies overland to a convenient border point for delivery to the Japanese authorities. As regards future shipments, the Soviet Government offered to make available an equally accessible Pacific port where Japanese ships might call regularly to pick up relief supplies sent from the United States.

Upon being informed of the Soviet Government's readiness to cooperate the Japanese Government indicated that it was prepared to send a ship to the port adjacent to Vladivostok named by the Soviet Government but the Japanese Government imposed certain additional conditions which had to be met before it would be willing to dispatch a ship for this purpose. The Soviet Government, to whom these conditions were conveyed, has agreed generally to meet the additional conditions, and has so informed the Japanese Government. The United States Government for its part has informed the Japanese Government through the Swiss Government of its willingness to meet the conditions requiring the assent of the American Government only.

As the matter now stands, the Soviet Government has granted permission for a Japanese ship to enter a Soviet port to take on the supplies now on Soviet territory awaiting distribution to American and other Allied prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Japan. The Japanese ship will be accorded safe conduct by the Soviet Government within Soviet waters and by the Allied military authorities outside those waters. The United States Government has agreed to pay all costs connected with the transportation of these supplies to Japan and has confirmed to the Japanese Government the willingness of the United States fully to reciprocate in regard to the transportation and distribution of relief supplies sent by Japan for Japanese nationals in United States custody. It is hoped that as a result of these developments the supplies that have been so long awaiting onward shipment from Soviet territory will soon reach those for whom they are intended.

As regards subsequent shipments of relief supplies, the Soviet Government has again suggested to the Japanese Government that shipments be sent overland to Japanese controlled territory if the Japanese Government fails to utilize the port named by the Soviet Government for this purpose. The United States Government for its part has urged the Japanese Government to use this means by which regular and continuous shipments can be made of supplemental foodstuffs, medicines, and clothing for American and other Allied nationals in Japan and Japanese-occupied territories.

While the foregoing negotiations were in progress it was fortunately possible to take advantage of the two exchanges of civilians with the Japanese Government, one in July 1942 and the other in October 1943 to send to our nationals in the Far East an important quantity of relief supplies by means of the exchange vessels.

Reports of the distribution of relief supplies which left the United States on the first exchange vessel in 1942 were in due course received from the Far East. There was placed on the motor vessel Gripsholm when it left this country to effect the second exchange of civilian nationals another large cargo of assorted relief supplies, American Red Cross standard food parcels, next-of-kin parcels and mail for distribution to American prisoners of war and American civilians interned in the Philippine Islands, occupied China, Hong Kong, Japan, the Netherlands East Indies, and Malaya. Valued at over \$1,300,000 and weighing 1600 short tons, these supplies included 140,000 food parcels of approximately 13 pounds each; 2800 cases of medical supplies, including surgical instruments, dressings, 7,000,000 vitamin capsules, et cetera; 950 cases of comfort articles for men and women; 24,000,000 cigarettes; from 20,000 to 25,000 next-of-kin parcels; and important supplies of clothing for men and women. This entire cargo was transferred to the Japanese exchange vessel at Mormugão and dispatched eastward. Information has been received to the effect that this shipment has been distributed to interned American civilians and prisoners of war in the Far East.

In a further effort to bring aid to Americans through any means available, the American Red Cross is attempting to forward by the route discussed in paragraph 1 of section 1^c small packets containing concentrated vitamins and medicines of a sort which are thought to be scarce in the Far East. However, there are no assurances that supplies so sent will reach those for whom they are intended.

Regardless of all obstacles the Department and the American Red Cross are continuing diligently to endeavor to arrange with the Japanese Government for the shipment of relief supplies on a regular and continuing basis to American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Japanese custody.

7. Provision of financial assistance to American civilians in the Far East.

Since the Trading with the Enemy Act as amended prohibits, among other things, individual remittances to enemy and enemy-occupied or enemy-controlled territory, unless licensed, and since the issuance of licenses for this purpose is contrary to the policy of the Government, the Department of State, shortly after this country's entry into the war, made provision for the extension of financial assistance from public funds in the form of loans to Americans in such territories through representatives of the Swiss Government representing American interests there. Appended to this memorandum is an information sheet explaining how such assistance is extended and how funds so advanced may be reimbursed to the United States Government. With certain exceptions in territories occupied or controlled by Japan, the enemy governments have permitted payments to be made to qualified American nationals in the manner described. The Japanese authorities, however, have thus far refused to permit the Swiss Government's representatives, in certain areas under Japanese control, to extend financial assistance to American nationals in

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these areas on the same basis as elsewhere. The Department, therefore, has had to seek other means of making funds available to Americans in such areas.

At Hong Kong, where the Swiss Government has not been permitted by the Japanese Government to act in behalf of American nationals, the International Red Cross delegate is providing assistance to qualified American nationals there from public funds made available for the purpose by the Department.

Immediately after the fall of the Philippine Islands, the Department endeavored to arrange for the extension of financial assistance to qualified American nationals there. In June 1943, the Japanese Government permitted the transfer of \$25,000, representing a contribution by the American Red Cross, to be made to the Executive Committee of the Santo Tomas internment camp at Manila, and later allowed the transfer of a second Red Cross contribution of \$25,000 for the relief of American nationals interned in Manila. Such contributions were stopped when the arrangements discussed in the next two paragraphs were made by the Department of State for the benefit of American civilians in the Philippine Islands.

It was not until July 1943 that the Japanese Government indicated that it would agree in principle to permit payments to American nationals interned in other parts of the Philippine Islands, and to allow further payments to the internees at Manila. Accordingly, the Department in August 1943 authorized the Swiss Government to make remittances, in accordance with the need and the number of eligible individuals, to the Executive Committee of the American internment camps in the Philippine Islands beginning with the month of August or as soon as feasible thereafter. Funds delivered to the Executive Committees under this authorization may be used (1) for the purchase of available supplies considered necessary to supplement the diet provided by the Japanese authorities, (2) to pay for essential services obtained outside of camp, (3) to provide each internee with a small amount of money for personal use and (4) to advance funds to indigent internees for delivery to such members of their families as may be at liberty.

The Japanese Government subsequently consented to monthly transfers of United States Government funds to the Executive Committee of the Santo Tomas internment camp to be used for the relief of American nationals at Santo Tomas, Los Banos, Baguio and Davao which, according to latest available information, are the only civilian internment camps now maintained by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands. These transfers are now being effected from such funds on deposit with the Swiss Government for the purposes mentioned above. At the outset \$25,000 per month was transferred under this arrangement. Subsequently, the monthly remittance was increased to \$37,500. Continued increases in price levels have made increased financial assistance necessary and the Department of State has authorized the Swiss Government to furnish such additional amounts as might be required.

