

On the Treatment of Women Traveling to China

Author: Director of Police Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs

Recipient: Prefectural Governors (except the governor of Tōkyo-fu)

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File: On the Limitation and Regulation of Japanese Citizens Traveling to China in the Wake of the Sino-Japanese War; The Enforcement of Regulations in Administrative Districts in China (Vol. 1)

Location: Northern and Central China

Keyword: Mobilization

Annotation Source: Northeast Asian History Foundation

Annotation Link: http://contents.nahf.or.kr/id/NAHF.iswc.d_001_0040_0120

Annotation:

This document is Notice no. 5 issued by Director of Police Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs. The gist of the document is as follows:

There is an increasing number of “comfort women” recruiters who claimed that their recruitment activities were based upon the consent of the military authorities. Given the pressing need for women under the current situation of China, the military authorities should consider action in response to this matter.

Authorities shall condone prostitutes’ travels to Northern and Central China if they are over 21 years and have no symptoms of any contagious diseases including STDs. The certificate of identity shall be issued for those who travels to China with the purpose of prostitution, as per Classified Third Division of American Affairs Bureau Documents, no. 3776, Notice from the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs in August 1937.

The Director of Police Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, hereby requests the Director of Management, Ministry of Colonial Affairs; Director of Military Affairs, Ministry of the Army; Director of Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Director of American Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to forward this document with the attachments to the division chiefs of local Administrative Districts.

Sources:

WAM Collection (Police_012)

Collection of the Asian Women’s Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 69-75.

Sourcebook by Yoshimi, pp. 102-104.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 138-139.

Note:

This document contains the same content as the abovementioned document with the same title created on February 18, 1938. The only difference is that the attachments are missing in this document. When the Kono Statement (1993) was issued, the Japanese government released this document to the public. The document included in WAM is different from the version collected in the Asian Women’s Fund Collection. Meanwhile, it is not found in the JACAR (Japan Center for Asian Historical Records) Collection.