

*** * * WEEKLY UPDATE * * ***

APRIL 12, 1985

To: Members, NAJC Council
From: National Redress Co-ordinator
#525 - 890 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1J9
(604) 662-3200

1. This week's update has been held up a few days as we waited for some material from Art Miki. Art has been informed by Rits Inouye, President of the Toronto JCCA, that she and her alternate delegate on the NAJC Council, Henry Ide, are publicly supporting the Japanese Canadian National Redress Committee for Survivors (JCNRCS), of which George Imai is a spokesman. Both Rits and Henry confirmed that they, along with the other members of the Toronto JCCA Redress Committee, chaired by Jack Oki, now endorse the position of the JCMRCS.

Attached is a letter from Art to Rits confirming the content of their phone conversation. Art is contacting Council members by phone to inform them of the situation in Toronto and to seek their advice. He is asking Council members to consider:

1. whether Rits should remain on the Negotiation Team.
2. whether the Toronto JCCA should be temporarily suspended from the National Council. The status of the Toronto JCCA will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Art has explained that these questions arose because the Council members from the Toronto JCCA are no longer carrying out, even minimally, the responsibilities and duties of Council members. In particular, they have refused to distribute the NAJC Newsletter to their members, or to allow the NAJC to do the mail-out using the membership list. By endorsing the JCNRCS who claim that the NAJC does not represent the survivors of internment, they are taking action detrimental to our organization.

2. The North York Chapter of the NAJC has compiled a mailing list of 4500 names for the Greater Toronto area. The list will be used to distribute the NAJC Newsletter.
3. Attached is Art's letter to Jack Murta in response to their meeting in Winnipeg on March 30.
4. Attached is a recent article in the Globe and Mail reporting on a resolution by Ontario veterans opposing compensation to JCs. The article also contains two positive points: that the national veterans' organization most likely will not support the Ontario resolution, and that the City of Toronto supports the NAJC with a donation of \$5,000.

(Note: I plan to meet with Mike Harcourt, Mayor of Vancouver, this coming Friday, April 19, and I'll propose that the City of Vancouver make a similar, if not more generous, gesture.)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

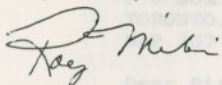
National Executive Office 735 Ash Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0R3

I'm sure many Council members are not surprised by the negative response of some veterans. We should attempt to counteract the opposition by getting support from veterans able to see that JCs were citizens who were not at war with Canada. We should also be contacting JC veterans for advice in this area. Any suggestions?

4. Enclosed for your information are the motions passed on the NAJC Constitution at the Calgary conference.

5. Any comments on the distribution of the NAJC Newsletter ? Any special problems?

Station K
M5R 1A7, Ontario




Dear Ritsuko,

This is to confirm the contents of the telephone conversation I had with you on Wednesday, April 3, 1985.

You indicated to me that you, President of Toronto JCCA, support the Toronto JCCA Redress Committee's endorsement of supporting the National Redress Committee of Survivors. You also said that you support the National Association of Japanese Canadians on Redress. The two positions that you have taken are in contradiction. The Japanese Canadian NAC of Survivors have publically criticized and opposed the NAJC.

As a council member and as a NAJC Redress Negotiating team member, your action of support for the Toronto JCCA Redress Committee's position has serious implications for NAJC. You must realize that the NAJC needs to have active participation and support from Toronto concerning Redress. Since you have expressed support for the Survivors group through the Toronto JCCA Redress Committee, the NAJC Council will have to consider seeking other ways of having representation from Toronto on the question of Redress.

Sincerely yours,



Art Niki
President

AM/JO

cc NAJC Council

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

National Executive Office: 735 Ash Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0R5

April 08, 1985

Ms Rits Inouye
P O Box 383 Station K
TORONTO, Ontario
M4P 2G7

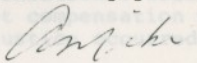
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As a council member and as a NAJC Redress Negotiating team member, your action of support for the Toronto JCCA Redress Committee's position has serious implications for NAJC. You must realize that the NAJC needs to have active participation and support from Toronto concerning Redress. Since you have expressed support for the Survivors group through the Toronto JCCA Redress Committee, the NAJC Council will have to consider seeking other ways of having representation from Toronto on the question of Redress.

Sincerely yours,



Art Miki
President

AM/JO

cc NAJC Council

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

letter National Executive Office: 735 Ash Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0R5

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We do appreciate your willingness to personally meet with members of NAJC to continue dialogue on areas which can be resolved. I will be in contact with you to arrange such a meeting.

I trust that further funding on the redress process and continue. We had received funds for the interim period from January to end of April, 1985, but will require further assistance for the remainder of the year. A submission is being prepared and will be the week.

April 08, 1985

The Honourable Jack Murta
House of Commons
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr Murta,

I wish to thank you for taking time to meet with members of the National Association of Japanese Canadians on Saturday, March 30, 1985 in Winnipeg.

At the meeting you expressed that the Government has not changed their position concerning compensation. You further stated that the Government was not willing to consider compensation in relation to the losses incurred by our community but that the proposed foundation was the Government's way of recognizing that an injustice occurred. Therefore, you confirmed that the foundation is not meant to be equated with compensation.

However, I do wish to remind you that the Prime Minister in a press article of May 16, 1984 in the Globe and Mail states, "If there was a Conservative Government I can assure you we would be compensating Japanese Canadians" and in your own press release of December 15, 1984 it states that "Discussion has started on: ... the amount and nature of compensation." In both instances the term compensation has been used as a method of redress and yet now you are indicating that it is not compensation that the Government is proposing. If I do not hear from you in relation to your interpretation of the term compensation I will assume that the trust foundation concept is not compensation but a recognition or memorialization that an injustice occurred.