Upon receipt recently of an indication that the Japanese authorities would also permit the transfer of funds for the relief of interned Americans in the Netherlands East Indies, the Department of State immediately requested that the Swiss Government arrange for the transfer of public funds for this purpose to the maximum amount permitted by the Japanese authorities.

8. Provision of Financial Assistance to American Prisoners of War in the Far East.

As indicated in the preceding section, it is contrary to the policy of the Government to license individual remittances to specific persons in enemy-held areas. Therefore, the Department of State, shortly after United States entry into the war, authorized Swiss representatives in charge of American interests in enemy-controlled territories to provide financial assistance from United States Government funds to American prisoners of war for necessary personal expenditures in accordance with their established needs over and above the food, shelter and other necessities provided them by the detaining Power. The Department's standing instructions have, as indicated below, been amended to the extent considered necessary to meet the conditions imposed by the Japanese Government when in specific instances it indicated a readiness to extend the facilities needed by the Swiss authorities to carry out the United States Government's wishes in this regard.

The United States Government, acting through the Swiss Government, has constantly endeavored since the spring of 1942 to arrange for the transfer of funds to American prisoners of war in the Philippine Islands. Until May of this year, the Japanese Government did not accede to any proposals advanced by the United States Government for this purpose. In that month, the Japanese authorities in the Philippine Islands extended permission to the neutral delegate of the War Prisoners' Aid of the Young Men's Christian Association to purchase local relief supplies in an amount not exceeding \$25,000 monthly for shipment to civilian internment and prisoner of war camps in the Philippine Islands. United States Government funds were made available for expenditure by the War Prisoners' Aid Delegate for this purpose. When the Swiss Minister at Tokyo endeavored to arrange for the transfer of these funds, the Japanese authorities stated that "because of the special situation of the Philippines" the relief activities of the YMCA representative which had been "tolerated by the local authorities" could not be permitted to continue. The Japanese Government, however, indicated that it would be disposed to consider requests made by the Swiss Government to transfer funds through Japanese military channels for the assistance of American prisoners of war in the Philippine Islands, limiting such payments to 20 pesos monthly (approximately \$10) for each prisoner of war. The Department of State has requested

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the Swiss Government to arrange for the transfer on a continuing basis of sufficient United States Government funds to provide the maximum amount permitted by the Japanese authorities for each prisoner of war.

The Japanese authorities recently agreed to permit the extension of financial assistance to American prisoners of war as well as to interned civilians in the Netherlands East Indies, and the Swiss Government has been specifically requested to arrange for the transfer of United States Government funds to the maximum amount allowed by the Japanese authorities.

Elsewhere in the Far East, in territory under Japanese control, financial assistance is being extended to all American prisoners of war and civilian internees who can be reached either by Swiss Government representatives or by delegates of the International Red Cross Committee. Both the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross Committee are being allowed to exercise broad discretion for the disbursement of United States public funds in order to ameliorate to the greatest extent possible the detention of American nationals.

9. Internment status of American nationals in areas under Japanese control.

Article 77 of the Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 reads, in part, as follows:

"Upon the outbreak of hostilities, each of the belligerent Powers, as well as the neutral Powers which have received belligerents, shall institute an official information bureau for prisoners of war who are within their territory.

"Within the shortest possible period, each of the belligerent Powers shall inform its information bureau of every capture of prisoners effected by its armies, giving it all the information regarding identity which it has, allowing it quickly to advise the families concerned, and informing it of the official addresses to which families may write to prisoners.

"The information bureau shall immediately forward all this information to the interested Powers, through the intervention, on one hand, of the protecting Powers and, on the other, of the central agency provided for in Article 79."

In accordance with the provisions of the article quoted above, the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington 25, D.C., was established as the official agency of this Government to handle matters of this kind. The Bureau exchanges lists of prisoners of war and civilian internees with similar bureaus in enemy countries and transmits to the next of kin and to those persons in this country who have indicated their interest such information as it receives with respect to the internment status of Americans detained by the enemy.

If they have not already done so, persons who desire to ascertain the internment status of American nationals in areas under enemy control may make appropriate inquiries of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau and record their names and addresses with that Bureau.

10. Transmission of mail between the United States and areas under Japanese control.

The Post Office Department is now sending all mail addressed to prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East by air without charge to the sender to Tehran, Iran, from which point, with the cooperation of the Soviet Government, it is forwarded across Soviet territory and delivered to the Japanese authorities. According to reports received from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva, prisoner of war and civilian internee mail has reached the Far East. Mail to the Far East is, of course, subject to the delays and uncertainties of war and once it reaches the Far East its delivery to Americans is dependent upon the cooperation of the Japanese authorities. Prisoner of war and civilian interned mail addressed to persons in the United States which originates in Japan and Japanese-controlled territory is being routed by the Japanese authorities to Tehran from which point this mail is being carried by air to the United States free of charge.

Mail to and from the Far East has also been exchanged during each civilian exchange operation and in the event of future exchange operations provision will be made for the carriage of prisoner of war and civilian internee mail. The United States authorities are continuing actively to explore the possibility of developing more expeditious channels of transmitting mail to the Far East.

Letters to American nationals who have been officially reported to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau as under Japanese detention may be sent through regular mail channels but must not exceed twenty-four words in length since the Japanese Government has indicated its intention to refuse to pass letters of greater length. There is no limitation on the number of such letters which may be sent; however, owing to censorship difficulties in Japan, the number should be kept to a minimum.

It is ordinarily not possible to communicate through regular mail channels with Americans in enemy or enemy-controlled territories who are not officially reported to be prisoners of war or civilian internees by the detaining Power pursuant to the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929. Special arrangements have been made, however, for the acceptance of mail by the United States postal authorities addressed to persons in the Far East who have been reported to the Prisoner of War

Information

-7-

Information Bureau as prisoners of war or civilian internees by persons who returned from the Far East on board the exchange vessel Gripsholm. Letters should be addressed to Americans so reported at the place of internment or address of record in the files of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Communications to American nationals who are not known to the United States Government to be interned by the Japanese may be sent only through Red Cross facilities. Persons who wish to send communications to American nationals in this category should make inquiry of the nearest chapter of the American National Red Cross for information in this regard.

