

3rd Bar. VI 10/19-a (11)
NOTED IN PD SUBJECT FILE
3-10-41 M. Y. S.

Tel to High
Com Manila
279 Oct 14

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

SPECIAL DIVISION
OCT 10 1940

FROM PLAIN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Manila via N.R.

OFFICE OF PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1940

file AS
10-22-40

Dated October 9, 1940
Rec'd 2:44 p.m.

Division of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 17 1940

In 272, Feb 15
A Manila

Secretary of State,
Washington.

660, Ninth.

Press reports state American citizens have been advised by Department of State to evacuate Japanese empire, Korea, Manchukuo, China, Hongkong and French Indochina. Would appreciate confirmation if correct and such further information as might be pertinent to work of this office.

United Press reports state that "Americans are advised to return to the United States rather than Manila." I hope this is correct. Owing to limited resources and facilities in Manila for housing and feeding Occidentals it would seem undesirable to increase the number of Occidental civilians to be cared for here. In caring for Hongkong refugees we faced the danger of possible shortage of food suitable for Occidentals and were also unable to provide

comfortable

390a. 1115

390. 1115A/3

F/B

OCT 23 1940
FILED

- 2 - 660, October 9, 1940 from Manila.

comfortable and adequate shelter in all cases. Also, high cost of living in Manila as compared with other parts of Far East and with United States argues against evacuation to Manila. If you have not already done so might I suggest the possibility of your instructing American Consulates in Far East to urge strongly against Americans or other evacuees going to Philippines?

PD Reports state definitely that American travel from United States to Far East is to be regarded same category as travel to Europe which would seem to imply that permission of Department must be obtained before travel to Far East is undertaken. If press reports correct I would appreciate definite instructions for guidance Passport Division of this office as to authorization for travel of Americans from Philippines to above mentioned countries. PD

A considerable flurry of excitement was caused here by press reports from Shanghai of above mentioned instructions concerning evacuation. We immediately got in touch with local press and radio broadcasters here urging them to avoid any sensationalism in their stories

- 3 - 660, October 9, 1940 from Manila.

stories. Also, in order to prevent unnecessary excitement I issued the following statement:

"According to press despatches the State Department has instructed our Far Eastern consulates to advise Americans living in the Japanese Empire, China, Hongkong and French Indochina to return to the United States. This advice must not be interpreted as an indication that serious trouble is expected. Rather, it is a careful and wise measure by way of precaution to avoid unnecessary hardship for civilians if later the unexpected should happen; for manifestly, in that event, there would not be sufficient ships available to carry to the United States all the civilian Americans now in China and Japan. It is significant, not as indicating any imminence of trouble, but rather as showing the careful concern of the United States authorities to avoid unnecessary hardship to Americans living in troubled areas of the world during the uncertainties of the present.

So far as the Philippines are concerned, our course is clear. The constituted authorities have

BEEN

- 4 - 660, October 9, 1940 from Manila.

been keeping and will continue to keep their eyes and ears open for possible eventualities. The care of the civilian population of the Philippines is of major concern to American authorities. In the meantime, there is no reason for anxiety or sensational excitement. Manila is one of the safest places in the Far East today. Those of us who live here are blest beyond words. Our part is to avoid becoming the prey to unfounded rumors and unjustified anxieties."

These actions I believe had a salutary effect here.

SAYRE

ALC

F/B