

ACLU Paper Charges U. S. 'Kidnapped' Japanese Peruvians

Group at Santa Fe,
Crystal City Faces
Deportation to Japan

SAN FRANCISCO — "Virtually kidnapped by the U. S. government and brought into this country for internment, scores of Japanese who resided in Peru face deportation to Japan as illegal entrants to the United States," the May issue of the American Civil Liberties Union News, published by the ACLU's Northern California office, declared this week.

"The United States characterized them as illegal entrants because when they entered as 'immigrants' they were not in possession of valid immigration visas, nor did they have passports," the paper, edited by Ernest Besig of the Northern California ACLU, added. "If these people are illegal entrants, then it should be remembered that they did not come here willingly; and that the United States government participated in the illegality and indeed was responsible for it."

The ACLU paper said that most of the Japanese Peruvians were arrested by officers of the Peruvian government in January or June of 1945 and, without hearings of any kind, handed over to officers of the U. S. government at their request. They were then placed on U. S. transports, guarded by U. S. warships, and transferred to a Panama internment camp for a brief stay before being shipped to internment camps in the United States.

The ACLU reported that 65 Japanese Peruvians, some of whom have been residents of the South American republic for more than 30 years, have been interned at the Santa Fe camp of the Department of Justice. Twenty of the 65 are bachelors and three are widowers but the remaining

does not wish to accept them," the ACLU News said.

In addition to the men at Santa Fe, there are 46 Japanese Peruvian families at the Department of Justice internment camp at Crystal City, Tex., the report added.

The ACLU paper declared that the U. S. State Department has admitted that none of the Japanese Peruvians are "dangerous to hemispheric security."

"The refusal of the Peruvian government to allow its former Japanese residents to return can perhaps be understood in the light of the government's confiscation of the properties of Japanese nationals," the ACLU report noted.

The Japanese Peruvian group have sought legal counsel and will be represented by Wayne Collins of San Francisco.

The ACLU added that the U. S. Immigration Service has stated that it "still hoped" to return most of the Japanese Peruvians to Peru, particularly those cases in which wives and children are Peruvians.