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July 25, 1943

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25 July 1943

Dear Mr. Myer:

We have discussed from time to time your proposal to utilize the Tule Lake Relocation Center at Howell, California, as a camp for Japanese evacuees who have asked for repatriation or whom for some other reason you consider undesirable for relocation. The War Department agrees to the utilization of this project for such purposes on the understanding, however, that the security requirements of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, in whose defense area the Howell, California, project is located, will be observed.

In authorizing the use of Tule Lake Relocation Center as a segregated project, the War Department affirms its responsibility for the exterior security of the camp and the War Relocation Authority's responsibility for interior security and administration. The provisions that the local military commander will move into the center and take over complete control of the center in case of riots or disturbances upon the call of the project director is also reaffirmed.

Among the security requirements specified by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, for the Tule Lake Center under the new designation, are the following: The exterior guard will consist of one battalion of military police; the center proper will be surrounded by a nonproof barbed wire fence with necessary guard towers; workers in the farm areas will be under military guard; and a head check will be conducted on personnel leaving and entering the center for work in the farm area. I understand that General DeWitt will shortly submit additional security requirements considered essential and upon receipt of this information you will be advised.

It is requested that you indicate by letter your acceptance of the proposals herein made.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

John J. McCloy

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Room 822, Barr Building  
Washington, D. C.

R.G. 107

ASW 014, 311 WDC JA Segregation  
(through March 1944)