11. Sending of individual parcels to American nationals interned by the Japanese Government.

No means of transportation are currently available for the sending of any next-of-kin parcels to American nationals in Japanese custody. In the event the Government's further efforts to arrange for the regular and continuous shipment of such relief supplies as those discussed in Section 6 of this summary should be successful, the Department would expect the Japanese Government reciprocally to accept and to deliver next-of-kin packages sent by the same means of transportation for delivery to interned American nationals, both military and civilian, in Japanese hands.

The Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, has jurisdiction over the issuance of labels permitting next-of-kin to send parcels to American nationals in enemy custody whenever facilities for this purpose are available. All persons desiring to be provided with such labels, in the event facilities for shipment of individual packages to the Far East should become available, are advised to communicate with that Office for information in this regard.

12. Prisoners of War Convention and Red Cross Convention.

Any person who wishes to obtain the complete official text of the Prisoners of War Convention or the Red Cross Convention may do so by writing the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., and enclosing 10 cents for each copy of the Prisoners of War Convention and 5 cents for each copy of the Red Cross Convention. The Prisoners of War Convention is Treaty Series No. 846 and the Red Cross Convention is Treaty Series No. 847.

The foregoing supersedes all previously issued information on the subjects covered.

Department of State,

September 10, 1944.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN EXTENDING
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AMERICAN NATIONALS IN
TERRITORIES WHERE THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED
STATES ARE REPRESENTED BY SWITZERLAND

The Department of State has completed arrangements for financial assistance to American nationals in territories where the interests of the United States are represented by Switzerland.* Those able to qualify for such assistance will be entitled to receive from the Swiss representatives monthly payments corresponding to their established needs and the prevailing cost of living in the country concerned. All recipients will be limited to the monthly payments established for their place of residence, regardless of their ability or the ability of others interested in their welfare to repay amounts greater than the sums advanced. It is realized that a limitation upon the amount that American nationals may expend in enemy territory, even from their own resources, will entail some hardship. The conservation of foreign exchange, however, is an essential factor in the present economic policy of the United States and it is expected that Americans everywhere will willingly share with those in the armed forces the sacrifices that must be made in winning the war.

Based upon the latest ascertained cost of living in the various countries concerned, the maximum monthly payment for the head of the household will range from \$60 to \$130, with smaller allowances for additional members of the household. The monthly payments are subject to revisions from time to time to meet changing living cost. In addition, the Swiss representatives are authorized to make special advances for such extraordinary expenditures as may be essential to the health or safety of American nationals for medical, surgical, or dental care, for hospitalization, for reasonable legal defense against political or criminal charges, or for a decent though modest burial where such is not provided by friends or relatives locally nor by the local authorities.

Wherever prisoners of war and interned civilians are supported by the detaining Power, it is expected that payments made to them will generally not exceed a small sum sufficient to provide spending money for miscellaneous personal needs not supplied by the detaining Power. However, no payments will be made to officers or to persons of equivalent status held as prisoners of war, who receive pay under the convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, signed at Geneva on July 27, 1929.

Swiss representatives charged with the representation of the interests of the United States will explain to the recipients that such financial assistance should not be considered as public bounty but as loans from public funds to American nationals finding themselves in an abnormal position by reason of the war. It is accordingly expected that all sums advanced will be repaid either by the recipients themselves or by relatives, friends, business associates, employers, or legal representatives in the United States.

Receipts embodying promises to repay without interest the sums advanced will be taken for all payments. Private deposits to reimburse the Government for sums advanced shall be made with the Department of State. Persons wishing to make such deposits should indicate the names of the beneficiaries and should remit by postal money orders or certified checks payable to "The Secretary of State of the United States".

As the War and Navy Departments have assumed financial responsibility for funds advanced respectively to American military and naval personnel in enemy custody, no deposits or contributions by private individuals or organizations for this purpose are necessary.

Department of State,

Washington, September 10, 1944.

* Switzerland represents the interests of the United States in Germany, Italy, and Japan, in territories occupied by those countries, and in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania.

STP
AH
AA
H

UNDER SECRETARY
JUL 29 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Telephone

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 21, 1945

SUBJECT: Exchange of General Wainwright for Japanese diplomats in the United States

PARTICIPANTS: Senator Warren R. Austin of Vermont; Acting Secretary, Mr. Grew

COPIES TO: S, A-A, A-H, SWP

JA
AH

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MR. HOLMES
JUL 27 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
JUL 25 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Letter to Senator Austin drafted 7/23/45
per

Assistant Secretary of State
JUL 28 1945
MR. ACHESON

gpo 1-1493

Senator Austin telephoned me this morning and stated that he was receiving numerous letters asking that something be done to effect the exchange of General Wainwright, who is a prisoner of the Japanese, for some of the Japanese diplomats held in the United States. I replied that we are working on that all the time--that is why we are holding the people in Bedford Springs, some of whom are quite prominent. I said that our idea was to try to arrange an exchange as soon as possible. I added, however, that it is very questionable whether we will be able to make such arrangements. I said that we had been working on this matter for the past two years but the Japanese had continually refused to accede to our request. I stated that I would, however, look into the question further and see if there is anything more that we can do. Senator Austin said that it would be very helpful to him if he could have a letter that would indicate how to answer the letters that had come to him. He added that he would be away from Washington until Wednesday. I promised the Senator that I would get such a letter to him by that time.

711.94114A/7-2145

711.94114A/7-2145

DCR - GP-C 114
Anal. *[Signature]*
Rev. *AB* Joseph C. Grew
Cat. *[Signature]*
Dist. *[Signature]*

U:JCG:GES

JUL 30 1945

300

JUL 24 1945

My dear Senator Austin:

The appended letter to you is marked confidential in view of the fact that it contains certain passages the publication of which would not be helpful at the present time. I therefore hope that in communicating to your constituent the letter as a whole, or such part of it as you desire, you will at the same time request that the information be not published.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Grew

Joseph C. Grew

Enc.

The Honorable
Warren R. Austin,
United States Senate.

From 11-94114a/9-2145

TO:	<i>for</i>
FROM:	<i>JCG</i>
SUBJECT:	
DATE:	
TIME:	

JUL 23 1945 P.M.

U:JCG:GES

President Truman

July 22nd

Washington D.C.

Mr President ^{set to Hanschay} ~~9/3/45~~ GWP: ESS



Dear Sir:

A short while ago

I heard some Radio announcer tell of how our government is trying to get some officer (first O'Bro) released from a Japanese prison, in exchange for a Jap prisoner.

Some friends of mine whose son has been a prisoner at Japan for more than two years could not see anything be done to get him to be released from prison, in exchange for some Japanese prisoner & his father and mother ^{and family} are greatly worried about him, his name is

11-4A/7-2245
11-94114007-2245

is Mayor John B. Morley, his
business is being a lawyer, a
number of years back when
I was in need of a lawyer, he
attended to some of my affairs,
he is a very fine and kind
hearted young man, I hope
very much that something
can be done soon for his
release.

Respectfully Yours
Miss Bertha Ganschock
2429 Baldwin
Cleveland 4 Ohio

August 4, 1945.

In reply refer to
SWP

My dear Miss Ganschaw:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letter of July 22, 1945, concerning Major John C. Morley, who is a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

I am enclosing for your information a recent statement issued by the Department concerning the treatment and repatriation of American nationals in Japanese custody which surveys in detail the problems concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war from the Far East. This statement will indicate to you the unceasing efforts made by this Government to effect the return to the United States of American military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands and to provide for the relief of Americans in Japanese custody. The Japanese Government, however, has consistently rejected proposals to repatriate even the seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war which it is obligated to do under the provisions of the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention which it has agreed to apply. It has also rejected proposals for sending relief supplies on a continuing basis to Americans held by the Japanese.

I fully appreciate the anxiety and distress which the relatives and friends of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese are experiencing and want to assure you that this Government is making every possible effort

to

DCR - G.P.C Unit	
Anal.	.....
Rev.	..... <i>RM</i>
Cat.	.....
Dist.	.....

Miss Bertha Ganschaw,
2429 Baldwin Road,
Cleveland 4, Ohio.

File 760050/11442/9-2245

-2-

to relieve them. As you know, the President recently expressed his very deep sympathy for the relatives of those members of our armed forces who have the misfortune still to be held prisoners of war of the enemy. He pointed out that the eventual liberation of these prisoners would be the result of victory by our armed forces and it would depend upon the unrelenting prosecution of the war by every American.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

Ph...
Parmely W. Herrick
Acting Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Statement regarding ✓
Treatment, Repatriation
and Relief Supplies.

md ✓
SWP:Ed Spence

8/3/45

md
AUG 4 1945

cm

A true copy of
the signed original
sent.

Handwritten mark

July 23, 1945

My dear Colonel Bresee:

I am enclosing for your information a chart prepared in this Department with regard to prisoner of war ship sinkings which occurred in the Far East in 1944.

Since the chart was completed, the Department has received from the Prisoner of War Information Bureau copies of US Cables 3220, 3221, 3222, 3223 and 3224 giving additional names of those who perished in the December 15 sinking. The names reported in US Cables 3219 to 3224 inclusive totaled 916. I note that the US Cables listed in connection with the December 15 sinking and those referred to above transmitted the names of only 1262 of the 1619 prisoners who were reported lost.

Sincerely yours,

Parmely W. Herrick
Acting Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Summary of Prisoner of War
Ship Sinkings (Far East) 1944.

Colonel Howard F. Bresee,
Director, American Prisoner
of War Information Bureau,
Office of the Provost Marshal General,
Room 1731, Munitions Building,
Washington, D.C.

DCR - G.P.C. Unit	
Anal.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Dist.	<i>[Signature]</i>

JUL 23 1945
[Handwritten initials]

SWP:HDreppard:NET

7/19/45

A true copy of the original
[Signature]

711.94114A/7-2345

CS/LE

711.94114A/7-2345

[Handwritten initials]

SUMMARY OF PRISONER OF WAR SHIP SINKINGS (FAR EAST) 1944

Date of Sinking	POW Aboard Ship	Location of Sinking	Number of Survivors		Number Allied	Losses
			Recaptured by Japs	Escaped		
June 20, 1944	British 455 American 43 Dutch 275 Total 773 (US 2412)	Japanese waters (Ship proceeding from Java)	212. (Includes 13 Americans listed in US 2412.)		530	(U U
June 26, 1944	720 (Bern's 6985)	Off Sumatra	543 (Bern's 6985)		177 (Bern's 6985)	
September 7, 1944	Americans 750 (US 2295) (Bern's 440 - Jan. 21, 1945)	Off Mindanao (Ship proceeding from Philippines)		83		66 25 22 27 74
September 12, 1944 <u>Rakuyo Maru</u>	Australian - British - Total 1,500	China Sea, south of Hong Kong		151	Domei broadcast states about 40 prisoners drown	40
September 21, 1944 (Americans, Dept's 3642, Oct. 29, 1942)	British 1,250 American (Bern's 7331, Nov. 4, 1944; Bern's 440, Jan. 21, 1945; US 2421)	Off Bataan (Ship proceeding from Singapore)	271 (Bern's 7331, Nov. 4, 1944, and 440, Jan. 21, 1945.)		979 (Bern's 7331, Nov. 4, 1944, nationality not given)	
October 24, 1944	Americans 1775 (Bern's 2539, May 1, 1945; 1775 US 3156)	Near China north Hong Kong. (Ship proceeding from Philippines).	(4 Americans) Bern's 2539 May 1, 1945. Bern's 2799 May 18, 1945. US 3156 US 3137, one member later died from illness.	5	8 (Bern's 2513, April 30, 1945). US 3121; 7 (US 3141)	175 Jun 196 197 205 205 176 195 185 205 190
December 15, 1944	Americans 1619 US 3215	Off Luzon (from Manila)	200 US 3197 135 US 3200		(US 3215 report ing of whom 59 nesses after sink 3218 reports de lied nationals.	

CONFIDENTIAL

SUMMARY OF PRISONER OF WAR SHIP SINKINGS (FAR EAST) 1944

Location of Sinking	Number of Survivors		Number Lost		State Department Inquiries
	Recaptured by Japs	Escaped	Allied	American	
Japanese waters (Ship proceeding from Java)	212. (Includes 13 Americans listed in US 2412.)		530	30 (US 2793; See US 2412)	
Off Sumatra	543 (Bern's 6985)		177 (Bern's 6985)		3642 - Oct. 25, 1944 2253 - July 6, 1945
Off Mindanao (Ship proceeding from Philippines)		83		667 actually lost 253 US 2776 220 US 2777 275 US 2778 748 Total	3234 Sept. 19, 1944 162 January 11, 1945
China Sea, south of Hong Kong		151	Domei broadcast Dec. 6, 1944 states about 400 enemy war prisoners drowned.		
Off Bataan (Ship proceeding from Singapore)	271 (Bern's 7331, Nov. 4, 1944, and 440, Jan. 21, 1945.)		979 (Bern's 7331, Nov. 4 1944, nationality not given)		3642 - Oct. 25, 1944 2253 - July 6, 1945
Near China north Hong Kong. (Ship proceeding from Philippines).	(4 Americans) Bern's 2539 May 1, 1945. Bern's 2799 May 18, 1945. US 3156 US 3137, one member later died from illness.	5	8 (Bern's 2513, April 30, 1945). US 3121; 7 (US 3141)	1753 (Bern's 3329 June 27, 1945) 3 - US 3141 196 - US 3188 197 - US 3189 205 - US 3190 205 - US 3191 176 - US 7192 195 - US 3193 185 - US 3194 205 - US 3195 190 - US 3196	Dept. 155, Jan. 10, 1945 Dept. 799, Feb. 22, 1945
Off Luzon (from Manila)	200 US 3197 135 US 3200		(US 3215 reports 942 missing of whom 59 died of illness after sinking.) (US 3218 reports death of 11 allied nationals.) US 3219 -		Depts. 947, March 5, 1945.

