MEMORANDUM ON CONFERENCE WITH JOHN J. MCCLOY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR ON NOVEMBER 14, 1945

He asked that members of his unit be permitted to take furloughs in the States before being returned to Hawaii for discharge. He pointed out that, in some instances, the appreciation of himself and members of the 100th Infantry for denial of this privilege had caused some resentment to the men. The interest and confidence he had shown in this unit from the very outset of its formation. The Major said that the opportunity provided the unit for service in the United States Army was deeply appreciated.

In response, Mr. McCloy said that the confidence he had reposed in the Americans of Japanese ancestry, who had served in the 100th Infantry and the units organized at a later date, had vindicated them, and that he was very proud of the part he had in bringing them into the service. He said that on his tour of the battlefronts he had found on every hand...
that these men had won the confidence of America's fighting troops. Major Fukuda made several final requests of Mr. McCloy.

He asked that members of his unit be permitted to take furloughs in the States before being returned to Hawaii for discharge. He pointed out that, in some instances, the denial of this privilege had caused some hardship to the men who desire to explore the opportunities for educational training in the States prior to returning to Hawaii.

The Major also asked Mr. McCloy that some steps be taken to perpetuate the identity of the 100th Infantry with the Territory of Hawaii. The possibility that one of the units of the National Guard be given this designation for this purpose was suggested.

He asked also that the colors of the 100th Infantry be returned to Honolulu.
Mr. McCloy expressed a sympathetic interest in this request, and said he would see what steps could be taken to carry them out, as among the final acts he will perform as Assistant Secretary of War. The latter statement was prompted by the announcement that his resignation from this position had been accepted by the President. He will return to private practice in New York.

In discussing the future policy with relation to the Americans of Japanese ancestry, Major Fukuda expressed the hope that the practice of segregating them into separate units be discontinued. He told the Assistant Secretary of War that he felt that the formation of the units of Japanese ancestry in this war had served its purpose. In this sentiment the Assistant Secretary of War concurred completely.

The thought came out of the suggestion that if the 100th Infantry is designated as one of the units in the National Guard of Hawaii that American citizens of all racial extractions
be covered into its membership. Mr. McCloy explained the War Depart-
ment originally had planned to return members of units such as
the 100th and 442nd to their homes as units in order that an
appropriate reception might be accorded them and more emphasis
given the special service they had rendered, but that the Depart-
ment was compelled to abandon this plan because of the pressure
for demobilization. This made it necessary to set up the system
whereby the members of these units were demobilized individually.
In consequence, the original plans had to be abandoned.