

NCRR BANNER

NATIONAL COALITION FOR REDRESS/REPARATIONS

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244 South San Pedro Street Room 406
Los Angeles, California 90012

1858 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California 94115

Sub-Committee Hearings on Redress Bill

(Sub-Committee members: Sam Hall-Chairman, Romano Mazzoli, Barney Frank, Howard Berman, Fredrick Boucher, Thomas Kindness, Clay Shaw, Jr.)

On June 20 and 21, 1984, delegates from NCRR attended hearings of the House Sub-committee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations convened by Chairman Sam Hall. A third day of hearings was held one week later on June 27th. The purpose of the hearings was to hear testimonies concerning the wartime relocation of Japanese Americans and Aleuts during World War II, particularly as related to HR 4110, The Civil Liberties Act of 1984. Among the testifiers were Congressmen, members of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), Aleuts, past and present members of the Defense Department, community organizations, and, of course, NCRR and JACL. What follows is a capsulized account of what happened and what was said at the 3-day hearings.

The First Day of Hearings

(Sub-Committee members present: Sam Hall and Clay Shaw Jr.)

The highlight of the first day was the emotional, personal testimony of Congressman Norman Mineta. He recounted his family's experiences in the relocation camps and called upon the sub-committee members to support the CWRIC report and recommendations. Many Nikkei and former internees in the audience of about 200 persons were moved to tears and applauded him afterwards.

Congressman Robert Matsui also delivered a strong personal statement. When Chairman Hall questioned him about the community support for reparations, Matsui responded that the great majority do support it. He added that he, like many others, at first wanted the issue to go away and was afraid to re-live the experience and address the issue. He concluded that redress must include monetary compensation for the loss of property and opportunity.

The other Congresspeople testified on the first day. Congressman Michael Lowry reminded the sub-committee that, "we have a Constitution that protects us against governmental power," and that "our government violated the rights of the Japanese Americans." He voiced his support for HR 4110 in place of the le-

gislation he had introduced years earlier. Sub-committee members Shaw and Hall recognized his early interest in this issue.

Congresswoman Sala Burton also expressed her support of the bill and its provisions for monetary compensation. "This legislation would be less controversial if it was merely a national apology...if it did not contain the compensation provisions. But we must remember that thousands of internees lost property and jobs and were never able to regain those material and financial resources. Without compensation--which is a minimal amount--the apology will seem hollow indeed!"

Congressman Don Young spoke in support of HR 4322 on behalf of the Aleuts. This bill, which was prepared in consultation with the Aleuts, provides \$12,000 to each person relocated. It would also establish a trust fund and money for church restoration. The Aleuts were also concerned about the need to remove unexploded mine fields and bunkers.

The members of the CWRIC who testified were Joan Bernstein (Chairwoman), Arthur Fleming, and Angus Macbeth (Special Counsel). They presented strong testimony in favor of reparations which included data about the monetary losses of the internees, and they answered many questions for Mr. Hall. When asked why 36% of the internees had not become citizens, Mr. Macbeth responded that they were resident aliens barred by American law from becoming citizens. He reminded Mr. Hall that the Japanese had lived here for over 17 years prior to the evacuation because the Alien Exclusion Law of 1924 had stopped further immigration. Hall also asked if the \$20,000 payment should be given to those who renounced citizenship and returned to Japan. Macbeth answered affirmatively, "the renunciation of citizenship is not an acid test of loyalty," particularly in light of the treatment the evacuees had received. Hall also pointed out that 20 to 25% had refused to take the loyalty oath. Did they deserve reparations? Again Macbeth said yes, that the oath had been administered just 6 to 9 months after the evacuees had entered camp and that it was one of the only ways people could protest their treatment.

Mr. Hall also inquired about the Magic Cables (Japanese diplomatic transmissions decoded by the U.S. military in 1940 and 1941). Had the Commission investigated the cables? The response was

again affirmative. The cables had been read and considered before the Commission report was made.