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DCR

DSH-1028
This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (SECRET)

Bern
Dated July 23, 1945
Rec'd 5:15 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
JUL 26 1945
Coffin sup
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

3653, July 23, 1 p.m.

AMERICAN INTERESTS INDO-CHINA
DEPTS A 411, June 23. *711.94114A/6-745*

Swiss Foreign Office states owing interruption
telegraphic communications with Indo-China Swiss Legation
Tokyo was instructed endeavor obtain desired information.
Gorge now reports unable telegraph DEPTS request Saigon
as use of code prohibited due Japanese withdrawal from
Swiss Consulate Saigon of right handle POW matters.

HARRISON

WTD

NOTE: Delay due to undecipherability of message.

SECRET

DCR
Dorothea M. Laurion
KCH
Rev.
Col.
Dist.

Confidential File

711.94114A/7-2345

711.94114A/7-2345

X

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
 TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
 DATE: July 23, 1945
 NUMBER: 3653

by SW
 Ryan-Breece
 War 9-2-Weir
 G. Judelson
 Navy-2
 AUG 2 1945 B.P.

We are informed by the Swiss Foreign Office (American Interests Indo-China) that due to the suspension of telegraphic service with Indo-China instructions were given to the Swiss Legation in Tokyo to try to get the desired information (Department's A 441, June 23). Gogge now states that he cannot telegraph the Department's request to the Consulate in Saigon as since the Japanese withdrew the right of dealing with matters pertaining to prisoners of war from the Swiss Consulate there, the use of code is prohibited.

711.94114A/ 7-2345
 SWP:BPetro

6th District

SWP

FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS FOR BATAAN RELIEF

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

A National Organization

Dedicated to American heroes who fought, bled, were surrendered or died
in the service of the Nation in the war with Japan.

1945 JUL 25 PM 4 55

Eaton town, New Jersey

July 23-45

PRESIDENT

V. H. SPENSLEY,
167 NATIONAL BANK BLDG.,
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

A. C. MCARTHUR,
310 SO. VILLA AVE.,
VILLA PARK, ILLS.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. CATHERINE C. ADAMS
5626 BEAUMONT ST.,
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

3RD VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. HAROLD W. PARSONS,
552 LAKE ANGELUS ROAD,
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN

SECRETARY

P. W. MCCAHOON,
310 SOUTH EDITH ST.,
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

TREASURER

AUSTIN E. ANSON
HOTEL CORTEZ BLDG.,
WESLACO, TEXAS

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

1ST DISTRICT

MRS. MARIE MALOSEK
6926 WOODROW WILSON DR.,
HOLLYWOOD 28, CALIF.

2ND DISTRICT

D. W. MURDOCK
3130 ELLIOTT AVE.,
SEATTLE, WASH.

3RD DISTRICT

CHAS. H. ADAMS
1205 JULE ST.,
ST. JOSEPH 13, MO.

4TH DISTRICT

N. A. BELL
309 WEST JACKSON BLVD.,
CHICAGO 6, ILLINOIS

5TH DISTRICT

MRS. JOSEPHINE SKOPOWSKI
2331 EDWIN
DETROIT 12, MICH.

