

East Coast Japanese Americans for Redress
% Media Committee
224 E. 48th Street
New York City, New York 10017

For immediate release

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians has recently ~~been~~ announced that hearings will be held in New York City during the week of November 9th at a place to be selected by the East Coast Japanese Americans for Redress, a coalition of Japanese Americans pursuing redress/reparation for the internment they suffered during World War II.

This Commission (CWRIC) was established at the end of the Carter administration through a bill passed by Congress to hear grievances of once-incarcerated Japanese Americans and Aleuts from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands off Alaska.

After 39 years, the Japanese and Aleut victims have been testifying in hearings in their locality. Beginning on July 14, the hearings have continued in Los Angeles, San Francisco; Seattle, Washington; Anchorage, Alaska; Aleutian Islands; Pribilof Islands; and most recently in Chicago. The last of the hearings will be held in New York City which was not originally a designated site. Only because of the persistence of Japanese Americans in New York City, has the Commission been persuaded to hold one here.

On Sept. 13, the coalition called East Coast Japanese Americans for Redress was formed to organize for the wind-up hearings here. Michi Kobi and Sasha Hohri were chosen as co-chairpersons. Organizations represented are: Japanese American Citizens League, Concerned Japanese Americans, 442nd Veterans, Japanese Christian Church, Japanese Buddhist

Church, Japanese American Help for the Aged, Japanese American Association, Niko Niko Club, Asian Legal Defense and Education Fund. Individuals independent of organizations are also members of this ad hoc group.

East Coast Japanese Americans for Redress is seeking testifiers, not only of incarcerated; but government officials who were involved in the formation of camps (then called relocation centers); and professionals (sociologists, anthropologists, etc.) who were assigned to camps as community analysts. The Japanese American coalition is also inviting well known organizations and prominent individuals in varied fields who have championed civil and human rights, and are knowledgeable about the Japanese internment to come forward to give support statements for redress and/or reparation.

A special request for all media, including television, newspapers, magazines, radio and video (both foreign and local) to focus on this historical event is also being sought.

Letters may be sent to: East Coast Japanese Americans for Redress, 224 E. 48th Street, New York City, New York 10017. Phone calls may be made to: (212) 732-3467 or (201) 886-0550.