The Magic Cables came up again during the testimony of Dr. David Trask, Department of the Army Military History. Much of his statement attempted to discredit the CWRIC report as being a "legal brief" and not a complete and authoritative history. When questioned about the Magic Cables, the historian stated that he had no reason to believe that the Magic Cables had any influence on the decision to relocate the Japanese Americans.

The Second Day of Hearings

(Subcommittee members present: Sam Hall and, for short periods of time, Howard Berman, Barney Frank, and Thomas Kindness.)

The highlight of the second day of the hearings was the testimonies of Bert Nakano, NCRR National Spokesperson, and Bill Kochiyama, NCRR--New York Regional. Thanks to Mervyn Dymally the two were able to speak at length. Mr. Nakano urged the passage of HR 4110, "This would serve as a landmark in advancing the cause of justice, not only for Japanese Americans, but for all who aspire to the principles on which this country was founded."

Kochiyama, a platoon sergeant of Company K which shared in the rescue of the Lost Battalion, spoke about his experience in the 442 Regimental Combat Team and of the 2000 casualties in this action alone. His own company was reduced to 23 men. He noted the irony of the Nisei soldiers fighting for their country while their parents, relatives and friends were incarcerated behind barbed wire. He asked the sub-committee to accept and implement the CWRIC recommendations. "In so doing, the deaths of my brave comrade-in-arms, as well as those who bear the scars of combat will not have been in vain," he said.

Two anti-reparations testimonies were given by Congressman Daniel Lungren and by John McCloy, former Assistant Secretary of War. Lungren repeated his position that he supports the CWRIC recommendation for an apology but not for monetary reparations. He mentioned that the Magic Cables may have influenced the decision to relocate Japanese Americans, but Chairman Hall stated that from his legal experience and reading, he didn't believe the cables influenced the relocation.

John McCloy defended the need for relocation and presented some very controversial testimony. He stated that there wasn't a drop of racial prejudice in Mr. Stimson or in the President. He spoke of "uncertain loyalty" and said, "I was afraid we might lose the war." He maintained that neither an apology nor monetary reparations is necessary. He even emphasized that there might be a time when the U.S. would need to in-

carcerate another group of people, and the example he cited was the Hispanics in the Gulf area who might, in the next 50 years, have to be incarcerated!

Mike Masaoka, speaking on behalf of Go For Broke, followed McCloy and refuted many of the inaccuracies and misconceptions in his testimony. For example, McCloy had asserted that the internees were free to leave the camps whenever they wanted. This was not true except for a very short period of time, stated Masaoka. Masaoka voiced the support of the Go For Broke group for monetary reparations. After Masaoka concluded his testimony, Chairman Hall asked him when he had come to this country. The audience gasped their disbelief at this question, and Masaoka assured the chairman that he had been born in this country.

The last group of witnesses to speak at the Thursday hearing was a panel of six Aleuts representing different villages and associations. They testified that they favored HR 4322, Congressman Don Young's bill over HR 4110. HR 4322 is identical to HR 4110 except that it provides for individual payments of \$12,000 rather than the \$5,000 in HR 4110.

The Third Day of Hearings

NCRR delegates were unable to attend the third day of hearings on June 27. Witnesses included Congressman Stratton from New York and Ken Masugi, both of whom are against reparations; Harry Kubo, of the Nisei Farmer's League who favors the community fund, but is against individual compensation; David Lowman, a retired National Security Agency intelligence officer who provided arguments for the justification of the internment; and a JACL panel consisting of John Tateishi, Minoru Yasui and Floyd Shimamura.

Lowman stated that intelligence reports - decoded Japanese diplomatic cables - indicated a "potentially dangerous and perhaps unmanageable situation" on the West Coast both before and after the Pearl Harbor attack. His conclusion was that Roosevelt made an understandable decision.

JACL panel members refuted Mr. Lowman's claims. Yasui reminded the subcommittee that there was no proof of any espionage activities among the Japanese Americans and that General John DeWitt - then head of the Army's Western Defense Command and a prime advocate of the relocation order - originally said that there was adequate time to individually determine the loyalty of the Nikkei. However, DeWitt changed his mind, declaring that "a Jap's a Jap, and no piece of paper is going to make any difference." Yasui concluded, "I submit to you that that is not a military decision." Fortunately the JACL representatives were the final speakers on the third day of the hearings and were able to counter many of Lowman's arguments. They concluded with strong statements in favor of HR 4110.

