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Japanese American internment in Arkansas

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Telegram, Governor Homer M. Adkins to John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War

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8

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WESTERN UNION

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Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

HON. JOHN J McCLOY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON, D C

OCTOBER 21 1942

WANT A REPLY?
"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

RE: JAPANESE RELOCATION CENTER ROWHER AND JEROME, ARKANSAS. RELIABLE INFORMATION COMES TO ME THAT PLANS ARE UNDER DISCUSSION TO ESTABLISH FACTORIES OF SOME DESCRIPTION OUTSIDE JAPANESE RELOCATION CENTERS OR OTHER SIMILAR PROJECTS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE JAPANESE AND IF MY INFORMANT IS CORRECT IT IS EVEN CONTEMPLATED TO USE THE JAPANESE IN HARVESTING THE CROPS OR TO ALLOW THEM TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE VICINITY OF THE CAMPS WITHOUT BEING UNDER MILITARY SUPERVISION OR GUARD. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS IS BEING CONTEMPLATED OR WHAT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THIS CONNECTION. PLEASE REFER TO OUR AGREEMENT WHEREIN IT WAS DISTINCTLY AGREED UPON AND CONFIRMED TO ME PERSONALLY AND BY TELEPHONE THAT THESE JAPANESE COLONISTS WOULD REMAIN IN THESE CAMPS UNDER MILITARY GUARD, WOULD NOT COMPETE WITH LOCAL LABOR AND WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE LAND AND WOULD BE REMOVED AFTER THE WAR IS OVER. I MUST INSIST WITH ALL OF THE EMPHASIS AT MY COMMAND THAT THIS AGREEMENT MUST NOT BE VIOLATED. IT CANNOT HAVE BUT ONE EFFECT AND THAT WOULD BE TO CREATE TROUBLE AND CONFUSION AND IT WOULD BE A COMPLETE REPUDIATION OF OUR AGREEMENT. IF YOU WILL ALLOW E B WHITAKER DIRECTOR OF THESE TWO CAMPS TO PLAN AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, IT WILL DOUBTLESS SAVE A LOT OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS. AM SURE HE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND ALLOWING JAPANESE TO BE AT LIBERTY AND OUT FROM UNDER MILITARY CONTROL. PLEASE ADVISE.

HOMER M ADKINS GOVERNOR