

[he] told me to go ahead on the line that I had myself thought the best."⁵⁴ What Mr. Stimson thought best at this time, according to his Diary, was to begin as quickly as possible with the evacuation of both citizen and alien Japanese from the vicinity of "the most vital places of army and navy production."⁵⁵

In reporting Mr. Stimson's conversation with the President to San Francisco, Mr. McCloy told Colonel Bendetsen that "we have carte blanche to do what we want to as far as the President's concerned," and that Mr. Roosevelt had specifically authorized the evacuation of citizens. Mr. McCloy said that the President had recognized that there probably would be some repercussions to the evacuation of citizens, but that what was to be done had to be dictated by the military necessity of the situation, subject only to the qualification, "Be as reasonable as you can." The Assistant Secretary also told Colonel Bendetsen that he thought the President was prepared to sign an Executive order giving the War Department the authority to carry out whatever action it decided upon.⁵⁶

The President's decisions as reported by Mr. McCloy gave an understandable impetus to the preparation of new written recommendations by General DeWitt, which with the assistance of Colonel Bendetsen he had begun to draft on the evening of 10 February. These were embodied in a formal memorandum for the Secretary of War of 13 February, which was forwarded with a covering memorandum for GHQ via air mail.⁵⁷ General DeWitt's new recommendations differed from those he had already submitted under the enemy alien control program in only one important particular: he recommended the enforced evacuation by federal authority of the American-born Japanese from the Category A areas already recommended by him in previous letters to the Secretary of War.⁵⁸ His memorandum

⁵⁴ Stimson Diary, entry of 11 Feb 42.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ Tel Conv, Mr. McCloy with Col Bendetsen, 11 Feb 42, 11:15 a.m. Pacific Time, WDC-CAD 311.3 Tel Convs (Bendetsen, Feb-Mar 42).

⁵⁷ Memo, CG WDC for SW (through CG FF), 13 Feb 42, and covering Memo, CG WDC for CG FF GHQ, 14 Feb 42, originals in PMG 014.311 WDC. The basic memorandum is published in War Department, *Final Report*, pages 33-38, where it is erroneously dated 14 February. As of 11 February, General DeWitt was planning to have Colonel Bendetsen carry his recommendations back to Washington; but on 12 February, because of the general's doubt that GHQ and General Marshall had been "thoroughly informed" of developments, he decided to submit them through the normal channels of communication. Tel Conv, Gen DeWitt with Gen Clark, 12 Feb 42; Tel Conv, Gen Gullion with Col Bendetsen, 14 Feb 42. Both in WDC-CAD 311.3 Tel Convs (DeWitt, 42-43).

⁵⁸ The recommendations of the 13 February memorandum are described below at greater length in connection with the discussion of the War Department's directives of 20 February.