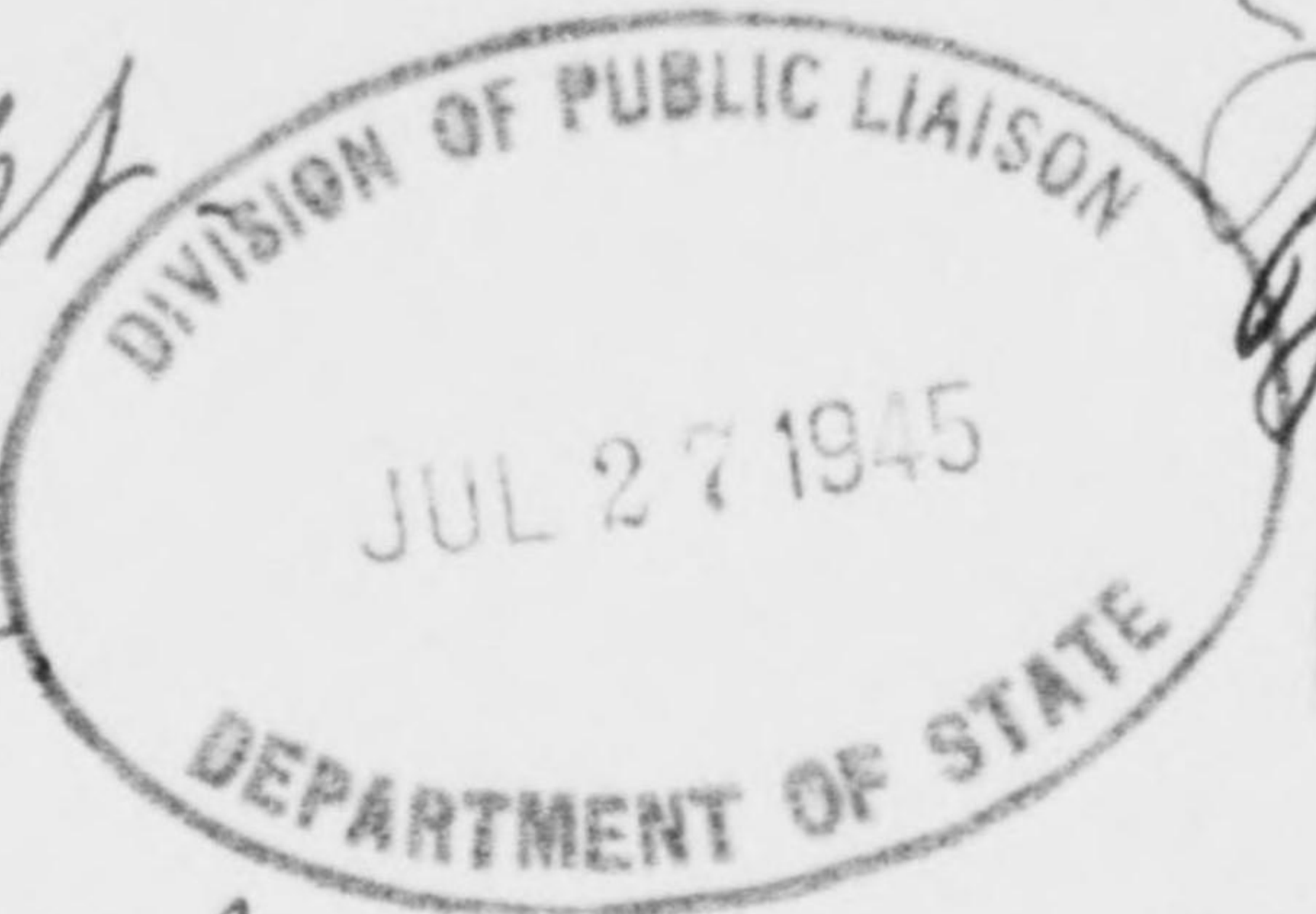
6TH DISTRICT

A. B. CROSS
P. O. BOX 5
EATONTOWN, N. J.

7TH DISTRICT

MRS. J. A. ELLERD, JR.
827 NORTH STATE
JACKSON 6, MISS.

The State Dept
Washington D.C.
RECORDS BRANCH



See Dept's letter
of Aug 4, 1945 to Mrs
Eaton
711.94114A/7-2445

Dear Sir:- with an accolade, the morning newspapers announced that the Swiss would now, after three years, be allowed to view the privations of Japanese held prisoners of war. Are these the same Swiss who have done nothing except let tons of food rot at Vladivostok? Would it not be better to ask Russia or Sweden to "protect" our nationals in Argentina? The Swiss seem to have neither stature nor favor with the Japanese and as for the International Red Cross, it seems either a joke or a tool.

The American people uneasily sense a lack of firmness or
Sense a lack of firmness or
May We be Worthy of Our Heroes!

711.94114A/7-2345
COPY FILE
711.94114A/7-2345

FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS FOR BATAAN RELIEF

A National Organization

Dedicated to American heroes who fought, bled, were surrendered or died
in the service of the Nation in the war with Japan.

PRESIDENT

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181 NATIONAL BANK BLDG.,
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

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2331 EDWIN
DETROIT 12, MICH.

6TH DISTRICT

A. B. CROSS
P. O. BOX 5
EATONTOWN, N. J.

7TH DISTRICT

MRS. J. A. ELLERD, JR.
827 NORTH STATE
JACKSON 6, MISS.

ability in the handling of this matter of war prisoners. One expects the War Department to write these thousands off, but the State Department has a definite responsibility of protection - which it has failed to accomplish.

It would ease the minds of many thousands, if we could feel there is vigorous action, if not down one alley, they another.

Ransoming these forsaken men, demanding Russia's intervention for exchange, changing our "protecting power" - anything but excuses and "futile" explanations.

We feel now that even this Swiss "viewing" the camps has resulted from strong Japanese representations on behalf of their own nationals recently arrived here.

May We be Worthy of Our Heroes!
Yours sincerely, A. B. Cross



ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

23 July 1945



RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

AM 8 37

Special Problems Division
Department of State
501 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The Provost Marshal General has directed me to reply to your note dated 19 July 1945, File Reference SWP 711.-9411A/7-545, inclosing a copy of a letter from the International Red Cross Delegate in Washington, addressed to Mr. Edwin A. Plitt, Chief, Special War Problems Division.

There is no objection on the part of The Provost Marshal General with regard to authorizing the Federal Communications Commission to transmit to the International Red Cross Delegate in Washington, the names, identification number and units of Allied prisoners of war captured by the Japanese Army and received in the United States via shortwave radio.

It should be noted that shortwave radio messages intercepted from Japan in ninety-nine per cent of all cases are from United States personnel previously reported as prisoners of war. It should further be noted that the names via shortwave radio are frequently garbled and can only be definitely identified by consulting War Department records.

Sincerely yours,

Howard F. Bresee

HOWARD F. BRESEE
Colonel, CMP
Director, American Prisoner
of War Information Bureau
Provost Marshal General's Office.

NOT RECORDED
fmb
KCH

SEP 21 1945

RECORDED

CS/D

711.94114A/7-2345

711.94114A/7-2345

July 23, 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
let. to Wolverton
8/10/45 SWP:ESS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SWP

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 26 AM 10

DC/R
RECORDS BRANCH

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON
JUL 27 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Secretary
Dear Sir

As a sister of one of the men
imprisoned by the Japanese for
over 3 years, I am more than
interested in any plausible
way they can be freed from the
Japs.

I have read and heard
of the possibilities of ransoming
them, or of Russia helping
some way.

It seems to me something
definite could be tried along
these lines and done so immediately

7-1194114A/7-2345

7-1194114A/7-2345

AUG 17 1945

ately.

They have suffered long enough and it's about time something was done for them - instead of the bungling and meandering that was "accomplished" in the past 3 years by the impractical, idealistic past administration.

Remember we are counting on you to steer us back in to a decent common sense statesmanship that befits our great Country.

Very truly yours.

Mrs. Arnold Wolveston

AUG 13 1945

In reply refer to
SWP

My dear Mrs. Wolverton:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 23, 1945 concerning the situation of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese.

The Japanese Government has consistently rejected proposals to repatriate even the seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war which it is obligated to do under the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention which it has agreed to apply. It is not likely, therefore, that the Japanese Government would consent to the transfer to a neutral country of able-bodied American prisoners of war or to their repatriation even though money were offered for their return.

I am enclosing for your information a recent statement issued by the Department concerning the treatment and repatriation of American nationals in Japanese custody which surveys in detail the problems concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war from the Far East. This statement will indicate to you the unceasing efforts made by this Government to effect the return to the United States of military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands and to provide for the relief of Americans in Japanese custody.

The United States Government has not forgotten the sacrifices which men such as your brother have made and the suffering which they have undergone as prisoners of

war.

Mrs. Arnold Wolverton,
Box 44,
Prairie Creek, Indiana.

DCR - JFC Unit	
And	<i>Dorothea M. ...</i>
Rev.	.....
Pat.	.....
Dist.	.....

