

-8-

giving the full name of the prisoner of war or civilian internee concerned.

Prisoner 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.

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

RELIEF SUPPLIES

Summary: The Government of the United States in cooperation with the American Red Cross, has endeavored constantly since early 1942 to devise ways and means of shipping relief supplies to American prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East. In spite of the unwillingness of the Japanese Government fully to cooperate some success has been met in these endeavors. 279 tons of relief supplies were shipped on the first exchange vessel in 1942 and these supplies, according to information subsequently received, were distributed in the latter part of that year. A further 1,600 tons of relief supplies were shipped on the second exchange vessel in 1943 and reports indicate that they were distributed in due course. After long and complicated negotiations it was finally possible at the end of 1944 to forward to Japan approximately 2,000 tons of relief supplies from an accumulated stock pile in Siberia for distribution to Allied prisoners of war and civilian internees throughout the Far East. Efforts are continuing to arrange further shipments of such supplies. A detailed statement of the progress of the relief program in the Far East is given below:

Shipment of relief supplies to the Far East

Early in 1942 the American Red Cross in conjunction with the interested agencies of the American 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 American and other Allied prisoners of war and civilians as was suggested by the American Government. Upon the receipt of this Japanese reply, the American 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

-2-

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. 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 take delivery of 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 would be discharged. This proposal was rejected by the Japanese. Numerous proposals were considered and abandoned as impracticable or because of insurmountable obstacles.

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 under Japanese control 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 then ensued 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. While these negotiations were in progress it became possible, with the Soviet Government's cooperation, to create a stockpile of prisoner of war relief supplies on Soviet territory. Moreover, the Soviet Government gave assurance that it would 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 was reached between the Japanese and American Governments. The American Government made repeated efforts to bring this matter to a conclusion. The Soviet Government cooperated 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

-3-

shipped as far as Vladivostok and to permit a Japanese ship to enter 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 subsequent 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 which these conditions were conveyed, agreed generally to meet the additional conditions and so informed the Japanese Government. The American Government, through the Swiss Government, informed the Japanese Government of its willingness to meet the conditions requiring the assent of the American Government only.

The Japanese ship was accorded safe conduct by the Soviet Government within Soviet waters and by the Allied military authorities outside these waters. The American Government agreed to pay all costs connected with the transportation of these supplies to Japan (although reimbursement will be made by the other participating Allied Governments on the basis of the numbers of their nationals who benefit from these supplies). The American Government also 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 from Japan for Japanese nationals in custody in the United States and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. The Japanese vessel Hakusan Maru arrived at Nahodka, Siberia, on November 5, 1944, where it discharged approximately nine tons of books for Japanese nationals in Allied custody and took on approximately 2,000 tons of relief supplies for Allied nationals in Japanese custody. It then returned to Japan reaching Kobe on November 11, 1944. On the return trip, according to a Japanese statement approximately 150 tons of the cargo were off-loaded at a Korean port for distribution to Allied nationals in Japanese camps in Korea and Manchuria. Approximately 800 tons of these supplies were earmarked for camps located in Japan. The remainder was earmarked for camps in China (including Shanghai and Hong Kong) Formosa, Indo China, Thailand, Malaya, and the Netherlands East Indies. Delivery of these supplies was made in two Japanese ships to which the Allied Governments gave safe conduct. Further negotiations were begun immediately upon the departure of the Hakusan Maru with a view to arranging for additional shipments of relief supplies to the Far East as frequently and in the greatest volume possible.

While

- 4 -

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, Portuguese India, 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 forwarding by the route via Tehran, Iran (Persia) small packets containing concentrated vitamins and medicines of a sort which are thought to be scarce in the Far East.

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 above 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.

*Memo
12/24/29*

cm

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U. S. A.
WASHINGTON -25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SPECIAL MAIL DELIVERY
AUG 11 1949
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mrs. Paul Outright,

5507 Crowson Street,

Atlantic City, New Jersey.

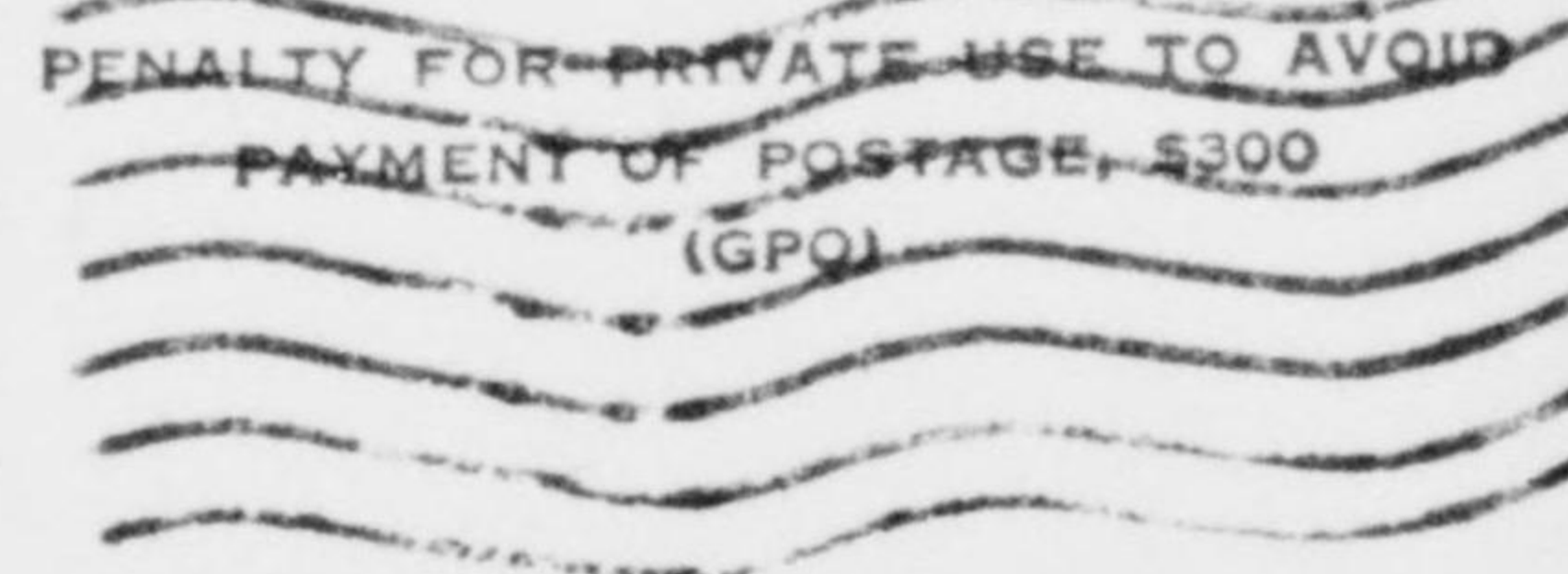
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1949

