

Sending a “Summary of Urgent Measures to Deal With Japanese Citizens Who Enter China after the Capture of Hankou”

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Recipients: Kazushige Ugaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Annotation:

This document was sent by Itsuo Gotō, Japanese Deputy Consulate General in Shanghai to Kazushige Ugaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs. It is one of the documents released by the Japanese government in 1992 under the category of the “Documents sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.” The same document is included in *The Compilation of Materials Related to the “Comfort Women” for the Military*, published by the Asian Women’s Fund in 1997 (Vol. 1, pp. 121-123) and in the Sourcebook by Yoshiaki Yoshimi (pp. 115-117), respectively.

In this document, Itsuo Gotō (後藤湔尾), Deputy Consulate General in Shanghai makes a report to Kazushige Ugaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the guidelines to control Japanese who travel to Hankou. One exceptional clause in the guidelines states, “However, these restrictions are not applied to those who enter Hankou to open “comfort stations” for the military.” This clause indicates that the local consulate office and the military wielded primary authority over the immigration control of Japan’s imperial subjects (including Koreans) and gave preference to those who entered the occupied territories for the establishment of the “comfort stations” for the Japanese military.

Sources:

WAM Collection (Foreign Affairs_004)

Sourcebook by Yoshimi, p. 118.