7101. 711. 9411400/7-2345

-2-

war. You may rest assured that this Government will not abate its efforts in their behalf no matter how discouraging the circumstances may appear.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

~~Statement~~

CR *[initials]*
AUG 13 1945

[initials]
SWP:EJS

8/10/45

[initials]

SWP

AUG 7 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-2345

The Acting Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and transmits for the attention of the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service a copy of a letter dated July 5, 1945, addressed to Mr. Edwin A. Plitt, Chief, Special War Problems Division, Department of State, by Mr. Charles Huber, Delegate to the United States of the International Red Cross Committee. Mr. Huber asks if the International Committee of the Red Cross might receive information regarding Allied prisoners of war captured by the Japanese authorities which is received in the United States by radio direct from Japan.

On July 19, 1945, the Department of State took up this matter with the War Department and was informed by Colonel Bresee, Director, American Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, on July 23, that the Provost Marshal General had no objection to acceding to the request of the International Red Cross Delegate in Washington. A copy of Colonel Bresee's letter is also enclosed.

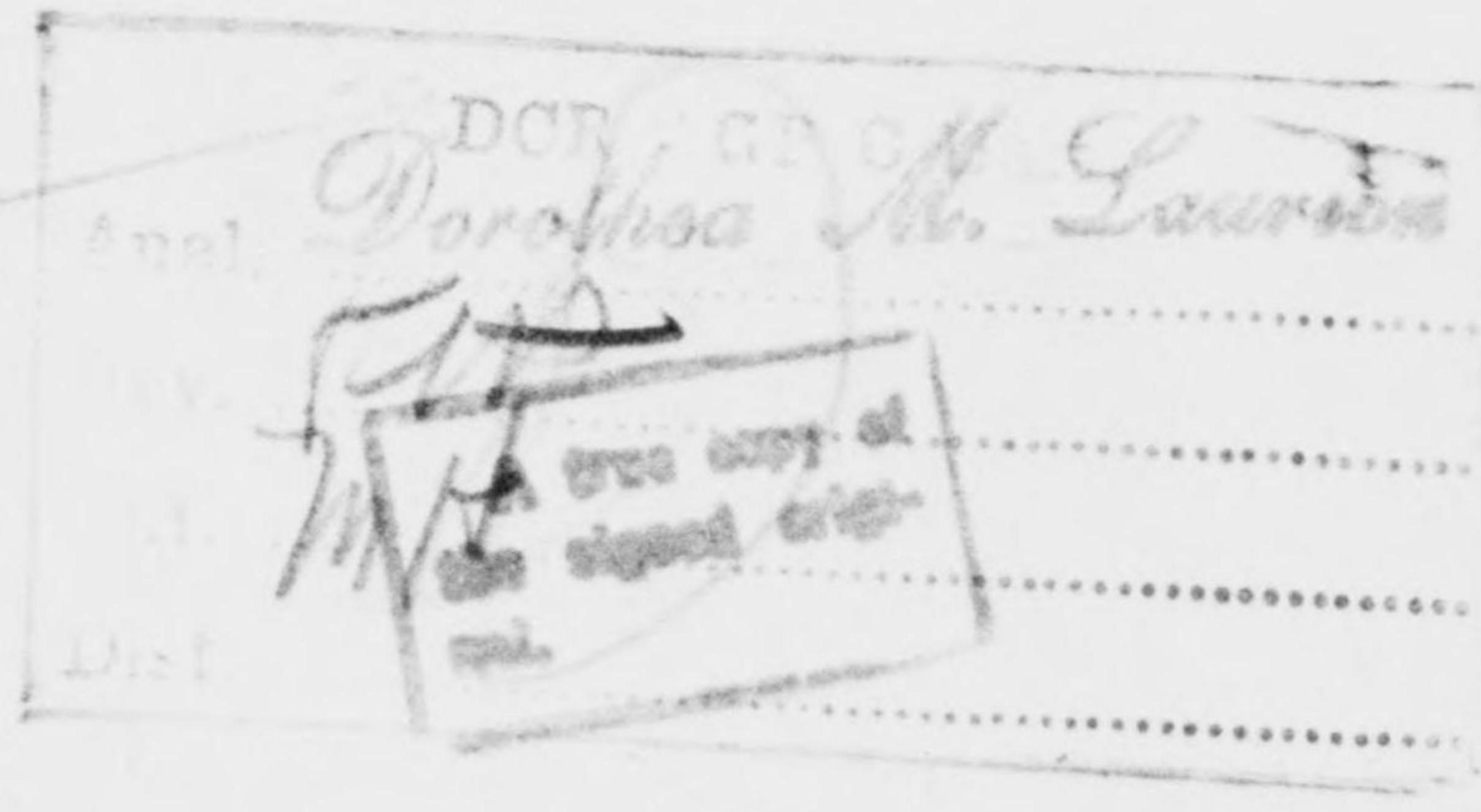
As the Department of State also has no objection to the International Red Cross Delegate in Washington being furnished with such information as is stipulated in Colonel Bresee's letter, it would be appreciated if the Department of State might be informed if it is possible for the Federal Communications Commission to furnish this material direct to the International Red Cross Delegate.

Enclosure:

1. From Mr. Charles Huber, July 5, 1945.
2. From Colonel Howard F. Bresee, July 23, 1945.

CR
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RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 JUL 27 AM 40

~~SECRET~~
DCR

Houston, Texas, July 23, 1945.

REF ID: A66583 BRANCH

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
8/4/45 DIVISION
Special letter to Mrs. Cleveland
JUL 28 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I see by the papers that your department has made arrangements with the Swiss Government to visit and report on Jap prison camps.

My son, Lt.(jg) Allen Rhea Cleveland, USNR, has been listed as missing since as of August 9th, 1942. He was an officer in the USS JARVIS, and was in action off Guadalcanal Aug. 7-8, 1942. The ship was damaged by enemy torpedo, and was ordered to report to repair base. It failed to arrive at the repair base, and the Navy Department has informed that it does not know what happened to the ship, or it's personnel. However, by order of the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, the men were placed in missing-in-action status, and they have remained so ever since.

My wife and I have hoped that our son might be a prisoner of the Japs, and that he would eventually be allowed to communicate with us.

Will you please forward the name of our son to the Swiss authorities, and if possible, try and have them endeavor to find him for us.

711.94114A/7-2345

DCR GP-C Unit
Dorothea M. Laurion
Anal. _____
Rev. _____
Cat. _____
Dist. _____

Yours faithfully,

Geo. W. Cleveland, Jr.
Geo. W. Cleveland, Jr.,
1407 Marshall Ave.,
Houston, Texas.

