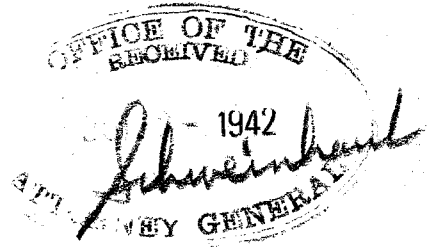




Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
JUL -9 1942



MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: STANLEY CLAUDE SAMUEL JOHNSTON

This memorandum furnishes information requested in a memorandum from Mr. William D. Mitchell to me. Mr. Mitchell desired to be informed as to the repatriation of the Japanese diplomats and other nationals and desired that certain inquiries be made as to what, if any, access they could have had to the newspaper articles which appeared on June 7, 1942.

One thousand sixty-three Japanese diplomats and nationals left the Port of New York City at 11:20 P.M. on June 18, 1942, aboard the S S Gripsholm, a Swedish chartered vessel, en route for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The S S Gripsholm is at the present time on the high seas proceeding from Rio de Janeiro to Port Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa, where it is due to arrive on or about July 22, 1942. It is expected that the exchange of the Japanese and American diplomatic corps will be effected within one day of the arrival. The representative of the United States State Department aboard the S S Gripsholm at the present time is Raymond D. Muir who can always be reached in care of the State Department, Washington, D. C. The Japanese diplomats who were included in the above group prior to their arrival in New York City had been stationed in three localities, Asheville, North Carolina; White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia; and Dragoon, Arizona. There were twenty-three Japanese diplomats at Dragoon, Arizona, and all of this group had formerly been stationed in the Hawaiian Islands. Special Agent Wells Bailey of the State Department accompanied this group when they left Arizona and was with them until their arrival in New York City on June 10, 1942. They were immediately taken to the Pennsylvania Hotel in New York City and were held incommunicado until they were taken aboard the S S Gripsholm on June 13, 1942. Agent Bailey can testify to the fact that they were not allowed to see any newspapers whatsoever during the time they were in Arizona and while they were en route to New York City. Special Agent Frank Madden, State Department, can testify that this group was not allowed access to any newspapers after their arrival in New York City. He can also testify to the fact that this group was placed aboard the S S Gripsholm on June 13, 1942.

A second group of Japanese diplomats, the majority of whom had, prior to the declaration of war, been stationed in South American countries, was located at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina, until June 10, 1942, when they were transported to New York City and immediately upon their arrival there were taken aboard the S S Gripsholm. Special Agent J. Huskey, State Department, can testify to the fact that while held at Asheville, North Carolina, and while en route to New York City, this group was allowed to receive copies of the New York Times newspaper and was not furnished copies of any other newspapers.



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The largest group of Japanese diplomats was held at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, until they were placed on two trains to be transported to New York City. The first train left for New York at 11:30 P.M., June 10, 1942, and the second train left at 12:30 A.M., June 11, 1942. Both trains arrived in New York City on June 11, 1942, and the diplomats were immediately placed aboard ship. Special Agent Edward O. Poole, State Department, was present with the group during the sojourn at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, where they were located from April 8, 1942, until their departure for New York City. Special Agent George Newkirk traveled with the group aboard the first train, and Special Agent William Mangels was aboard the second train which left White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The three State Department Agents can testify to the fact that while in West Virginia and while en route to New York City this group was allowed to read the New York Times only.

After the arrival of the various groups in New York City, all Japanese diplomats, with the exception of the twenty-three formerly stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, were placed aboard the S S Gripsholm, where they remained until the ship sailed on June 18, 1942. They were allowed to read the New York Times only. The twenty-three diplomats from Hawaii were not allowed to read any newspapers whatsoever at any time.

Approximately 500 Japanese nationals, in addition to the members of the Japanese diplomatic corps, were on the S S Gripsholm at the time she embarked from New York City. These 500 Japanese started to assemble in New York City on June 7, 1942, and by June 11, 1942, all had reported at the Pennsylvania Hotel, where they were guarded, questioned, and searched by various Government agencies. Some of these individuals, prior to their reporting at the Pennsylvania Hotel, had been held on Ellis Island. Others had been in concentration camps, some had been in various Army camps, and a great number had been at liberty. Many of those who were at liberty did not report to the Pennsylvania Hotel until June 10 or June 11, 1942, and, of course, had access until that date to any newspaper which they might desire to purchase. All of the Japanese nationals who were not connected with the diplomatic corps were searched prior to their going aboard ship, and likewise their baggage was thoroughly searched. They were not allowed to take with them any printed matter. The members of the diplomatic corps were not subjected to personal search nor was their baggage examined.

Special Agent Frank Madden can testify as to the sailing of the S S Gripsholm on June 18, 1942, and also regarding the placing of the various

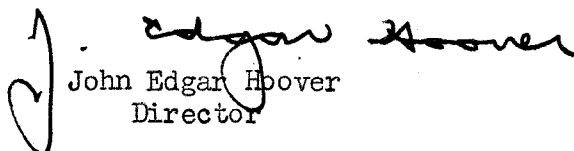
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diplomatic groups aboard ship upon their arrival in New York. He can also testify as to the Japanese nationals who were located in the Pennsylvania Hotel and is in a position to furnish information regarding the fact that some of these nationals did not report to the hotel until June 11, 1942, and that a great number of them were at liberty prior to their arrival at the Pennsylvania Hotel.

All of the Special Agents of the State Department mentioned above can best be contacted through Mr. T. F. Fitch, Chief Special Agent, State Department, Washington, D. C.

Respectfully,


John Edgar Hoover
Director



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