

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

2055
University of California
Enemy alien study

FROM: RFE

OCT 21 1942 DATE: July 27, 1942

TO:

ECL		<i>ech</i>
	<i>JUL 28 '42</i>	
RFE	<i>SEP 25 '42</i>	<i>RFE</i>

COMMENTS:

*Returned with thanks.
ech*

SUBJECT:

You recently said you would like to see any report of the California Japanese study being aided by SS.

Here is Dr. Thomas' first progress report for your information. Please return it at your convenience for our file.

RFE

RFE:SIR

Enclosure

OCT 21 1942

PROGRESS REPORT

A STUDY OF THE EVACUATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF
JAPANESE ON THE WEST COAST

COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Success of the study is dependent, of course, upon the full cooperation of various civilian and military agencies. This cooperation has been obtained to the fullest possible extent.

In the very beginning of the negotiations, Mr. Milton Eisenhower, at that time National Director of the War Relocation Authority, expressed a sympathetic interest. After the Rockefeller Foundation agreed to the exploratory grant, Mr. Eisenhower telegraphed Dr. Willits his approval and promised to cooperate fully. Soon afterwards, Mr. Eisenhower delegated to Mr. John Provinse, National Chief of the Community Management Division, responsibility for acting as liaison officer between the War Relocation Authority and the University group. In a letter to Dr. Thomas of May 21, 1942, Mr. Provinse expressed his personal pleasure at the active interest of the University in this problem. He made several helpful suggestions in regard to research procedures and emphasized the fact that "thought should be given by all of us to the opportunities afforded for establishing and utilizing rather continuous records on the relocation projects."

Mr. Provinse then telegraphed Mr. Fryer, Director of the Western Regional Office, asking him to facilitate the work of the University group.

On May 30, Drs. Thomas and Aikin held an extensive conference with Mr. Harvey Coverley, Assistant Regional Director, who reacted most cordially to the plan of controlled observations within the camps, and who gave

his approval of the selection of the Tule Lake Relocation Center as the main locus of the study. He immediately recommended to the Army that four evacuees (who had been selected as observers) and their families be moved to the Tule Lake Center. This was soon accomplished. Previously, Dr. Thomas had conferred with Colonel Ira Evans of the Western Defense Command, who had assured her of his interest in the project and his approval of moving the observers so they might be placed in the most advantageous positions possible for the study.

The final link in the chain of national-regional-local cooperation was established by Mr. Elmer L. Shirrell, Acting Project Director at Tule Lake. In a memorandum of June 9 he wrote to Mr. Fryer, who was kind enough to send a copy of Mr. Shirrell's communication to Dr. Thomas, as follows:

"I do not think anything has happened on our Project that has made me quite as happy as the news in your letter of June 5 regarding the research study to be made at this Project under the direction of the University of California. Mr. Jacoby, Chief of Internal Security, and myself have had a long conference on the subject and it is our desire to cooperate in every possible way. As soon as the four evacuees and their families arrive at Tule Lake we shall notify you by wire in order that Dr. Thomas may visit us at an early date. All the staff of Tule Lake Project rejoices with me in having our project selected for this very important and timely study."

When Dr. Thomas visited the Tule Lake Center on June 23, she found the fullest measure of cooperation being given her Japanese observers by Mr. Shirrell and his staff and she was assured that visits by herself and other members of the research staff would be welcomed at any time.

FINANCING

When the details of a budget on the basis of the first Rockefeller exploratory grant of \$7,500 were developed, it became clear that the grant was inadequate for a thorough exploration of even the limited socio-anthropological segment of the study. Efforts were therefore made to supplement the Rockefeller Grant from local sources. The Giannini Foundation had already given \$600 towards field expenses. Dr. Harry Wellman, Director of the Giannini Foundation, agreed to allocate \$3,250.00 additional for the fiscal year 1942-1943. The Institute of Social Sciences of the University of California had given \$700.00 of its meager resources to the study prior to July 1, and an application is now pending for an additional grant of approximately \$1,650.00. A request to the Rosenberg Foundation for a grant to match the Rockefeller stipend was declined on the grounds that the study did not fall within its field of major interest.

At this time, the Columbia Foundation is considering making a grant to the project of \$10,000.00 annually for three years. There is every indication that this grant will be made if the Directors of the Columbia Foundation have reasonable assurance that the project will continue for a three-year period. In the interest of such continued existence, the University of California has indicated that its various research funds (including those of the Giannini Foundation) can be drawn on to the amount of \$5,000 annually for three years. Thus it would seem that all that is now needed to assure the success of the study is a statement from the Rockefeller Foundation that a request for a continuation of its grant for an additional two-year period will receive favorable consideration.