AUG 9 1945

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7-2345

DSL-2
(6-4-45)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SPEEDLETTER

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-2345

Date: **August 4, 1945.**

This form of communication is used in the interest of speed and economy. If a reply is necessary, address the Department of State, attention of the Division mentioned below.

SPEEDLETTER

To: **Mr. George W. Cleveland, Jr.,
1407 Marshall Avenue,
Houston, Texas.**

AUG 7 1945

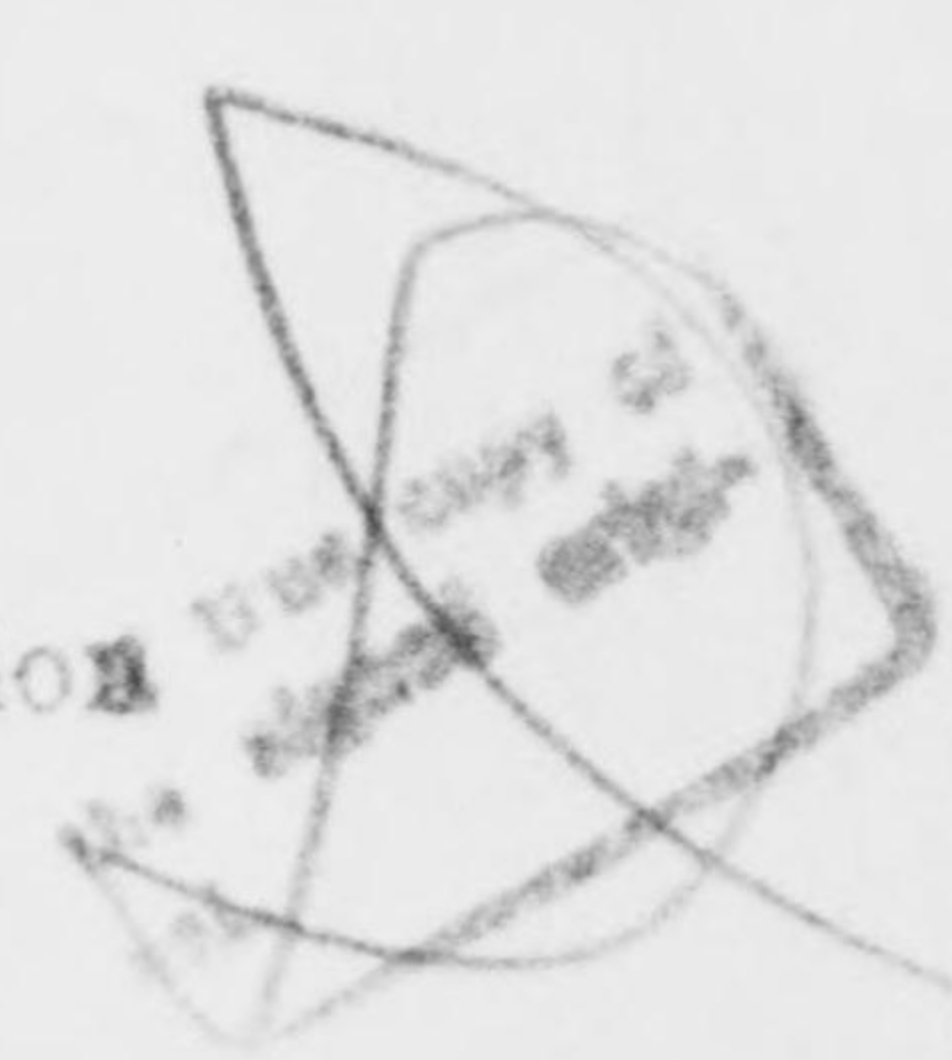
SWP 711.94114A/7-2345

GPO 16-44742-1

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 23, 1945, concerning your son Lieutenant Allen Rhea Cleveland who has been listed as missing in action as of August 9, 1942. You ask that the name of your son be sent to the Swiss authorities and that they be asked to endeavor to ascertain his whereabouts.

The Japanese Government has agreed to apply Article 77 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 which provides that the names of prisoners of war shall be reported to the country in whose armed forces they served prior to capture. In accordance with this provision the Japanese Government has since early in the war been reporting the names of American prisoners of war in its hands. These reports are received by the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D.C. The Japanese authorities have not reported the names of all prisoners of war in their hands and in many cases the reporting of names has been greatly delayed. The Swiss Government continues to press the Japanese Government for information regarding all American prisoners of war in Japanese hands. You may be sure that if information regarding your son is received you will be promptly informed.

DCR - GP-C UR	
Anal. <i>[Signature]</i>	E. Tomlin Bailey
Rev. <i>[Signature]</i>	Assistant Chief
Dist.	Special War Problems Division



SWP:CMarcy:lmv

8/4/45

DSL-2
(6-4-45)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SPEEDLETTER

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-2345

Date: **July 27, 1945**

This form of communication is used in the interest of speed and economy. If a reply is necessary, address the Department of State, attention of the Division mentioned below.

SPEEDLETTER

To: **Mrs. Chester R. Scott,
President, Mothers' Service
Club,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.**

GPO 16-44742-1

The receipt is acknowledged of your telegram of July 23, 1945, in which you indicate that the Mothers' Service Club fully endorsed the plan by Dr. V.H. Spensley for the exchange and internment of American prisoners held in Japanese custody.

The Soviet Government has indicated that it would be willing to assist us in any move to have our prisoners of war interned in Siberia rather than held in dangerous areas in Japan and Manchuria. The Japanese Government, however, has consistently rejected proposals of this nature. The Japanese Government has also refused to repatriate even seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war in accordance with its international obligations and it is not likely therefore that it would consent to the release of able-bodied American prisoners even though money were offered for their release.

You may rest assured that this Government will do everything possible for the protection of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese and will not abate its efforts in any particular no matter how discouraging the circumstances may appear.

Anal.	<i>fmh</i>
Rev.	<i>lab</i>
Cat.	<i>CM</i>
Dist.	<i>SWP:G.Marey:lmv</i>

E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

A true copy of the signed original

7/27/45

SWP 711.94114A/7-2345

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECORDED - BRANDED
JUL 24 1945

UNDER SECRETARY
JUL 24 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

6WU J NL Pd

Albuquerque NMex July 23 1945

Hon. Joseph C. Grew

Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, D.C.

Organization of 200 mothers fully indorse plan of Dr V. H. Spensley for exchange and internment of American prisoners of Japanese Government.

Mrs Chester R. Scott, President of Mothers Service Club.

1220AM July 24

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION

JUL 25 1945

Spudletote Mrs Scott

STP

DCR

July 24

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