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE-500
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SMP

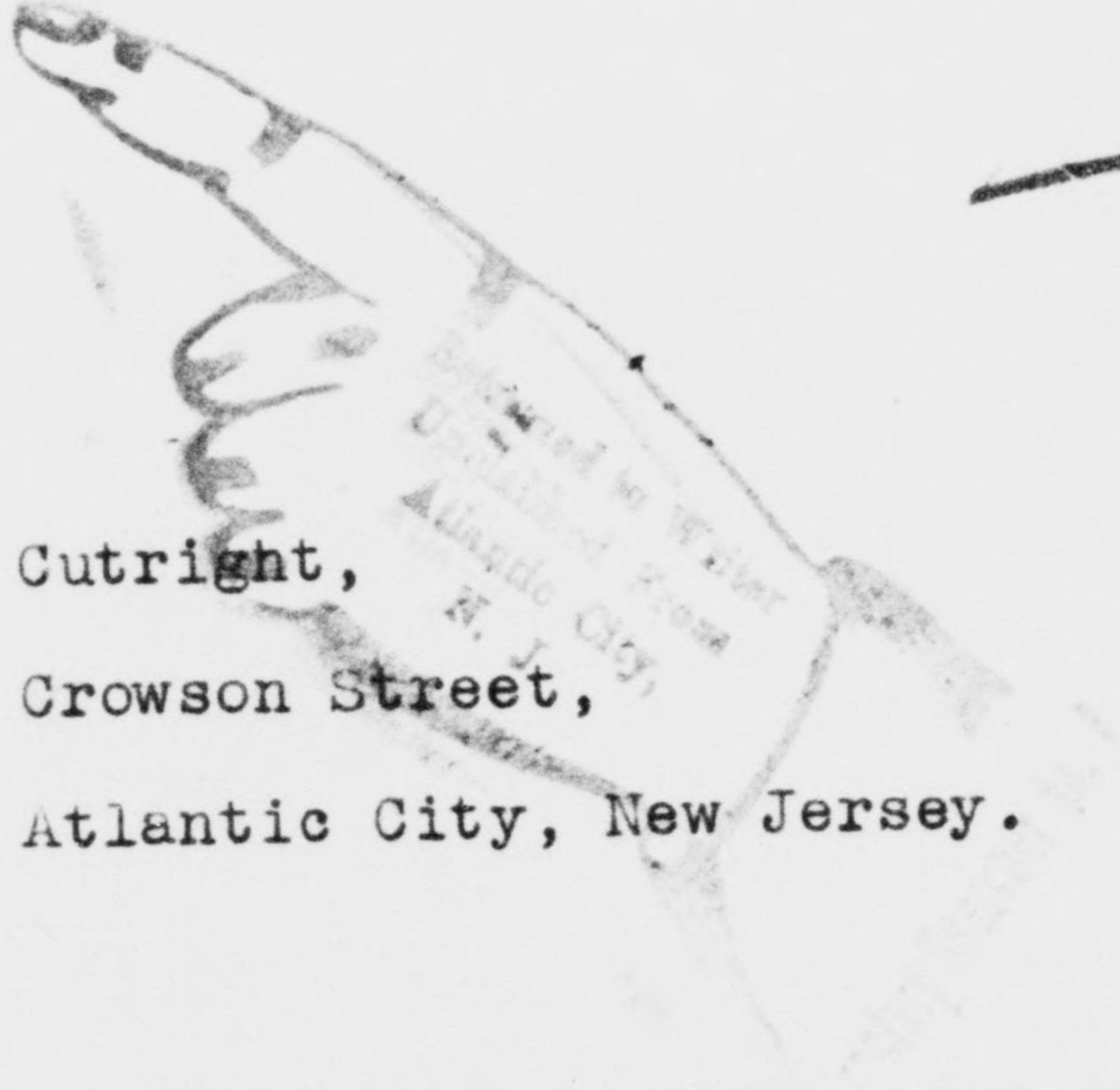
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POSTAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U. S. A.
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
AUG 11 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
File



Mrs. Paul Cutright,
5507 Crowson Street,
Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Handwritten: SWP

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
SERVICES

The Atlantic House
Washington

JUL 31 12 00 AM 1945

WB3 NL PD

ATLANTIC CITY NJER JUL 30 1945

HARRY S TRUMAN

PRESIDENT WASHDC

PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO GET OUR POW OUT OF JAPAN BEFORE
IT IS TOO LATE THEY ARE STARVING TO DEATH TIME IS THE
ESSENCE

MRS PAUL CUTRIGHT 5507 CROWSON ST.

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|-----------------|------------|
| DOR - GP-G Unit | |
| Anal. | <i>for</i> |
| Rev. | |
| Cat. | <i>BF</i> |
| Dist. | |

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON
AUG 1 - 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
Sub. to Cutright
8/7/45 SWP: E
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

State file

711.941140/7-3045

COPY 41140/7-3045

AUG 1 4 1945

In reply refer to
SWP

AUG 11 1945

My dear Mrs. Cutright:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your telegram of July 30, 1945 concerning the situation 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 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 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 Prisoners of War Convention which it has agreed to apply.

