

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

*** WEEKLY UPDATE ***
FEBRUARY 22, 1985

To: Members, NAJC Council
From: National Redress Co-ordinator
#525 - 890 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1J9
(604) 682-7345

Greetings for this second weekly update. The NAJC Newsletter is coming along, and we're now waiting for the return of the information sheets enclosed in last week's update. It will be 8" x 10 1/2", and 16 pages long (8 in English and 8 in Japanese). The first issue will include a list of NAJC Centres and Council members. A description of the NAJC as an organization and notes on its Council members will be featured in the second issue, in April. The main focus of the first issue will be an update on the redress program and clarification of the NAJC's strategy and position. This content is primarily intended for those in our communities across Canada who have not yet received sufficient information on the NAJC's efforts and initiatives.

Distribution of the newsletter will be the key to its effectiveness as our communication vehicle. Each Centre is urged to help us distribute as widely and thoroughly as possible in their areas. If a Centre has a mailing list and can distribute, but lacks funds, let us know and we'll get assistance from the NAJC. Or if a Centre has a mailing list but cannot find volunteers to handle distribution, address labels can be sent to our office and we can mail the newsletters from here. We'll contact each Centre to confirm the distribution system.

1. Art Miki asked that Council members hold meetings in their Centres to explain and receive input on the government's offer of an Acknowledgement and a \$6 to 10 million educational trust fund. Unfortunately, since the government has not sent us a copy of their Acknowledgement nor given us in writing the trust fund proposal, we cannot provide exact details. But we should be aware that the wording and content of the Acknowledgement may be unacceptable, as was the case with the resolution of Liberal Minister of Multiculturalism, David Collette, last June. It should also be noted that the Acknowledgement Mr. Murta was going to present to the House in January was not sent to the NAJC. We first read it through Ed Broadbent during our meeting with him in Ottawa, and as we pointed out to Mr. Broadbent, it was essentially the same wording that the NAJC Negotiation Team had rejected with the concurrence of Mr. Murta's representatives. Moreover, Art says we should keep in mind that Mr. Murta, both in newspaper comments and in discussions with NAJC representatives, has indicated that whatever is established with the interest from the trust fund will not necessarily be controlled by our community. Directors of the fund will most likely include some Japanese Canadians and individuals from other ethnic groups, appointed by the government. Mr. Murta admitted when the NAJC Negotiation Team met with him in Ottawa on the day of our press conference (January 28) that his trust fund idea is not to be considered "compensation" to Japanese Canadians, but simply the government's way of "memorializing"

our community's wartime experience for the benefit of all Canadians. This distinction should be presented when discussing the government's offer. Art requested that Council members report back to him by March 7th on their community's preliminary response to Mr. Murta's redress package.

2. Hamilton's Redress Committee Report (Feb. 1985), which has an excellent update on the NAJC's redress activities, arrived in the mail. The next meeting of the Hamilton Redress Committee will take place at the Canadian Japanese Cultural Centre at Oteora, on February 22, Friday evening at 8 pm. The conclusion to the Report, "For the Future", contains some thoughts worth sharing:

"REDRESS is a delicate and complex issue. It has been needlessly complicated by attention accorded to perhaps well-meaning, but misguided, individuals. We recognize that a variety of opinions is normal and healthy, but when it threatens to divide our community and jeopardize the success of collective endeavour, then it must be viewed with criticism. We should be aware that politicians and the media are not above exploiting these differences of opinion for their own ends. They have already played a part in fomenting confusion and division -- creating and feeding a situation that should remind us of how the Japanese Canadian Community was manipulated and coerced during WW2."

3. The NAJC Negotiation Team plans to meet in Toronto, March 9-10.

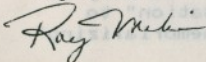
4. Attached are the motions passed at the Calgary conference.

5. The typesetting for the Redress Brief in Japanese will be completed this week, and we hope printed and ready for distribution in two weeks. It will sell for \$5, cost to Centres \$2.50; the price is the same as for the English version, though because of the limited number to be printed, the per unit cost is considerably higher. Centres are encouraged to purchase copies to give as a gifts among the elderly Issei and Nisei who require the brief in Japanese.

6. Columnist Charles Lynch has been launching his own personal campaign to undermine the NAJC's redress position. Attached for your information is a syndicated column printed in the Vancouver Province, Feb. 18, along with our reply sent to Lynch, to the Province, and to Keith Spicer, Editor of Lynch's newspaper, the Ottawa Citizen. Perhaps Lynch's statements, especially his false claim that the Canadian government treated Japanese Canadians as "nationals" and his allegation that our community could have been disloyal to Canada, verge on being classified as a rights violation -- since they could be considered material intended to foster discriminatory attitudes in his readers. Any comments?

