

ment in the five interior states of the Ninth Corps Area disclosed that they could not accommodate more than 2,500 people.<sup>67</sup>

The War Department's plan for mass evacuation took definite shape in an afternoon conference on 17 February of Secretary Stimson with Mr. McCloy, General Gullion, General Clark, and Colonel Bendetsen. Despite General Clark's protest that any mass evacuation would involve the use of too many troops, Mr. Stimson decided that General DeWitt should be instructed to commence an evacuation immediately and to the extent he deemed necessary for the protection of vital installations. After the meeting General Clark consulted his GHQ chief, General McNair, who decided that General DeWitt should not be allotted any additional troops for evacuation purposes.<sup>68</sup>

On the evening of 17 February, Mr. McCloy, General Gullion, and Colonel Bendetsen met with Justice representatives at the home of Attorney General Biddle. After some preliminary discussion, General Gullion pulled from his pocket and proceeded to read the draft of a proposed Presidential Executive order that would authorize the Secretary of War to remove both citizens and aliens from areas that he might designate. Mr. Biddle accepted the draft without further argument, because the President had already indicated to him that this was a matter for military decision. After several more meetings between Justice and Army officials during the next two days, the Executive order was presented to the President and signed by him late on 19 February.<sup>69</sup> Between 18 and 20 February Mr. McCloy, General Gullion, and Colonel Bendetsen drafted the instructions for General DeWitt to guide his execution of the evacuation plan, and embodied them in two letter directives, both dated 20 February.<sup>70</sup>

On 21 February the Secretary of War, in accordance with the President's request, answered the Congressional letter of 13 February by assuring the

<sup>67</sup> This last point was already fully appreciated in Washington but was confirmed by Rad, CG Ninth Corps Area to TAG, 18 Feb 42, PMG 014.311 Corps Area Rpts on Housing Facilities.

<sup>68</sup> Stimson Diary, entry of 17 Feb 42; Memo for Rcd, Gen Clark, 17 Feb 42, GHQ file, WDC: Enemy Aliens. General Clark also told General Marshall about the meeting and the decision about troops, but a search of Army records fails to disclose evidence that the advice of the Chief of Staff was sought in the formulation of the War Department plan for Japanese evacuation.

<sup>69</sup> Stimson Diary, entry of 18 Feb 42; Memo, PMG for CofS, 20 Feb 42, OCS 21227-113; Ltr, Mr. Biddle to the author, 31 Aug 56; Grodzins, *Japanese Evacuation*, pp. 266-67; tenBrock *et al.*, *Prejudice, War and the Constitution*, pp. 111-12.

<sup>70</sup> Ltrs, SW to CG WDC, 20 Feb 42, PMG 384.4 WDC; Notes on Conf in ODCofS, 20 Feb 42, OCS Conf, Binder 32; Tel Conv, Gen DeWitt with Gen Joyce, 23 Feb 42, WDC-CAD 311.3 Tel Convs (DeWitt 42-43). The longer of the Secretary of War's letters is the Outline Memorandum published in part in War Department, *Final Report*, pp. 28-29, and atchd to Ltr, ASW to Gen DeWitt, 20 Feb 42, *ibid.*, p. 27. Executive Order 9066, 19 Feb 42, and the shorter SW Ltr of 20 Feb, are also published in *Final Report*, pp. 25-27.