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PRESS RELEASE

General DeWitt announced today that the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, under authority delegated to it by the War Department and the Treasury Department, had been appointed to coordinate and assist in every way possible Japanese, Germans and (American
(Japanese ?) Italians who are situated within the military areas designated by Public Proclamation No. 1, dated March 2, 1942, issued by Headquarters Western Defense Command and Fourth Army in preserving, protecting and disposing of properties which they may have, and in connection with which their evacuation will require some action. The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco has branches at Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles, and will establish such other offices as the situation appears to warrant. The Bank also expects to enlist the services of the Federal agencies, banking institutions, and such other agencies as may be of service in disseminating information and assisting in this program.

It is suggested that all persons who will eventually be affected by evacuation orders be giving consideration to their particular problem to the end that, when it becomes necessary for them to move, their properties will have been protected either by action on their own part or by having lodged with some person of their own choosing adequate power of attorney to act for them in their absence.

As rapidly as possible it is the intention of the Federal Reserve Bank to place information in the hands of the various agencies mentioned in order that it will be readily available in all communities.

Attention is directed to the fact that the Treasury Department has today amended its General License #68-A by eliminating paragraph #6 which prohibited transactions under this license which would result in diminishing the assets, within the continental United States, of any

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national of Japan. With some minor exceptions this general license placed Japanese nationals who have been in this country at all times on and since June 17, 1940, in the status of generally licensed nationals which entitles them to conduct any and all types of business transactions to the same extent as those who are not nationals of any blocked country. There is nothing in the order which prohibits any individual in the United States from representing legally or by virtue of power of attorney an alien for the reason that he is being evacuated.

General DeWitt further said that he hoped that, through the aid of the Federal Reserve Bank and other agencies and the cooperation of the public as a whole, orderly transfers of property at fair value to evacuees would be possible of accomplishment, and that while military necessity designated the course determined upon it is the sincere desire that it be accomplished with the minimum of inconvenience and financial loss.