7. Do you have newsworthy items for the April issue of the NAJC Newsletter? Get in touch by phone or mail. Deadline for submissions: March 18.

Roy Miki



MOTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE FEBRUARY 1 to 3, 1985

NAJC COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN CALGARY, ALBERTA, WESTIN

1. Adoption of minutes of the December 15, 198 NAJC meeting with an amendment "and any other persons deemed necessary by the President".
Fred Kaita - Winnipeg Roy Miki - Vancouver
Carried unanimously.
2. North York request be brought forward and considered.
Ken Taniwa - Thunder Bay Ed Ouchi - Vernon
Carried unanimously.
3. Moved that NAJC form a committee to study the application of North York.
Vic Ogura - Montreal Jerry Hisaoka - Lethbridge
18 no 10 yes Motion defeated
4. North York group be accepted as a member of National Council.
Tosh Yakura - Vernon George Tsuruda - Edmonton
Carried unanimously.
5. Moved that North York Chapter of NAJC have one (1) vote on Council.
Tim Oikawa - Hamilton Vic Ogura - Montreal
17 yes 11 no
6. Moved that the Research Committee's Report on Economic Loss figure not be announced at the National Council Meeting.
Roy Miki - Vancouver Fred Kaita - Winnipeg
14 yes 11 no 4 abstentions Carried.
7. Moved that the NAJC Council instruct the negotiation team to continue to pursue "acknowledgement" and non-monetary and monetary compensation as one package.
Ken Taniwa - Thunder Bay Les Miki - Regina
27 yes 2 no Carried.
8. Moved that the Negotiating Team endeavour to obtain agreement from the Government
1 so that Canadian citizens who were exiled or deported during and after World War II can recover their Canadian citizenship upon application

- 2 so that they can receive old age security without satisfying citizenship and residency requirements
- 3. so that their first generation offspring can receive Canadian visas upon application
- 4 and pursue like ideas described in the preceding sections.

Furthermore, negotiate

- 1 o that pardons and expungement of the records can be obtained for those Japanese Canadians charged and/or convicted under legislations arising from the War Measures Act
- 2 so that for those who were born in security, penitentiary and like hospitals because of the internment, reference to such places be expunged from the birth records and new birth certificates issued.

Elmer Hara - Ottawa Tim Oikawa - Hamilton

Carried unanimously.

- 9. Moved that NAJC should apply for incorporation federally.

Ken Taniwa - Thunder Bay Elmer Hara - Ottawa

Carried unanimously with Montreal absent.

- 10. That Connie Sugiyama draft the constitution with the assistance of the Constitution Review (draft B) Committee and the Draft A Committee.

- Ottawa Ken Taniwa - Thunder Bay

Carried unanimously with Montreal absent.

- 11. That the President meet with the Press and reaffirm the position of the NAJC. A letter will be sent requesting a meeting with the Prime Minister.

- Winnipeg - Calgary

24 yes 2 no Montreal abstained Thunder Bay absent. from 1/19

- 12. Accept acknowledgement Draft 2 with minor changes as noted.

- Edmonton - Victoria

Carried unanimously.

- 13. In view of the fact that it is not consistent with present strategy, we rescind the \$500M figure passed at the April 1984 Vancouver National Council meeting.

Elmer Hara - Ottawa - Vancouver

25 yes 1 against 2 abstentions.

- 14. Moved that the Selection Committee (Eugene, Betty, Dick Wes, and Art Miki) is empowered to decide on the hiring of an applicant for the position of Co-ordinator.

- Kamloops Wes Fujiwara - North York

Carried unanimously.

- 15. Moved that the Research Committee report on economic loss figure not be released.

- Vancouver - Winnipeg

8 no 15 yes 5 abstentions Thunder Bay absent

Carried

- 17. Moved that we thank the Mennonite Central Committee for their support and concern for the redress cause.

Elmer Hara - Ottawa Tim Oikawa - Hamilton

Carried unanimously.

- 18. Moved that the NEC and 2 NAJC representatives (Lucy Y and Harold Hirose) be empowered to make recommendations to the Mennonite Central Committee.

Dick Nakamura - Victoria - Vernon

Carried unanimously.

- 19. Moved that the meeting of Council/Calgary February 3 be adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Roy Inouye - Kamloops Art Shimizu - Hamilton

Carried unanimously as the reporters and cameras filed in for the announced press conference.

A M E N

- 16. Move that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

Roy Inouye - Kamloops Charlie Kadota-Vancouver

Carried unanimously.