PERSONNEL

The outstanding need of a project of this sort is the gathering of data in the field. The project has fortunately secured the services of

persons thoroughly competent to supplement the activities of the senior staff. In the Berkeley office an assistant working on the sociological and political segments has been given access to the confidential files of the War Relocation Authority and the Federal Security Agency (this information, itself, is confidential), as well as to the complete records of pressure groups operating both for and against the Japanese. Another assistant has been allowed to examine the records of the Farm Security Administration. A third assistant, trained in anthropological techniques and with a knowledge of the Japanese language and culture, is now preparing to spend a year in residence at the various relocation centers.

Obviously, a great deal of the necessary information can be obtained only by the evacuees themselves. The second-generation Japanese are, in general, more highly educated than are any other racial group in the American population, and from the more highly trained of these we have obtained the services of ten competent young social scientists. One of these, a former instructor in sociology at the University of Washington and the author of an excellent study of the social solidarity of the Japanese in Seattle, has been awarded a Social Science Research Council fellowship under the sponsorship of Dr. Thomas. Three others, former students of Dr. Thomas, are working in the fields in which they have had their training, namely, sociology, rural economics, and social psychology. A fifth, a student of Professor Lowie, has already passed her qualifying examinations for the doctorate in Anthropology. The others are less experienced but all are University graduates and are being given intensive instruction by the senior staff in connection with their frequent visits to the nearby Assembly Center.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK

Members of the staff outside the camps have collected as complete records as possible on a rapidly changing scene. The shifts of public

opinion, the activities of pressure groups, the impact on agricultural communities caused by the withdrawal of Japanese farmers, represent types of problems on which immediate record-taking has been considered necessary in order to assure the validity of the final results of this study. But the most important preliminary task has been the organization of observations within the temporary assembly centers to which the evacuees were moved prior to relocation. Exploratory field studies were made in four of these centers, namely Tanforan, Puyallup, Tulare, and Santa Anita.

The organization of the Tanforan report will indicate the procedure: Three observers at Tanforan prepared a report on their first month in the assembly center, from the day of evacuation to the day they were sent to Tule Lake. The report was organized under three main headings: Administrative Organization, Social Organization, and Social Maladjustments. Under the first of these topics are included analyses of policing, housing and mess division, maintenance division, service divisions of various sorts, the economic system, and rules and regulations. Under the second, Social Organization, are included analyses of the following basic social institutions:

Economic institutions: spending money, working, beginnings of private enterprise, substitutes for the money economy, etc.

The family: marriage, courtship, parent-child relationships.

Religion: organizations, rituals.

Recreation: daily routines, spontaneous groups.

Political groups: self-government, internal intrigues, types of leadership, relations with administration.

Education.

Also included in the study of social organization are analyses of specific social groups, social stratification, relationships between factions, accomodation to the Caucasians, Issei-Nisei relationships, specific events and crises. Under the third heading, that is, Social Maladjustments, are included conflicts between parents and children, the problem of the unmarried men, sex difficulties, theft and other forms of delinquency, destitution, and personality maladjustments.

The persons who prepared this report were sent to Tule Lake along with the first colonists in that area in order to continue similar record-taking from the very beginning of a relocation community. Before leaving Tanforan, however, they gave some training to a group of five of their fellow evacuees who are now continuing observations on the later stages of community life in the temporary Assembly Center. Each of them has been assigned a specific topic and is also keeping a record of the course of his own daily life.

In addition to these formal reports, the staff is in constant correspondence with Nisei at various centers and is receiving as many as twenty letters a week. The staff also has had access to several confidential diaries. All of these are being used to supplement the formal reports.

At the Relocation Centers, beginning with Tule Lake, the observational procedure is now being systematized. In these places, in addition to observations by the Nisei, records are being obtained from Caucasians, i.e., from cooperating members of the administrative personnel of the camp and from the project staff members. These observations by Caucasians will be used to check and supplement those of the Nisei.

The foregoing is sufficient to indicate the scope and importance of the project, the procedures involved, and the character of the data up to

the present. But every day brings new and often wholly unexpected developments inside the relocation areas and demonstrates the necessity of continuing intensive study of America's first enforced mass migration.

July 7, 1942.

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology