

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF SAN FRANCISCO

FISCAL AGENT OF THE UNITED STATES

April 3, 1942

Field Representatives
Evacuee Property Department

Instruction letter No. 10.

SUBJECT: DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The following text of a memorandum dated April 1, 1942, from Colonel Karl R. Bendetsen is set forth with the request that all our personnel be guided by its terms in connection with this program:

"1. It has come to my attention from reliable sources today, that during the course of planning for an evacuation from the San Francisco area, the tentative evacuation zone boundaries were described in the presence of a member of the Japanese-American Citizens' League, by a member of the civilian staff. This incident occurred prior to the time when the proposed boundary and the proposed evacuation project had been approved. The result was that the Japanese concerned immediately undertook to notify other Japanese of what he had overheard, by telephone.

"2. Even if the project had been then approved, the dissemination of such information in advance of the time for publication might have resulted in serious consequences.

"3. All persons, whether military or civilian, assigned to, serving with, or in any way connected with the Civil Affairs Division or the Wartime Civil Control Administration, are directed to exercise every precaution to insure the utmost secrecy of information regarding evacuation scheduling and planning. Such information must not be discussed in the presence of any person not officially connected with the project, or released for publication prior to approval for such release. The seriousness of violations of this directive cannot be overemphasized.

"4. Loose talk may cost lives, may retard the war effort, may invite serious direct action. Aside from the liabilities imposed by law, every person has a patriotic duty during time of war, to exercise the utmost discretion and to avoid unauthorized dissemination of military information. I ask that each person who reads this memorandum bring it to the attention of all concerned so that no one will fail to be reminded of his or her obligation in this connection."


Assistant Cashier.