Dr. Roy Miki
NAJC National Redress Co-ordinator

cc: Charles Lynch
The New Canadian
The Canada Times
The Ottawa Citizen

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

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

Please respond to: National Redress Co-ordinator
#525 - 890 W. Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1J9

February 21, 1985

The Editor
The Province
2250 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3G2

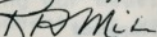
Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Charles Lynch's proposal that Japan be asked to compensate Japanese Canadian civilians for the actions of the Canadian government.

Contrary to his claim that Japanese policy contributed to the attitude of the Canadian government in 1941, there is now clear evidence from the government's own notes and correspondence that the government was actually influenced by hope of political gain and not by questions of national security. The B.C. representatives insisted on repressive measures and as one confided, not for security, but as a "heaven sent opportunity to rid themselves of the Japanese economic menace forever." The top military advisors conferred with the RCMP, FBI and American military and all concurred that there was no reasonable likelihood of a Japanese invasion of the west coast. The Canadian military said there was no need for them to participate in what they viewed as a civilian round-up, leaving this to the RCMP. The military's belief that there would be no disloyalty merely due to racial ancestry was borne out in Hawaii, the site of Pearl Harbour. There, over one-third of the population was of Japanese descent, but they were neither uprooted nor incarcerated, and even continued to work in the American naval depots. The most decorated American unit in the war was the 442nd, made up of volunteers of Japanese descent.

Lynch also errs in saying the Canadian government considered their actions to be against Japanese nationals. The first Order-in-Council could be applied to all enemy aliens, and the second to "any and all persons" from a "protected area". The Minister of Justice then promulgated orders concerning only persons of Japanese heritage. These were much broader Orders-in-Council than those used to control the movement of Italian and German nationals.

Yours truly,



Dr. Roy Miki
NAJC National Redress Co-ordinator

cc: Charles Lynch
The New Canadian
The Canada Times
The Ottawa Citizen

'Wartime evacuation justified by events of 1941'

OTTAWA — A lot of mail has come in supporting my suggestion that the government of Japan contribute to compensation to Japanese Canadians for hardships inflicted during the Second World War uprootings.

My point was that the Pacific War horrors were initiated by the Japanese, and that our counter measures were taken initially in anticipation of a Japanese invasion of our west coast, and finally, to clinch the victory over Japan.

Had that victory not been won, we might be conducting today's debate in Japanese in the unlikely event that there would be any debate at all.

It seems to me unacceptable that people should be talking about "reparations" owed by the Canadian government for wartime "atrocities" when, at least in our own minds, we felt we were fighting against an aggressor whose forces were making conquests everywhere and inflicting horrors on their captives, including our own troops captured at Hong Kong.

It needs to be remembered that while many of the displaced Japanese in British Columbia were Canadian-born, the government of Japan continued to class them as Japanese citizens, and it was as Japanese

really Canadian, and thus contributed to the attitude of the Canadian government and people of that time, impelled by fear of losing the war.

All the rest of the mail supports my view.

Patricia Knight of Richmond, B.C., quotes a Tokyo edict stating that all Japanese living overseas retained their Japanese nationality, and adds that her brother was a prisoner of the Japanese, undergoing greater hardships than any inflicted on the Japanese Canadians.

Jim Williams of Luskville, Quebec, wishes the Canadian government had the guts to refer the problem of compensation to Tokyo.

Muriel Morin of Perth, Ontario, agrees that Japan should help.

Mrs. F. Fernandez of Ottawa recalls a litany of Japanese atrocities during the Second World War, including the torture and be-



"nationals" that the Canadian government acted against them. Had Japan invaded, the invasion forces would have expected cooperation from the concentration of Japanese Canadians in British Columbia.

Mike Nakashoji of Orleans, Ontario, writes as a third generation Canadian of Japanese ancestry to say that my view fills him with despair.

He says "your feeling that somehow Japan has some responsibility for the way Canada treated Canadian citizens is ridiculous." He adds that I seem to imply "that somehow Japanese Canadians were not really Canadians."

Really, what I imply is that the Japanese government in 1941, the aggressor government, did not regard Japanese Canadians as

heading of prisoners. By contrast, Canadian treatment of what Tokyo called "Japanese nationals" was humane, and if the victims want to sue anybody, they should sue Japan.

Colin Sturton of Ottawa says the government of Japan never did compensate Canadian soldiers who were mistreated as prisoners of war, so maybe Tokyo could chip in now.

There it is. Judging things that happened in wartime by the standards of prolonged peace is tricky. By today's standards, ours was a prejudiced society in 1941, but it was also the society that successfully resisted the fascist aggressors, making possible the long years of peace we have enjoyed. It's hard to feel guilty about that.