NCCR TARGET: WASHINGTON REPORT

NCCR Delegates Make 23 Congressional Visits

The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations delegation to Washington D.C. was able to meet with 23 legislators/top aides during their June 19-25 trip. Representing NCCR were Miya Iwataki, Bert Nakano, Kay Ochi, (Los Angeles), Sox Tsuyako Kitashima, Naomi Kubota, Marlene Tonai, (San Francisco), Julie Hatta, Tom Izu, (San Jose), Bill Kochiyama, and Mike Tsukahara (New York). With the help of Gardena City Councilman Mas Fukai, NCCR was able to meet with Representatives Matsui and Mineta.

The purpose of the delegation was threefold: 1) advocate for HR4110 and SB2116, 2) testify at the June 20-21 Congressional Hearings, and 3) gain exposure for NCCR in Washington, D.C. All three goals were accomplished with extra bonuses, such as a meeting with Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Sam Hall, Jr. (D-Tex) which resulted in more time and an additional speaker from NCCR, and a reception for the delegation sponsored by Congressman Mervyn Dymally.

The NCCR had initially been excluded from the Hearing's witness list until Congressman Dymally, in a gesture of support, offered half of his time and set up a meeting for NCCR with Sam Hall.

NCCR was on the go day and night. During business hours we visited legislators, attended and taped hearings, wrote summaries of hearings and called them into our local press and radio stations, and tried to set up as many new appointments as possible. Because the House debates on Simpson/Mazolli were in full swing, and the final vote was to take place that Weds., our issue was almost eclipsed and many congressmen whom we had targeted were not having any meetings until its resolution. Every member of the Subcommittee was involved in the immigration debate (Mazolli is a senior member) and throughout most of the hearings only Sam Hall was present.

The evenings were also packed! Tuesday night, the NCCR delegation met, divided tasks and split up into lobbying teams. On Wednesday, we attended a dinner meeting of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus and the Asian Pacific Federal Employees Council and established more contacts in D.C. On Thursday, Rep. Mervyn Dymally hosted a reception for NCCR and JACL in the Rayburn Bldg. The wine and cheese reception was attended by about 125 people including Congresspersons Sala Burton, Mervyn Dymally, Mike Lowry, Bob Matsui, Sunia, and Ted Weiss of New York. Official representatives from the offices of Senators Stevens, Pete Wilson, Tsongas, and Congresspersons John Conyers, Duncan, Gilman, Mickey Land, Bob Kastenmeiers, Jim Moody and Pat Schroeder were also in attendance.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR VISITS --

NIKKEI CONGRESSMEN:

6/22 9:30 am Rep. Bob Matsui; Robin Cooper, Legislative Aide; Roger Lindberg, Admin. Asst. with Julie, Miya, Kay, Bert, and Mas.

This meeting was a result of Mas sharing his appointment with us. It was a very good meeting and Matsui had strategy and materials prepared for us.

1. Reinforce the co-sponsors. Even if the bill does not go to mark-up this session, there is a solid core group of co-sponsors.

2. Make this a bi-partisan bill, this is the only way we can win. Contact JA Republicans, begin constituent calls and visits beginning June 29 recess, contact the Asian Republican clubs for support. This is key because it is rumored that the White House may be coming out with opposition to this bill. But they won't be able to if we can counter with Republican support.

3. Follow-up is key. There are 5-6,000 bills in Congress and we need to do consistent follow-up to expand and maintain support.

4. Dialogue with Lundgren. Although he is a fiscal conservative, he has gained strength through the Simpson-Mazzoli fight. He is only against one aspect of the bill, not the entire bill. Keep it that way, urge constituent visits.

5. Get the bill out of Sub-committee. It has a better chance on the floor and in full committee with co-sponsors Rodino and Jim Wright who's the second highest ranking Democrat in the House.

6/19 3 p.m. Rep. Sam Hall Jr. (D-Tex) Chair Subcommittee, Bill Shattuck-Chief Counsel, Janet Potts, Mas Fukai Miya, Kay, Bert.

We met with Sam Hall, who is the chair of the subcommittee holding HR 4110. Through our discussion, it was clarified that we could have "as much time as we needed" and could add Bill Kochiyama to our slot. Prior to the hearings, it was said that he was not very supportive but we learned that the hearings had a positive impact on him. Hall was visibly moved by the testimony of Bill Kochiyama, NCCR representative from New York and 442 veteran.

6/21 4:00 pm Rep. Norman Mineta; Glenn Roberts-Legislative Director with Mas Fukai, Bert, Miya, Julie, Naomi, and Bill.

Mineta's assessment (he was present throughout the hearings) was that it looked really tough this session. If the bill did not get into mark-up this session, it would have to be reintroduced in the new Congress. He had a bill in hand ready for that possibility. For now, he felt we should try to get to Sam Hall. As subcommittee chairman, he is the only one who can move the bill.

6/20 Sen. Spark Matsunaga constituents luncheon with Bert, Julie, and Tom.

Luncheon was for his Hawaiian constituents, so there wasn't much time to talk with the Senator. When he came to our table he seemed very optimistic about the future of S2116. With only 100 senators to lobby, he didn't feel it would be difficult to get passage in the near future. (There are currently 20 sponsors on S2116; he said he saw "no problem" getting the 31 more needed votes.)

6/20 Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) with Bill, Bert, Sox, Naomi.

Sen. Inouye and Bill are old 442nd army buddies and spent a lot of time in comradesly reminiscence of that time. He supports S2116, but did not feel that he should be actively pushing the bill since he was not in camp. He was aware of the NCRR amendments, but was not very optimistic about these points as far as the Senate.

OTHER CONGRESSMEN:

6/20 8:30 am Victor Arnoldlick, Legislative Aide to Dan Lundgren (R-CA) with Sox, Naomi, and Marlene.

We asked him about an amendment to delete monetary compensation from the bill what we heard Lundgren was contemplating. He did not know of any such amendment. We asked what impact the many Asians and J-As living in their district had on their thinking. He said there was no consensus among their constituents on monetary compensation. He cited the few J-As who work in the Calif. office who did not support redress, and mentioned Harry Kubo and Ken Masugi.

6/21 11:00 am Lynelle Jolley Aide for Howard Berman with Bert, Miya, and Kay.

Berman is familiar with and supports the issue. We should appeal to him to try to get Hall to push the bill into mark-up this session. See him in the district after the recess.

We thanked Dixon for the support of the Black Caucus, all 21 members are co-signers, and expressed appreciation for consistently communicating to Miya any progress related to reparations that crosses his desk. We appealed to him for his support in pushing subcommittee members, and encouraging active support from Caucus. We will meet with him in the district. His aide urged us to meet in the district with Rep. Don Edwards who is very influential.

6/19 10:30 am- Mark Barnes, Chief Counsel for Sen. Ted Stevens (D-Alaska) Subcommittee Chair for S2116 with Miya Iwataki & Kay Ochi.

Senate hearings on S2116 are being scheduled by Sen Stevens in LA (on Aug. 16-17) at the Brentwood Theatre in West LA which seats 400. Community and opposition will testify. Testifiers need to submit request and an outline of testimony which speaks to specific content of the bill.

NCRR will assist the Senators office by
1) working with media in LA and coordinating with the press person in DC,
2) arrange videotaping with cable,
3) get cost of simultaneous translation equipment and develop a plan for the translation (if cost is minimal)
4) secure testifiers and 5) mobilize for the hearings.

6/22 4:30 pm-Pam Critchfield, Legislative Aide to Rep. Charles Pashayan (R-CA) with Miya, Naomi, Kay.

Pashayan (who was in his district) has been grappling with the issue for four months and have met with many constituents about it.

