

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

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

***** WEEKLY UPDATE *****
FEBRUARY 18, 1985

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

Greetings, for this first weekly update on NAJC redress activities! A strong and effective campaign depends upon the flow of information among all the Centres across Canada. Up to now, our organization has lacked the communication network necessary to keep Council members in touch with each other between Council meetings. This weekly update is an attempt to maintain the connections between Centres.

News items that come to my attention will be typed daily into my word processor and numbered in the order they are received. The deadline for each week will be Wednesday, 6 pm Vancouver time. It will be prepared for printing on Thursday and sent out to Council members on Friday. Here's a chance for Council members to pass on important redress activities and news to all the Centres at once.

I am pleased to announce that Cassandra Kobayashi, a Vancouver lawyer and a member of our team of Legal Advisers, has agreed to work half-time as the Co-ordinator's Assistant. In my absence, Cassandra will prepare the weekly update.

Unfortunately, our phone line won't be installed until February 22nd. Until then, I can be reached either at home (604) 732-7760, or at (604) 682-7345. Former NAJC President Gordon Kadota has kindly provided us with space in his office for three months. To make it easier to leave messages at any time of the day or night, I plan to install a telephone answering machine with recording capacity sufficient to receive memos for the weekly update. Send us notices of upcoming meetings in your area, or any other important redress events. Use this weekly update to strengthen the ties between Centres.

1. Plans are underway in the Co-ordinator's office for the publication of a monthly NAJC Newsletter, to be printed in English and Japanese, starting in March. This newsletter will be the first large-scale effort by our organization to provide accurate information on the NAJC redress program to our national Japanese Canadian community. We want to distribute widely and as thoroughly as possible across Canada. To do this, the NAJC requires that Centres help distribute the newsletter in their respective areas using their organization's mailing list, or any other mailing list of Japanese Canadians in their area. Centres with their own newsletter can perhaps attach the NAJC Newsletter before mailing. Otherwise, it can be mailed out separately. Centres are being asked to absorb the postage cost as a contribution to the NAJC, but where funds are lacking the NAJC will pay. For now, we need information from each Centre about distribution. Please fill out the attached sheet.

2. Art Miki has recommended that the first issue of the NAJC Newsletter should contain a description of the present NAJC Council, with names and a brief note on each member, as well as the address and phone number of a designated contact person in the Centre who can provide information for residents in their area. This article on the Council would be an effective way of letting our communities know the make-up of the NAJC. Please fill out the attached sheet and attach a recent photo. Art also asked for the name of the organization each Council member represents with an indication whether or not it has charitable status; this data is needed by Connie Sugiyama to draft our Constitution.

3. The 4000 copies of the second edition of Democracy Betrayed are now available. We were lucky to get a very low price on this second edition, about 85 cents a copy--which means that selling this brief can be an ideal way to fund-raise. As agreed at our December Council meeting in Winnipeg, the brief would sell for \$5, with \$2.50 to the NAJC and \$2.50 to the Centre. It was also agreed that Centres would purchase copies at \$2.50 and not receive them on consignment. This way, the NAJC would recover some of the costs of publication immediately and the Centres would have a greater incentive to sell the briefs to fund-raise for their local redress activities.

4. Roger Obata has been sent a supply of Democracy Betrayed to distribute in Ontario and Quebec. Art Miki has a supply for Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The Co-ordinator's office will supply B.C. and Alberta.

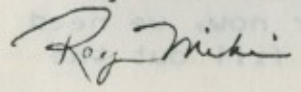
5. February 10: Art Miki passed through Vancouver on his way home from Kamloops where he spoke at a luncheon sponsored by the Kamloops Multicultural Society (approximately 30 plus media in attendance); while there he also met with a group of 25 Issei and received strong support for the initiatives of the NAJC. Roy and Betty Inouye made the arrangements for the visit.

6. February 11: Maryka Omatsu reported that she and Roger Obata met the National Congress of Italian Canadians and were assured of a letter to government urging the re-opening of negotiations with the NAJC; the Congress is also interested in helping form a multicultural committee to investigate the War Measures Act and Constitutional guarantees to prevent the re-occurrence of the injustices experienced by our community.

7. The translation of Democracy Betrayed into Japanese should be ready for printing by the end of February.

8. The Vancouver JCCA Redress Committee is holding a community forum on redress, Sunday, February 24th, at the Steveston Community Centre (4111 Moncton St., Richmond), 1pm - 5pm. The theme is "Forms of Compensation", and guest speakers include Art Miki, Gordon Hirabayashi, Don Rosenbloom and Cassandra Kobayashi.

Roy Miki



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