

## On the Regulation of Recruitment of Women to Travel to China

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Recipients: Nobumasa Suetsugu (Minister of Home Affairs) and Prefectural Governors

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Annotation:

This document is a letter (no. 24) sent by the Governor of Kochi Prefecture on January 25, 1938, to the Minister of Home Affairs and the prefectural governors, the summary of which is as follows:

Recently, the number of agents who are recruiting women to travel to China is rapidly increasing and their purpose is to work in prostitution. However, as those agents are saying such nonsense that they are recruiting the women while in communications with the military, which affects the dignity of the military, this office has instructed the local authority to control them.

Please make sure to strictly prohibit any recruiters from making such damaging statements to the reputation of the military as they are recruiting the women while in communications with the military; and do not issue the certificate of identity to those people whose purpose of the travel is to work in prostitution.

This document indicates that even local administrative chiefs and the police could not understand the fact that the military was recruiting “comfort women” through agents.

Sources:

WAM Collection (Police\_004)

Collection of the Asian Women’s Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 25-26.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 124-138.

Notes:

This document was attached to the larger report “On the Treatment of Women Traveling to China (from the director of the Police and Security Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, February 18, 1938).”