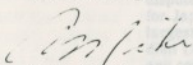
I have indicated to you that the support from the communities is that the NAJC seek compensation.

We are disappointed that you will not consider the Feasibility Study meeting as suggested in the letter to you as a first step towards resolving the monetary component. The study would enhance the public understanding of this important issue of redress.

We do appreciate your willingness to personally meet with members of NAJC to continue dialogue on areas which can be resolved. I will be in contact with you to arrange such a meeting.

I trust that further funding on the redress process and program will continue. We had received funds for the interim period from January to end of April, 1985, but will require further assistance for the remainder of the year. A submission of our request for this period is being prepared and will be sent to your office within the week.

Sincerely,



Art Miki
NAJC President

AM/JO

After months of staying out of the issue over financial settlements between Canada and the Japanese Government, one of the members of the Royal Commission has spoken out against the compensation.

The administrative council of the League of Japanese Canadians, which represents about 100,000 war veterans, has endorsed a formal resolution asking the federal Government not to make any financial settlement with Japanese Canadians whose properties were confiscated during the Second World War.

The Ontario group, which cannot act without the approval of the national body, has asked the Dominion Command in Ottawa to sanction the resolution.

The resolution originated in one of the Toronto branches, said James Forbes, assistant provincial secretary of the Ontario Command.

Toronto houses the largest Japanese Canadian community in the country. About 15,000 of the country's 40,000 Japanese Canadians reside in Toronto.

The members of the league branch do not agree that the Japanese should be given any compensation, said Mr. Forbes. The decision to inform the Japanese "was the decision of the government of the day."

Mr. Forbes said the position of the Ontario group is that if Japanese Canadians are awarded money from the Japanese Government, it should be granted to compensate Canadian veterans who were held in concentration camps.

Although the resolution was passed in the administrative council of the Dominion Command about two weeks ago, Colin Graham, the Dominion Command's secretary, said he had not seen it.

In an interview, Mr. Graham said it is highly unlikely that the governing body would endorse the resolution. "We are not going to take it up with the Government," he said. "It's not a national matter, it's a local matter."

The National Association of Japanese Canadians, the group which has been negotiating with the

Mr. Graham said the association is prepared to be more aggressive in its stand. A fund-raising drive has been started, an education campaign is in the works and the association plans to link up with other minority groups to strengthen its negotiating position.

"Our community is not a tough community," she said. "Maybe this is something the Government is relying on."

The association has rejected a Government offer to establish a \$5-million trust fund, calling the offer insulting. The federal Government proposes individual payments to Japanese Canadians because "redress is a moral issue," Multiculturalism Minister Jack Murta said in a letter to Toronto City Council.

In the meantime, Toronto veterans have come out in full support of the National Association of Japanese Canadians. Yesterday, at the city's neighbourhood committee, the politicians unanimously approved a grant of \$1,000 for the organization.

The veterans also supported a recommendation calling for other municipalities to match the grant.

GLOBE & MAIL, APR 12/85

Legion unit faults Japanese payment

By BEVERLY BOWEN

After months of staying out of the dispute over financial settlements for Japanese Canadians, one of the largest divisions of the Royal Canadian Legion has spoken out against any compensation.

The administrative council of the Ontario Command of the Legion, which represents about 195,000 war veterans, has endorsed a formal resolution asking the federal Government not to make any financial settlement with Japanese Canadians whose properties were confiscated during the Second World War.

The Ontario group, which cannot act without the approval of the national body, has asked the Dominion Command in Ottawa to sanction the resolution.

The resolution originated in one of the Toronto branches, said James Forbes, assistant provincial secretary of the Ontario Command.

Toronto houses the largest Japanese Canadian community in the country. About 14,000 of the country's 44,000 Japanese Canadians reside in Toronto.

The members of the legion branch do not agree that the Japanese should be given any compensation, said Mr. Forbes. The decision to intern the Japanese "was the decision of the government of the day."

Mr. Forbes said the position of the Ontario group is that if Japanese Canadians are awarded money then the Japanese Government should be pressed to compensate Canadian veterans who were held in concentration camps.

Although the resolution was mailed to the administrative council of the Dominion Command about two weeks ago, Colin Graham, the Dominion Command's secretary, said he has not seen it.

In an interview, Mr. Graham said it is highly unlikely that the governing body would endorse the resolution. "We are not going to take it up with the Government," he said. "It's not a veterans' matter. It's a social matter."

The National Association of Japanese Canadians, the group which has been negotiating with the

Legion

● From Page One

federal Government, has been bracing itself for a negative reaction from the Legion, said Maryka Omatsu, legal adviser to the association.

Ms Omatsu said the association is prepared to be more aggressive in its stand. A fund-raising drive has been started, an education campaign is in the works and the association plans to link up with other minority groups to strengthen its bargaining position.

"Our community is not a tough community," she said. "Maybe this is something the Government is relying on."

The association has rejected a Government offer to establish a \$6-million trust fund, calling the offer insulting. The federal Government opposes individual payments to Japanese Canadians because "redress is a moral issue." Multiculturalism Minister Jack Murra said in a letter to Toronto City Council.

In the meantime, Toronto aldermen have come out in full support of the National Association of Japanese Canadians. Yesterday, at the city's neighborhoods committee, the politicians unanimously approved a grant of \$5,000 for the organization.

The aldermen also supported a recommendation calling for other municipalities to match the grant.

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