Tom Shimasaki, his friend who is pro-redress, met with him and got 60-70 people to send letters. Harry Kubo also met with him and lobbied against the bill. As of now he is undecided. Leaning against the \$1.5 billion and setting a precedent. Constituents in Fresno area need to go in with strong, logical arguments (he is a lawyer) for the bill.

6/25 10:00 am-Rep. Bob Kastenmeier (D-Wis) and Kaz Oshiki with Miya and Kay. Kaz took us in to meet the boss. We thanked him for his support of the bill and expressed appreciation for all of Kaz's help (1st Asian on the Hill--25 years with Rep. Kastenmeier).

Everyday: Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-CA) and Jim Fukumoto.

The entire NCRR delegation, since we were working out of the Congressman's office, had numerous contacts with him, and summarized the day's activities with Jim on a daily basis. They feel there is an outside chance that the bill could go to mark up, and agree with the strategy of getting more co-sponsors and lobbying Republicans, especially from our districts.

Legislator	Position on redress		
	yes	unknown undecided	no
Mervyn Dymally (D-CA)	x		
Thomas Kindness (R-OH)*		x	
Frederick Boucher (D-VA)*	x		
Clay Shaw, Jr. (R-FL)*		x	
Sam Hall (D-TE)*		x	
Dan Lungren (R-CA)			x
Bob Matsui (D-CA)	x		
Norman Mineta (D-CA)	x		
Edward Zschau (R-CA)		x	
Barney Frank (D-MA)*	x		
Jim Wright (D-TEX)	x		
Eugene Chappie (R-CA)		x	
Howard Berman (D-CA)*	x		
Julian Dixon (D-CA)	x		
Rep. Heftel (D-HI)	x		
Bobbi Fiedler (R-CA)		x	
Charles Pashayan (R-CA)		x	
Jerry Lewis (R-CA)		x	
Bob Kastenmeier (D-WI)	x		
Sen. Ted Stevens (R-ALASKA)	x		
Sen. S. Matsunaga (D-HI)	x		
Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)	x		
Sen. Pete Wilson (R-CA)		x	

SUMMARY-ANALYSIS

HOUSE

1. There is an outside chance that HR 4110 could get into mark up this session. There are only 40+ days left 'till the new 99th Congress, and hundreds of bills (less controversial than ours) remain unpassed. And hundreds of people are lobbying to get them passed before the 98th Congress ends. However, we should not give up hope. Every effort we make will count even if our bill dies and is reintroduced. Reinforcement of the co-sponsors is important.
2. Constituent visits are crucial! Make appointments with your legislators, send letters of support for the bills, get friends-neighbors-community to act in some way. The best way is constituent visit. If you cannot, write to them today. NCRR has sample letters of support.
3. Urge Chairman Sam Hall to move the bill quickly. If you are a 442nd vet, or know 442nd vets, please get them to write to Sam Hall or other Texas legislators (and if possible, send a copy of the letter to NCRR). Remember the 442nd Battalion rescued the Texas Lost Battalion, and were declared heroes and honorary citizens of Texas. The legislators remember that. In fact, that is the main reason that Jim Wright (D-Tex) agreed to become a major sponsor of HR 4110.
4. Lobby Republican legislators. This is a bi-partisan issue. Solicit help from your local Asian and J-A Republican clubs.

SENATE

1. Go all out for the Senate Hearings. Write letters to your Senators, especially California Senators expressing your support for S2116 and ask them to attend the Aug. 16 hearings in L.A. Sen. Cranston (D-CA) is a co-sponsor and Sen. Wilson (R-CA) only has a problem with monetary compensation. Urge them to attend the hearings.
2. Write to Sen.s Matsunaga and Inouye asking for their active support on this bill and their attendance at the hearings.

REMEMBER, IF THE SENATE BILL PASSES BEFORE THE HOUSE BILL DOES, THIS WILL FACILITATE THE PASSAGE OF THE HOUSE BILL.

General Tasks

1. Join your local NCRR chapter. We need volunteers to help write letters, make presentations, raise money, help with the Senate Hearings, PR and mailings. We need you today! If you can't provide active support, write a letter, or send us a donation.
- Get support for reparations from the broad community. Help us reach national organizations, non-J-A groups, make presentations to or set up NCRR presentations with groups. Their letters and visits are critical.
3. Register to vote. Elect a President that supports redress and reparations!

NCRR EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO
REP. MERVYN DYMALLY (D-CA)



We would like to express our deep gratitude to Congressman Dymally and his staff, especially Jim Fukumoto for the invaluable assistance and advice, the hours of work to make NCRR's trip successful, and the generous use of office space, telephone lines, xeroxing, logistics, and more. The Congressman had prepared informational packets for each of the NCRR delegates with the schedule of the hearings, copies of our testimony with a one-page summary (that Jim wrote) for the press, and bios of each legislator that we were scheduled to meet with. The courteousness with which the entire staff treated us, Dave Johnson, Mary Tweddy, Rosalind - enabled us to feel comfortable conducting our business through their office. Rosalind and Jim set up most of our appointments, while Jim provided important insights into our approaches with many of the legislators. The reception that Congressman Dymally hosted for us enabled us to meet Legislators and local Asian organizations and expand our networking efforts. We, in NCRR, want the community to know that Congressman Dymally has been providing this kind of support for redress and the community and NCRR since the first piece of legislation was introduced back in 1982. We want to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his consistent work and support. Thank you Congressman Dymally!

A special note of thanks to Jim Fukumoto, who went above and beyond the call of duty to insure that this would be a most fruitful trip for NCRR. He worked day and night, and was always there, and has become a personal friend. Thank you Jim.

**** THANK YOU MEMBERS!! ****

NCRR WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO MADE THIS DELEGATION POSSIBLE WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS AND MANY HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SUPPORT. THIS ONLY REAFFIRMS OUR BELIEF THAT IT WILL ONLY BE THRU THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND ALL JUSTICE-LOVING PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY THAT REDRESS WILL BE MADE POSSIBLE. WE HAVE MADE TREMENDOUS GAINS IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME WITH THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION ON THE CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE LEVEL; THE CHALLENGE OF VARIOUS SUPREME COURT CASES; AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL RELIGIOUS GROUPS, UNIONS, AND MANY OTHERS. NOW, FOLLOWING THE STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS, TWO BILLS STAND BEFORE CONGRESS. HR 4110 HAS 103 SPONSORS; S 2116 HAS 20. WE NEED 110 MORE IN THE HOUSE AND 31 MORE IN THE SENATE. IF THE CURRENT BILLS DO NOT PASS THIS SESSION, THEY WILL BE REINTRODUCED IN THE NEXT SESSION. FOR ALL INVOLVED, THE BIG PUSH WILL BE IN 1985 TO PASS THESE BILLS! WE MUST GET AS FAR AS WE CAN THIS YEAR BY MOVING THE BILLS OUT OF COMMITTEE IF WE CAN. FOR ISSEIS AND NISEIS, WE MUST MOVE WITH DETERMINATION AND SPEED. FOR ALL PEOPLE, THIS IS AN ISSUE OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY! THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT GIVE UP ANYTHING WITHOUT A FIGHT!

IF YOU HAVE BEEN RECEIVING NCRR MAIL
BUT HAVE NOT SENT US THE \$5 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL, PLEASE DO SO IF
YOU WANT THE MAIL TO CONTINUE..... PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW

OR

IF YOU HAVE ATTENDED OUR EVENTS
BUT HAVE NOT YET JOINED, PLEASE SEND \$5 AND FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW.

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244 South San Pedro Street, Suite 406
Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213)620-0761

* * * * *

NAME (Please print): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____

___ New Member

___ Individual membership (\$5.00)

___ Membership Renewal

___ Organization Membership (\$25.00)

___ Donation \$ _____

Optional questionnaire:

___ Male ___ Female Age: ___ Occupation _____

Ethnic background: _____

If Nikkei, what generation? ___ Isei ___ Nisei ___ Sansei ___ Yonsei

___ Newcomer Language: ___ English ___ Japanese

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Address correction
requested