



CONSULADO DE ESPAÑA  
VANCOUVER

December 2nd, 1943

No. 316

Mr. J. Wakabayashi,  
Mr. H. Nagano,  
Mr. I. Yamakawa.  
Spokesmen for Japanese Nationals,  
Rosebery, B.C.

Dear Sirs;

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 18th., with regard to water installations for certain houses in that community.

In answer I would first of all emphasize that under International law, the Protecting Power can take no part in the organization or internal policy of the Detaining Power's arrangements for maintaining persons of the enemy race. His duty and privilege is to inspect, report on and mediate for, the basic requirements of humane treatment, shelter, food, clothing and medical treatment laid down under International Law. These requirements often times do not include some of the conveniences of life to which some of the Japanese may have become accustomed prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

Therefore I can only advise that if you desire the water service mentioned, you will have to accept the offer made by the Security Commission, of moving you, and your families, to Harris Farm. I have inspected the facilities there, and found them quite satisfactory. Some of the houses are quite new - never having been lived in.

For your information, by means of the speedometer on my car, I carefully measured the distance from the settlement to the bridge in New Denver, and found that it is exactly one mile away - not four. This can not be considered an excessive distance, and I believe that many Japanese children and women had to walk a good deal further than this for school and shopping, prior to the time of their evacuation.

I reiterate that should there be any particular occasion where undue hardships, for this or other reasons, result, you may advise me of the names and details by letter or wire, and I will immediately investigate the matter with the proper authorities.

Yours truly

cc/P.E.S.

F. de Kobbe.

Spanish Consul.