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

FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mrs. Paul Cutright,
5507 Crowson Street,
Atlantic City, New Jersey.

| | | |
|-------|--------------|----------|
| PER | GP-G | conclude |
| Ans: | <i>Frank</i> | |
| Rev: | <i>F. C.</i> | |
| Cal: | <i>BT</i> | |
| Dist: | | |

~~CR~~
11 1945

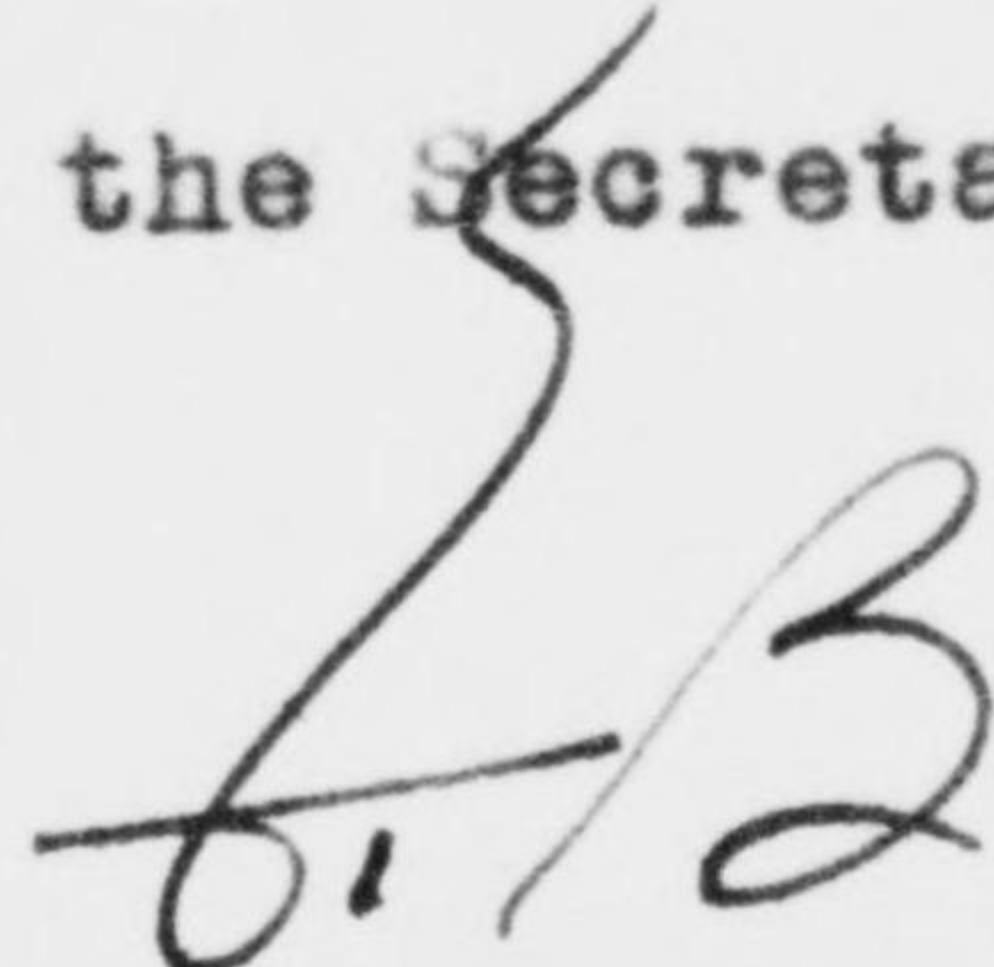
-2-

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.

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 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 Secretary of State:



E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

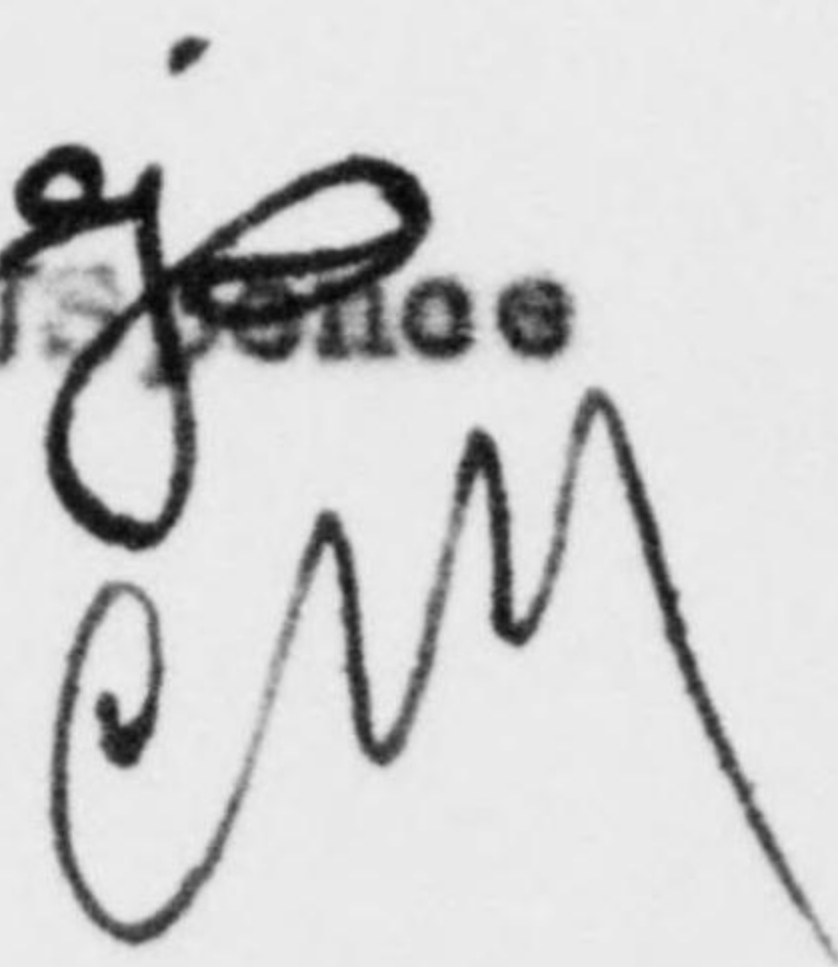
Enclosure:

Statement regarding ✓
Treatment, Repatriation
and Relief Supplies.

