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REDRESS

Delegation to Fight for Those Denied Payments

The NCCR group is going to Washington, D.C. to meet with government officials to seek redress for the 2,200 who were initially denied by the ORA.

The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCCR) is sending a community delegation to meet with Acting Assistant Attorney General James P. Turner on Aug. 2 in Washington, D.C. The goal of the delegation is to discuss the approximately 2,200 individuals who have been denied redress and to request that he implement the administrative changes that would allow for their reparations.

Participating in the Los Angeles delegation are community representatives Duane Yuri Inouye-Sanchez, an aerospace worker who is a child of the so-called "voluntary evacuee" category and Reiko Rikimaru Nimura, a drapery shop owner, who as a child during the internment was deported to Japan after being in camp, with her family as part of a prisoner exchange program between the U.S. and Japan.

Accompanying Sanchez and Nimura will be NCCR-LA representatives Kay Ochi, president; Miya Iwataki, legislative chair; and David Monkawa, director.

The Bay Area NCCR delegation includes Tsuyako "Sox" Kitashima, Brent Mori and other community representatives.

The meeting in Washington, D.C., will include representatives from the major groups involved in efforts to secure redress for those denied payments. Among them are Gen Fujioka, an attorney with the Asian Law Caucus; Lillian Kimura, national president of the Japanese American Citizens League; Karen Narasaki, JACL lobbyist; and Grace

Shimizu, of the Peruvian Oral History Project.

Acting Assistant Attorney General James Turner oversees the Civil Rights Division and the Office of Redress Administration. He served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General since 1969 and has served as Acting Attorney General for several periods prior to his current assignment in January 1993.

"We have had an ongoing dialogue with the ORA about its interpretation of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and feel that the act allows for more liberality and inclusiveness than has been shown. We hope to encourage Mr. Turner to implement the administrative means necessary to provide the redress that is long overdue," stated Ochi.

Meanwhile, the NCCR appealed to the community to help send the community delegates to this important meeting. Donations will help pay the costs of travel only for the community representatives attending. A full report back to the community, with slide presentation, will occur to update the public about the meeting.

The public is encouraged to give input about the content or composition of the delegation to NCCR. All appropriate messages and written statements will be hand-delivered by NCCR.

Donations can be sent to NCCR, 244 S. San Pedro St., Room 411, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Input and comments can be called in to (213) 680-3484.