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San Francisco, CA 94109
July 9, 1987

Mrs. Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga
3713 S. George Mason Dr., #310-W
Falls Church, VA 22041

Dear Aiko:

Thanks for your letter and enclosures on June 30th.

Using the form you sent me I placed an order for the print of Manzanar by Dorothea Lange. If the photo was missing from its regular spot (C839) at the National Archives, a copy may not be possible.

Just to make sure that we do get a decent copy from which to make copies, if you know of anyone who may have a good copy would you please let me know? I would want to borrow the print to make a good copy-negative from which prints can be made. It certainly will not be as good as the first generation print, but it will have to do.

Have you seen the July 3rd issue of the Pacific Citizen? I was shocked to learn that the JACL national board voted to defer any action or statement concerning the Arabs who were arrested as undesirables due to their affiliation with a certain faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The national staff was instructed not to get involved in any way.

To say that these eight individuals will have their days in court, and therefore JACL as an organization need not get involved is a clear cop-out. Hirabayashi-Yasui-Korematsu also had their days in court.

The issue here is not the court hearings but the process of arrest with intent to incarcerate in a concentration camp on mere suspicion.

I learned that JACL's reason for a ban on involvement was the fear of antagonizing the Jewish members of Congress and therefore the redress bill.

We are taking a very disrespectful stand on Jewish congresspersons. Jewish people have been on the forefront of civil and human rights throughout the world. History had taught them too

many painful lessons to ignore these rights. They not only understand, but would tend to oppose any effort on the part of our government to victimize any ethnic group. Their commitment to principles support our Constitution for all the people, even for their enemies.

It is truly a sad decision for JACL to make in this year of our celebrating the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. JACL seems to be saying that our concern about justice is limited to ourselves. Have we so readily forgotten the issue behind our own tragic past? Concerning JACL--are we or are we not a civil rights organization?

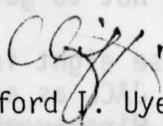
Forty-five years ago we stood alone. All the wonderful promises we heard in the civic classes, we realized, were mere words. America did not really believe in its own Constitution. We were hurt, and we had no one to turn to.

Forty-five years later we are behaving as if we never heard of our own Constitution. The difference is that someone else, and not we, are the victims.

Either we believe in our Constitution, or we don't. The time to prove our commitment is not when it is safe but when there is a danger of it being violated. JACL will have lost its purpose for existence unless the national board reconsiders the present stand.

Personal involvement is fine. However, what is so desperately needed is the impact of a respected national organization. We have such an organization. I hope it can fulfill its destiny.

Sincerely yours,


Clifford J. Uyeda.