SWP: EJS *gjs*

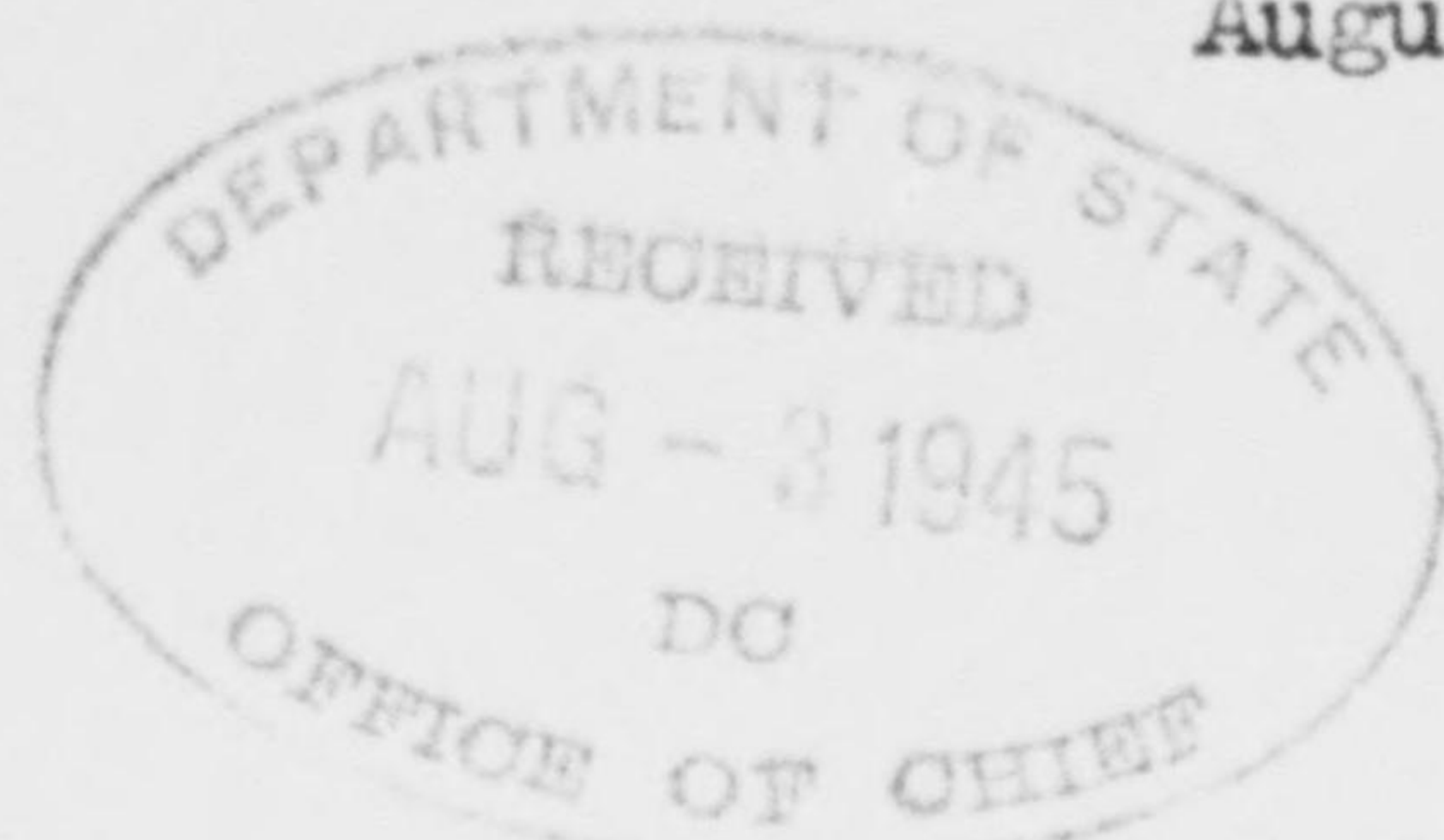
8/9/45

710
AUG 11 1945



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 2, 1945



Respectfully referred to the
Acting Secretary of State for atten-
tion and appropriate acknowledgment.

In the absence of the President.

M. C. LATTA
Executive Clerk



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

TELEPHONE 5394
ALBUQUERQUE

new Mexico

3m

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OFFICE OF THE
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

July 30, 1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
AUG - 3 1945
DG
OFFICE OF CHIEF

SPECIAL WAR
DIVISION
AUG 3 - 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

8/17 file

Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

Attached hereto is a copy of a resolution passed at
our American Legion Convention, Department of New Mexico,
for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

Chas. H. Restow
Chas. H. Restow
Department Adjutant
and Service Officer

711.94114A/7-3045

CHR/ls

REC'D SP-6 UNIT
July
AVB

AUG 20 1945

OS/MA

711.94114

RESOLUTION

Passed by

26TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

THE AMERICAN LEGION - DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS, It is the privilege and purpose of The American Legion to extend unqualified support to our brothers-in-arms in adversity as well as under more favorable conditions, and

WHEREAS, It is well known that, since the fall of Bataan, many Americans have been forced to merely exist under the worst conditions imaginable in the Japanese prison camps, and

WHEREAS, There are included among those Americans a larger proportion from our own State of New Mexico than any other state in the Union, who served under the banners of the 200th and 515th Regiments of Coast Artillery, as well as in other military, naval, and marine units, and

WHEREAS, We have it on the best authority, that the 200th Regiment never did surrender to the enemy, but, rather, it was surrendered, and

WHEREAS, It is well known that the seldom equaled and never surpassed bravery, fortitude, and grim determination of our gallant men and their comrades have brought great honor and glory to America, and

WHEREAS, Circumstances are now such as to provide a possibility of securing the release of those gallant Americans either by exchange or ransom, said ransom to be in a form which will not promote or prolong the Japanese war effort, and

WHEREAS, The United States Government now has in its custody certain Japanese officials who might be exchanged for some or all American prisoners of war now held by the Japanese, and

WHEREAS, The Hon. Harry S. Truman, President of the United States, is now in conference with other allied leaders, including Premier Joseph Stalin of Russia, and

WHEREAS, The interest and influence of the Russian Government might very well prove to be the deciding factor in securing the release of those long-suffering Americans, either to American authorities or for internment in neutral territory for the duration, and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this duly authorized representative group of The American Legion that any exchange of our men be carried out on a truly American and democratic basis, taking into consideration the needs of all Americans, regardless of rank, who are now incarcerated by the Japanese,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That we, the duly authorized representatives of the various Posts of The American Legion, comprising the New Mexico Department of The American Legion, in session assembled at the 1945 Convention of the New Mexico Department of The American Legion, do hereby petition the Hon. Harry S. Truman, President of the United States, the State, War, and Navy Departments of the United States Government, that every avenue leading to the release of American prisoners of war, held by the Japanese, be thoroughly explored, including the securing of co-operation of the government of our great ally, Russia, and that no means which might have even the most remote possibility of success in this undertaking be neglected, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President of the United States, and all officials of the United States Government, whose duty it is to arrange for the exchange of the prisoners of war be hereby petitioned, in case anything less than exchange or release of the entire number of Americans held as prisoners by the Japanese, that the selection of the Americans to be exchanged be based entirely on the physical needs of the individual, without reference to rank, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the State, War, and Naval Departments,

#2

requesting that the substance of this resolution be immediately transmitted to the President in Berlin, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Senators Carl A. Hatch and Dennis Chavez, and Congressman Antonio M. Fernandez, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes and made a part of the proceedings of this Convention.

George Biefer

George Biefer
Department Commander

Attest:

Chas. H. Restow

Chas. H. Restow
Department Adjutant

*Copy sent and
inserted
5/2/50*



THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

TELEPHONE 5394

ALBUQUERQUE

OFFICE OF THE
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

July 30, 1945

SWP
8/17
file
cm

Noted see Ford

711.94114A/7-3045
To P. ... SWP

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
AUG 13 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. James Burns
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Burns,

Attached hereto is a copy of a resolution passed at
our American Legion Convention, Department of New Mexico,
for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

Chas. H. Restow
Chas. H. Restow
Department Adjutant
and Service Officer

Routing slip with fields for 'To', 'Rev.', 'Cob.', and 'Dist.'. The 'To' field contains a signature, and the 'Rev.' field contains the initials 'AB'.

CHR/lis

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON
AUG 3 - 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 21 1945

711.94114A/7-3045

CS/LE 711.94114A/7-3045

RESOLUTION

Passed at

26TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

THE AMERICAN LEGION - DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS, It is the privilege and purpose of The American Legion to extend unqualified support to our brothers-in-arms in adversity as well as under more favorable conditions, and

WHEREAS, It is well known that, since the fall of Bataan, many Americans have been forced to merely exist under the worst conditions imaginable in the Japanese prison camps, and

WHEREAS, There are included among those Americans a larger proportion from our own State of New Mexico than any other state in the Union, who served under the banners of the 200th and 515th Regiments of Coast Artillery, as well as in other military, naval, and marine units, and

WHEREAS, We have it on the best authority, that the 200th Regiment never did surrender to the enemy, but, rather, it was surrendered, and

WHEREAS, It is well known that the seldom equaled and never surpassed bravery, fortitude, and grim determination of our gallant men and their comrades have brought great honor and glory to America, and

WHEREAS, Circumstances are now such as to provide a possibility of securing the release of those gallant Americans either by exchange or ransom, said ransom to be in a form which will not promote or prolong the Japanese war effort, and

WHEREAS, The United States Government now has in its custody certain Japanese officials who might be exchanged for some or all American prisoners of war now held by the Japanese, and

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WHEREAS, The interest and influence of the Russian Government might very well prove to be the deciding factor in securing the release of those long-suffering Americans, either to American authorities or for internment in neutral territory for the duration, and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this duly authorized representative group of The American Legion that any exchange of our men be carried out on a truly American and democratic basis, taking into consideration the needs of all Americans, regardless of rank, who are now incarcerated by the Japanese,

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President of the United States, and all officials of the United States Government, whose duty it is to arrange for the exchange of the prisoners of war be hereby petitioned, in case anything less than exchange or release of the entire number of Americans held as prisoners by the Japanese, that the selection of the Americans to be exchanged be based entirely on the physical needs of the individual, without reference to rank, and

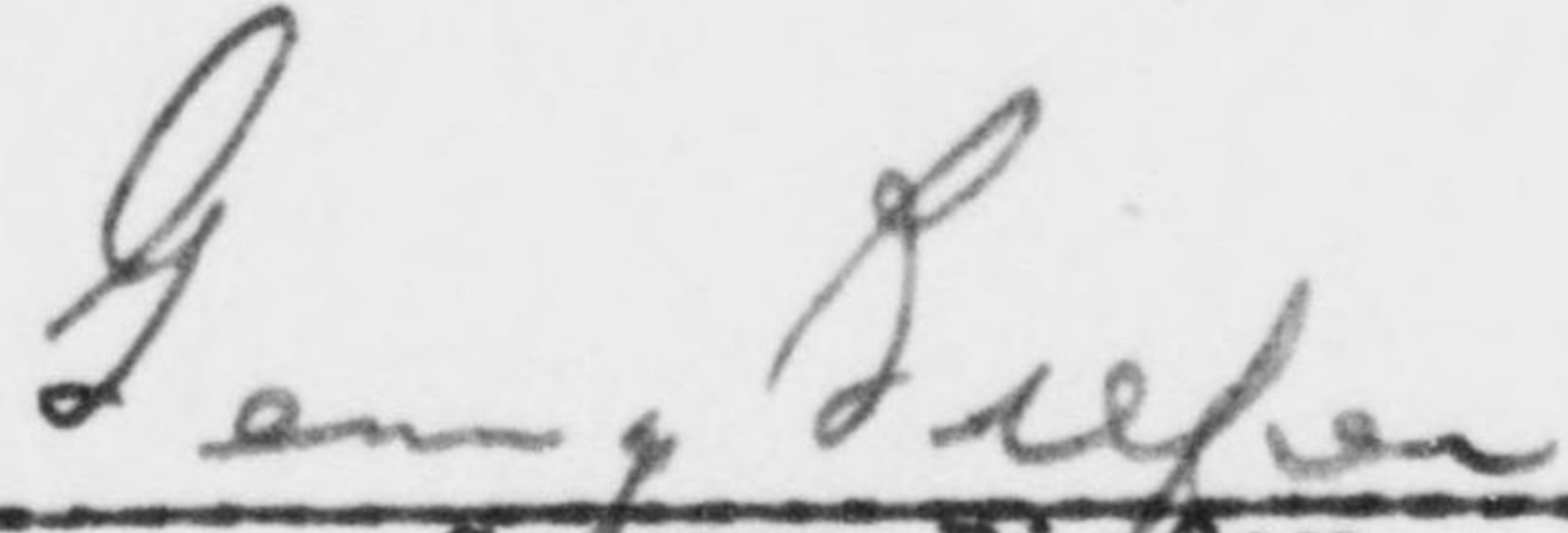
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#2

requesting that the substance of this resolution be immediately transmitted to the President in Berlin, and

