

MEMORANDUM  
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

March 9, 1944

TO: Mr. W. Schmidt, Chief of Police

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Request for your Attention on the Memo of March 1 (Recommendation for the Release of Detained Internees)

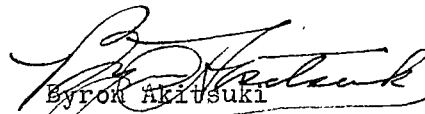
Doubtless, the condition of the center has improved and we, the Committee, feel that complete normalcy is still far away as already manifested by the distribution of pamphlets recently in the new area and the vandalism which occurred in the public school building. Such may be a prelude to a possible flare-up of the center, and unless immediate remedial measure is taken, erroneous informations of this nature may continue to be disseminated which will not only strongly instigate those advocates of status quo but also is bound to deviate many neutrals or those still in perplexing predicament.

The Committee, by past experience, fully appreciates the service of releasees who have been a great factor in contributing toward our cause, because of their position it is possible for them to contact opposition freely. In order to solicit their service, which will expedite our work, the Committee invited leaders of recent releasees to a Zadan-kai on the night of March 8, 1944 as attached minutes specify.

In view of the sign of possible flare-up the Committee earnestly feels that it could be prevented if detainees whom we have interviewed and recommended were released as soon as possible to work together with those already released. The attached minutes indicate that they have agreed to put out a statement stating their clear position.

We request for your special consideration to expedite the release of the 14 detainees. Attached is a list of names of those 14.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

  
Byrok Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary

March 10, 1944

Names of detained internees requested for release.

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Akiyama, Masao      | 8. Naito, Sam          |
| 2. Yamataka, Hyujiro   | 9. Saito, Chu          |
| 3. Ikeda, Kazakichi    | 10. Kozuma, Ernest     |
| 4. Fujimoto, William   | 11. Komiya, Shyunichi  |
| 5. Kimura, Mitsuo      | 12. Kobayashi, Yoshio  |
| 6. Asato, Susumu       | 13. Yamamoto, Koichiro |
| 7. Tsuchiya, Yoshiyuki | 14. Yoshida, Shigeki   |

*Mr. W. Schmidt,*

INFORMAL ZADAN-KAI\* OF THE STOCKADE RELEASEES AND THE CO-ORDINATING  
COMMITTEE OF THE TULE LAKE CENTER

March 8, 1944

An informal Zadan-kai of the stockade releasees and the Co-ordinating Committee of the Tule Lake Center was held on March 8, 1944, from 7:45 p.m., at 1608 - A, Co-ordinating Committee office.

Releasees present were: Sakanoto, Kozaka, Kawano, Tateishi, Katayama, Shimizu, Hoshiko, Mohri, Kawamura, and Inou.

Co-ordinating Committee members present were: J. Nayio, F. Namokawa, K. Okamoto, G. Yamatani, M. Shimada, A. Takahashi, and B. Akitsuki.

B. Akitsuki addressed the group, stating that this Zadan-kai was called for the purpose of informally interchanging ideas, criticisms, suggestions, or recommendations, which may immediately or ultimately help in the work and the object of the Committee.

Mr. A. Takahashi, advisor to the Committee and also head of the Arrangement Committee, described the present incident and its yet pending solution in detailed retrospection -- from the beginning of the incident to his present plan of attaining the set goal by the establishment of a central organization, which he previously had outlined at the joint meeting of the Advisory Council and the Co-ordinating Committee on February 25.

Mr. Tateishi, one of the releasees, questioned the present delay in the process of release and also suggested that unless the Co-ordinating Committee, with the backing of the releasees, clearly make noteworthy concrete accomplishments, as was promised by the Committee at the time of its inception, true peace of the center and sincere confidence of the colonists will be a matter of question. Inasmuch as the colonists are observing with deliberate and perhaps discriminatory eyes, the accomplishments of the committee, it would be wise if the committee announces its work more publicly. In this way (publication by bulletins preferably) confidence of the colonists could be gained gradually, he believed. B. Akitsuki explained the heavy current which the Committee is befacing in its sincere attempt to obtain justifiable releasees. He also went on to make clear the planks of the platform upon which the Responsible Men of Various Divisions and the Co-ordinating Committee was founded on, emphasizing the fact that it is merely serving as a temporary body, prepared for dissolution immediately upon replacement. He further added that only with the cooperation of the colonists, could release of internees be expedited; in other words, the Committee is looking forward with great high anticipation the help of the releasees, especially those considered leaders, for its effort to restore normalcy in the Center. If ever a sign of complacency is shown on the part of the Administration or those working for the restoration of normalcy, the opposition is bound to take advantage of it, as already manifested by their distribution of propaganda pamphlets in the new Manzanar area. Such may be a prelude to a possible re-flare-up of the center, and unless immediate remedial measure is taken, erroneous informations of this nature may continue to be disseminated.

\* ZADAN-KAI -- Table talk; conversation

Materials of this nature are inevitably bound to deviate many colonists, who are considered neutrals or those still in a perplexing predicament. At the same time, it will more strongly instigate those advocates of pro status quo. One of the releasees wanted assurance that, insofar as their work involved intermingling with the pressure groups, they be not misunderstood.

Mr. Inouye mentioned that he has gained some results by careful explanations to those in 'dilemma' and Mr. Mohri stated likewise.

Upon Mr. Tateishi's suggestion to hold another Zadan-kai jointly with some representatives from the new area, immediately upon the releasement of the 14 internees (such as Kozuma, Kimura, Yoshida, Kob. Washi, Komiya, etc. recommended by the Committee for releasement some-time ago), Mr. Mohri felt that the suggestion was very favorable. The releasees assembled gave general assent to this suggestion. At this time, Mr. Yamatani mentioned that if those releasees present tonight would put out a joint statement stating their present stand and attitude the trend of public sentiment and the attitude of the neutrals, might and will change to the positive. However, Mr. Shimizu and the others deemed it more advisable to withhold such a statement until the release-ment of the above-mentioned 14. A statement embracing a number of names would have more forceful influence upon the colonists' minds, it was pointed out. Releasees stressed that the releasement of the 14 would relieve their already over-burdened work. Inasmuch as the Committee's systematic function of investigation is limited and superficial, aid of the releasees must, by all means, be solicited, as releasees are in such a position to blend untaintingly into the pressure groups. Mr. Sakamoto, releasee, assured the Committee that he will give full support indirectly and directly to the Committee's work. His present position (inasmuch as he is an educator) is such that he cannot outwardly expose himself too conspicuously (that is in this more-or-less political nature). However, he will try to help through education of children, which will indirectly affect the attitude of the parents.

With the body's sincere request for the immediate releasement of the 14, in order to facilitate the realization of normalcy and avoid pre-  
domination of the opposition, the Zadan-kai adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Byron Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary