President George R. Throop  
Washington, University  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear President Throop:

The evacuation of all Japanese, and Americans of Japanese parentage, from the Pacific Coastal area has involved the interruption of their studies for some two thousand or more college and university students. At the present time most of these are with their families and friends in the assembly centers or the resettlement areas.

The Federal government, through the War Relocation Authority, is anxious that these Japanese American citizens be enabled to complete their education, in preparation for useful service and fuller assimilation into our national life. This view has also the endorsement of the War Department through Mr. John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, whose letter is enclosed, and also of the United States Office of Education.

Mr. Milton S. Eisenhower, Director of the War Relocation Authority, on May 5th, requested Mr. Clarence E. Pickett, Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, to undertake the formation of a representative committee to organize and administer a plan for the transfer of these students to other colleges and universities in non-restricted parts of the country.

This group, the National Japanese American Students Relocation Council, is now being set up and is already functioning. Every effort will be made to conserve and coordinate all the work that was immediately undertaken in this emergency situation by many interested and capable individuals and organizations such as the West Coast Student Relocation Committee, the Western College Association, the Association of American Colleges, Church Boards and Committees, etc. Obviously all this activity should be integrated through a single channel with which the government can effectively cooperate.

Student lists, including full academic data, are being compiled, and the Federal agencies are working out the techniques for the proper certification of each student after full investigation and hearing. We are now concerned to obtain complete and accurate information as to opportunities for enrollment open to these selected students in such colleges and universities as may be approved for this purpose by the Federal authorities.
You may have been approached already and signified your readiness to participate in this program by taking a certain number of qualified students. Some may have been enrolled in your institution in routine fashion. But to facilitate the wisest possible planning in the short time available we should have standard data from all institutions. Therefore we ask you to fill in and return to us at once the enclosed official questionnaire.

Our purpose in this project is to insure an equitable sharing of the burden and privilege of this emergency service. The War Relocation Authority on its part will provide transportation to the place of new enrollment. But on account of the financial loss these Japanese families have suffered in the evacuation, there will be need for substantial scholarship aid in most cases. Your most generous consideration is essential at this point.

It is also possible that you will need to prepare the way somewhat among the rank and file of your community, who may not sense the far-reaching effects of considerate and generous treatment of this minority group. These Nisei have considered themselves to be loyal American citizens, but they have recognized the exigencies of a war situation and accepted the dislocation of their plans in a most commendable spirit of patience and good will. We certainly owe it to them and owe it to ourselves by way of validation of our democratic professions, to provide a maximum of freedom and opportunity along the lines of our best American traditions.

You will appreciate the need for expedition in the assembling of the requested information. We look, therefore, for your prompt as well as hearty cooperation.

Most sincerely yours,

Robbins W. Barstow, Director,
Japanese American Student Relocation

P. S. The final list of approved institutions has not yet been received from Washington, but we need the requested information immediately. No assignments will be made without government approval.