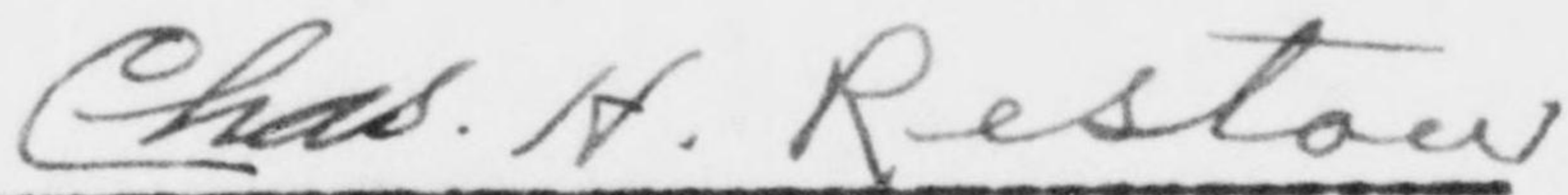
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes and made a part of the proceedings of this Convention.



George Bisler
Department Commander

Attest:



Chas. H. Restow
Department Adjutant

501

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

TELEPHONE

DATE: July 31, 1945

SUBJECT: Japanese broadcasts of American casualties sustained during air raids.

PARTICIPANTS: Major Lincoln, Prisoner of War Information Bureau; Miss Dreppard, Special War Problems Division.

COPIES TO:

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
File
HP
OCT 1 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/7-3145

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Miss Dreppard returned a telephone call from Major Lincoln and was informed by him that a Japanese broadcast had now been received which reported the names of thirteen Americans killed and one wounded in the Kawasaki air raid of July 25.

Miss Dreppard informed Major Lincoln that she had now received a copy of a Singapore broadcast which reported that casualties, mostly British, were sustained at a Hong Kong internment camp on July 25 and a copy of a Tokyo broadcast which reported the deaths of ~~three~~ ^{two} Americans from injuries sustained during an air raid on June 5, 1945, and the names of two who were injured. Major Lincoln stated that from PWIB records it was known the men in this raid were at Osaka. During the course of the conversation, it materialized that the broadcasts furnished by FCC to the PWIB were incomplete. Major Lincoln stated that he would contact FCC in this respect.

Miss Dreppard inquired of Major Lincoln as to what information should be requested of the Swiss regarding air raid casualties. Major Lincoln stated

that

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Anal *[Signature]*
Rev. *[Signature]*
Cat. *[Signature]*
Dist. *[Signature]*

OCT 4 - 1945

711.94114A/7-3145

-2-

that the Japanese authorities should be pressed to report officially information regarding casualties reported in broadcasts. He stated that exact information was desired concerning Seaman Second Class Wallace who sustained injuries at Osaka in the June 5 raid, since PWIB had an Albert Victor Wallace, Machinist Mate Third Class, and a Richard D. Wallace, Pharmacist Mate Second Class listed in its records.

Miss Dreppard suggested to Major Lincoln that it might be advisable to instruct the Swiss to report by telegraph all information concerning casualties sustained in air raids as an exception to the instructions recently issued that it would no longer be necessary for the Legation at Tokyo to report by telegraph lists furnished to it by the Japanese authorities. Major Lincoln concurred with this point of view.

On August 1, Miss Dreppard telephoned Major Lincoln again and informed him that after looking over the Department's instruction to Bern requesting the Swiss to discontinue telegraphic transmission of lists furnished by the Japanese authorities that confusion might result if exception was made to these general instructions by asking the Swiss to report by telegraph the names of American wounded and killed in air raids. Miss Dreppard asked Major Lincoln if it would be satisfactory, therefore, to request the Swiss to press Japanese authorities to report officially full information regarding air raid victims rather than make exceptions to the Department's general instruction to Bern regarding the discontinuance of telegraphic transmission of lists. Major Lincoln said that this would be satisfactory and pointed out that the War Department wanted primarily to be in a position to inform inquirers that the State Department had pressed for full information regarding air raid victims.

SWP
SWP:HDreppard:ATS

*This will
come by telegraph
from Legation, Tokyo
to Geneva & Chengde
PWIB can*

~~SECRET~~

DC/A

ELMER THOMAS, OKLA., CHAIRMAN
 BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT.
 JOHN H. BANKHEAD, ALA.
 THEODORE G. BILBO, MISS.
 ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.
 SCOTT W. LUCAS, ILL.
 TOM STEWART, TENN.
 RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.
 TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
 SHERIDAN DOWNEY, CALIF.
 CLYDE R. HOEY, N. C.

ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
 HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.
 RAYMOND E. WILLIS, IND.
 GEORGE D. AIKEN, VT.
 HARLAN J. BUSHFIELD, S. DAK.
 GEORGE A. WILSON, IOWA
 HUGH BUTLER, NEBR.
 GUY CORDON, OREG.
 MILTON R. YOUNG, N. DAK.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

M. E. POOL, CLERK
JOYCETTE JONES, ASST. CLERK

July 31, 1945

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary wishes to acknowledge receipt of this communication immediately if this communication cannot be handled in three days.

