



United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division

Office of Redress Administration/Litigation Support Services

Fax Transmittal Sheet

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2/13/97

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update letter

Number Of Pages (including cover sheet): 6

**U.S. Department of Justice****Civil Rights Division****Office of Redress Administration***Office of the Administrator**P.O. Box 66260**Washington, D.C. 20035-6260*

Dear Community Leader:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with recent statistics and to update you on the recent activities of the Office of Redress Administration (ORA).

ORA is mailing apology letters and redress checks this week to fifty eight recipients. This will bring the total number of redress recipients to 80,178. We also plan to make the next payments at the end of March. Currently, we have sufficient funds remaining to pay an additional 2,072 individuals. Recently, ORA issued redress payments to 110 individuals who were found eligible under the new regulations affecting minor children who involuntarily went to Japan during the internment period.

The regulations affecting the Ishida cases remain under review within the Department. We still anticipate that they will be finalized in the next few weeks and published in the Federal Register. Once this occurs we will notify you and all of the claimants affected by the regulation. Currently ORA is processing over 1300 cases under the pending regulation.

Recently, ORA found approximately 70 cases in the Kahuku area of Hawaii eligible for redress. Only persons of Japanese ancestry were forced to relocate from the area when the military decided to build an airfield, while residents of non-Japanese ancestry were permitted to remain.

ORA asked an independent researcher to look further at the redress cases of railroad and mine workers, in response to continued requests from the community. The findings from this research are being forwarded to the Appellate Section to review with the current open appeals of these individuals.

As we have requested in the past, we are still interesting in receiving listings from the community of any retirement homes with a large Japanese American population who may be able to assist us in locating the remaining unknown individuals. In addition, please continue to contact us regarding upcoming events in the community at which ORA may be able to publicize the redress program and the list of historical records for individuals who ORA has been unable to contact. This list currently includes approximately 3,100 names. Please contact Lisa Johnson at (202) 219-6150, or toll-free at 1-888-219-6900 with this information, or any other outreach ideas which may be able to assist us in locating and verifying as many people as possible before the

August 10, 1998 sunset date for the program. ORA will send a representative to these events as our budget permits.

We will have the list of 3,100 unknown individuals available in the next two weeks for distribution to the public in a booklet format. Please contact us if you wish to receive some of the booklets for your organization.

ORA is interested in obtaining student volunteers for summer employment to work with the list of unknown historical records doing research activities to try and account for the remaining individuals on the list. If you know of college students who may be interested in this position, please contact ORA. In addition, if you can recommend particular colleges or university programs where we should advertise such a position, please provide us with that information as well.

ORA is also beginning to develop an internet home page to distribute as much information as possible about the redress program to a wide-range audience. This home page will still include the unknown historical listing, but will also feature other information about redress such as statistics, and other commonly requested information. We are in the early development stages of this project now, and we will keep you informed as this progresses.

Finally, I am attaching a copy of our most recent press release, which has been distributed for publication to Japanese-American newspapers across the country. If you have any questions regarding this press release, or any other information provided, feel free to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

Lee Lee Greene

DeDe Greene
Administrator for Redress

Attachment



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1997

CR
(202) 616-2765
TDD (202) 514-1888

**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SEEKS HELP IN LOCATING POTENTIAL
JAPANESE-AMERICAN REDRESS RECIPIENTS BEFORE THE
PROGRAM CLOSES IN AUGUST 1998**

WASHINGTON, D.C -- The Justice Department's Office of Redress Administration is seeking help in locating Japanese-American individuals who are newly eligible for redress.

"We were given the responsibility under the law to identify and locate all potentially eligible individuals," said DeDe Greene, ORA Administrator. "We hope that with help from the public and the continued help from Japanese-American community groups, who have provided invaluable assistance in the past, we will be able to find more potential recipients."

A recent court ruling determined that reparations may be paid to certain children who were born after their Japanese American parents voluntarily evacuated from the West Coast or after their parents were released from internment camps. In the case, Ishida v. United States, the court held that the children were "deprived of liberty" and entitled to redress because of their inability to return to their parent's original place of residence. As a result, the Justice Department is now reaching out to these individuals as possible redress recipients.

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ORA has received claims from about 1,300 persons whose status may be affected by this case and estimates that many more may be affected by the new policy. More specific eligibility criteria is still under review within the Department and should be finalized by March.

The Department also has determined that other individuals may be eligible for redress as well. Children under the age of 21, involuntarily returned to Japan during the war, who were not emancipated and did not enter active military service for the Japanese Government during World War II, could also receive reparations. The Department found that because they were children, they did not have the capacity to voluntarily choose to relocate to Japan during the war.

Some individuals evacuated the West Coast after the issuance of Executive Order 9066, on February 19, 1942, which gave the military the authority to institute security measures, and before March 2, 1942, when the first military proclamations were implemented in the prohibited zones. These individuals may have evacuated as a result of federal government action, and could also be eligible for redress.

As part of ORA's legal obligation under the Act, it is continuing to search for the remaining internees and evacuees. ORA utilized historical records to identify more than 120,000 Japanese Americans who were evacuated, relocated or interned during World War II. While approximately 117,000 persons have

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been accounted for, more than 3,000 others still have not been located despite repeated outreach efforts by ORA.

ORA's outreach efforts have included over 50 workshops, working with the Social Security Administration, the Departments of Motor Vehicles in several states, contacting family members, using a national locator service, and publicizing listings of names for these individuals. ORA has accounted for thousands of persons through these efforts. In the future, ORA also intends to publicize the listing of "unknown" individuals in a booklet format, to attend reunions of internment camps, conferences and other events to publicize the redress program.

Those who believe they or someone they know may be eligible under these categories should contact the ORA Helpline at (888) 219-6900 (toll-free), or write to ORA at P.O. Box 66260, Washington, DC 20035-6260. Please provide the following information to assist us with the verification process: full name, name used during the internment period, date of birth, address, telephone number, and place of internment, relocation or evacuation.

ORA is required by law to close on August 10, 1998 and those who believe that they are potentially eligible for redress should submit their claims as soon as possible.

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