8/10/45
 SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
 AUG 6 - 1945
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Honorable Joseph C. Grew
Acting Secretary
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Grew:

Enclosed is a self-explanatory letter from Mr. A. Sidney Nunez of New Orleans, with newspaper clipping attached, concerning the possibility of an exchange of American officers, who are prisoners of the Japanese, for Japanese diplomats taken into United States custody in Germany.

You will note Mr. Nunez is particularly interested in obtaining the release of his nephew, Colonel Nunez C. Pilet, who became a prisoner of the Japanese on Corregidor.

The benefit of your advice in replying to Mr. Nunez will be appreciated.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely,

711.94114A/7-3145

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 AUG 4 PM 12 04

DC/R
RECORDS BRANCH
AJE:ST
enclosure

DCR - GP-C Unit

Anal. *[Signature]*

Rev. *[Signature]*

Ent. _____

Dist. _____

AUG 17 1945

711.94114A/7-3145

Oshima Will Urge Surrender, Jap Diplomatic Prisoners Say

SALZBURG, Austria, (AP)—U. S. infantrymen guarding 100 Japanese diplomatic personnel today quoted their prisoners as saying that they understood Lt. Gen. Hiroshi Oshima, Japanese ambassador to Berlin, would urge his government to comply immediately with the Allied demand for unconstitutional surrender.

The American soldiers were able to have frequent talks with the Japanese, who were taken into custody early in May by the U. S. Third Infantry Division.

The Japanese were scheduled to leave Austria by plane today for Le Havre, where they will board a vessel for the United States Thursday. An advance contingent of 33 top-ranking members of the Japanese diplomatic staff in Berlin sailed earlier this month and now is in the United States.

Third Army headquarters said the second party included the remainder of the staff and wives and children. The Japanese have been quartered in the luxurious Astoria Hotel in Badgastein.

Although no more American diplomatic personnel remain in Japanese hands, it was believed that the U. S. State department might be attempting to exchange Oshima and others for Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright and other high ranking Americans held by the Japanese.

A. SIDNEY NUNEZ
804-06 UNION STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

aimed
July 30, 1945

Senator Allen J. Ellender
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I am enclosing newspaper clipping in which it is stated there is a possibility that Japanese diplomats, who were in Germany and now in United States custody, may be exchanged for American officers who are prisoners of the Japanese.

I was wondering if there are any merits to these reports, being particularly interested in Colonel Nunez C. Pilet, my nephew, who was a member of General MacArthur's staff and now a prisoner of the Japanese. He was one of the three officers who negotiated the surrender of Corregidor, the other two being General Wainwright and a Colonel named Galbraith.

The last we heard of Pilet was a letter dated March, 1944 at which time he and General Wainwright were stationed at Taiwan in Formosa Island. They have since been moved to Manchuria, according to unconfirmed reports.

His aged mother, who is my sister, and his wife are, of course, hoping he may be among those to receive consideration on the part of our Government, in the event such an exchange takes place.

Would it be possible for you to ascertain the present status of General Wainwright, Pilet and the other officers who are prisoners of the Japanese?

Trusting that you and Mrs. Ellender are enjoying good health, and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Sidney
A. S. NUNEZ

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In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/7-3145

AUG 13 1945

My dear Senator Ellender:

I have received your letter of July 31, 1945 enclosing a letter dated July 30, 1945 from Mr. A. S. Nunez wherein he requests information concerning the possibility of an exchange of Americans who are presently interned by the Japanese for Japanese officials who have recently been taken prisoner by the American military authorities in Europe. Mr. Nunez makes specific reference to the possible inclusion in any future exchange of his nephew, Colonel Nunez C. Pilet.

I can assure you that the Department has the greatest sympathy for those whose loved ones are 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 who are 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.

There is no truth in the report that the Japanese officials captured in Germany are to be exchanged for General Wainwright to the exclusion of any other Americans. It is hoped, however, that the presence in American hands of these officials may be helpful to us

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The Honorable
Allen J. Ellender,
United States Senate.

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in our efforts to bring about further 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. 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.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Byrnes

Enclosure:

Statement.

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AUG 11 1945

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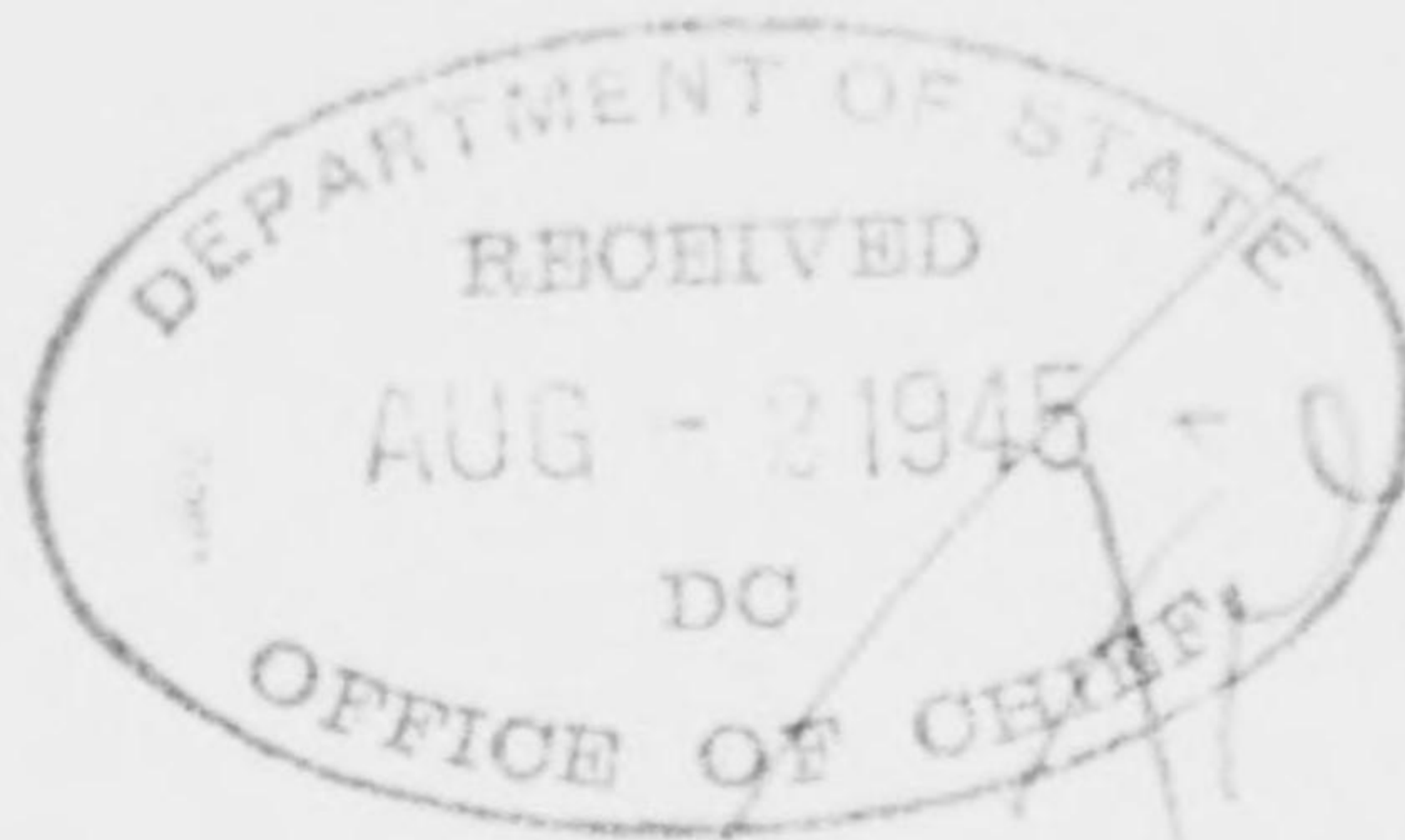
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

JULY 31, 1945
No. 577



CONFIDENTIAL RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1945, WHICH DO NOT APPEAR ON THE STREETS BEFORE 8:00 P.M., E.W.T., TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1945. NOT TO BE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED, QUOTED FROM OR USED IN ANY WAY.

The persistent and methodical practice of the Japanese Government in locating prisoner of war and civilian internment camps in areas subject to aerial bombardment has long been a matter of grave concern to the United States Government. The location of prisoners where they might be exposed to the fire of the combat zone or their use to give protection to certain points or certain regions are violations of Articles 7 and 9 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention which the Japanese Government, although not a party to the Convention, agreed to apply to prisoners of war and civilian internees in its custody.

Cognizant of the dangers to which American prisoners of war and civilian internees were exposed when the camps in which they were held were situated in areas subject to bombardment, the United States Government in September 1944 protested to the Japanese Government against its practice of locating camps in the vicinity of known military objectives, subject to bombardment. With subsequent reports received by this Government indicating that more and more camps were being placed in bombardment areas the Department's protests through the protecting Power, the Swiss Government, became increasingly frequent. The replies received from the Japanese Government to these protests have been evasive.

In March 1945, the United States Government informed the Japanese Government that it was forced to draw the conclusion from the continued practice of the Japanese Government in locating prisoner of war camps in close proximity to docks, warehouses, war factories, railroad yards, and other military objectives, that the Japanese Government was carrying out a deliberate policy of attempting to render certain points or areas immune from bombardment by the presence of prisoners of war in such areas. The United States Government pointed out to the Japanese Government its obligations under Articles 7 and 9 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention and informed the Japanese Government that this Government considered that the Japanese Government had obligated itself under these provisions of the convention to remove American nationals from camps in areas subject to bombardment to areas of safety.

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In May 1945, following reports that certain prisoner of war camps in Japan proper were located in bombardment areas the Swiss Legation at Tokyo was requested to demand the immediate removal of these camps to zones of safety if the camps concerned had not already been moved to other areas. At the same time, additional demands were made that the Japanese Government furnish a report regarding the transfers of camps and the new locations. The United States Government warned the Japanese Government that its failure to remove these camps from danger zones would meet with the most serious consequences.

Later in May when it was reported to this Government that civilian internees held at the Columbia Country Club and Yu Yuen Road Civilian Assembly Centers at Shanghai had been transferred to the Yangtzepoo industrial area of Shanghai and that plans were under consideration to transfer other civilian internees at Shanghai elsewhere, the United States Government reiterated the position which it had previously taken that it held the Japanese Government responsible for safeguarding the lives of the civilian internees in its custody and warned that no Japanese individual would escape accountability for any responsibility he might bear for the exposing of civilian internees to danger through attempts to render certain points or areas immune from bombardment by their presence.

Also late in May 1945 the Department when apprised of the transfer of the Kiangwan Prisoner of War Camp at Shanghai to Fengtai, requested solemn assurances by the Japanese Government that the camp to which these prisoners were removed was outside the danger zone.

Late in June 1945 the United States Government again strongly protested against the action of the Japanese Government in locating prisoners of war in areas in close proximity to docks, railroad yards and other military objectives and their employment on work having a direct relation with operations of the war. The United States Government again warned the Japanese Government that it would hold the Japanese Government responsible for any failure on its part to protect the lives and health of American nationals in Japanese custody.

In the face of these protests, the United States Government has learned from Tokyo broadcasts since July 26, 1945, which were monitored by the Federal Communications Commission, that a War Prisoners Camp in the city of Kawasaki which is southeast of Tokyo, was hit during the course of aerial bombardment of the Kawasaki area on July 26 and that some casualties, mostly American, resulted. No official confirmation of the casualties mentioned in this Japanese broadcast has yet been received from the protecting Power or through the International Red Cross Committee. The Department of State has requested the verification of this report and the names of any individuals involved. As soon as such information is received the military authorities will promptly inform the next of kin.

The State Department has promptly informed the War Department of the locations of all prisoner of war camps and civilian internment camps whenever the Department has been notified of any changes by either the protecting Power or

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the International Red Cross. In many cases, however, the transfer of persons from one camp to another has been so sudden and the Japanese Government has been so dilatory in reporting such transfers that internment and prisoner of war camps may be moved to a target area before such transfers have been reported to this Government.

The United States military authorities carefully brief American fliers on the locations of all camps known to them to minimize to the greatest possible extent the danger to which Allied nationals in Japanese custody are exposed.

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