

On Women Traveling to China for the “comfort stations” for the Amaya Unit of the Army in Hankou

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Annotation:

This document is a telegram from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Japanese Consulate General in Hankou, China (no. 323, 1939). The telegram indicates that the Amaya Unit of Japanese Army in Fanchuan, Hankou was planning to recruit fifty women to open a “comfort station” for the military, and there was a person who applied for a travel permit to bring the women to China. The local authority in Kagawa Prefecture informed the Ministry of Home Affairs that they granted a permit unofficially as the travel involved a request for the “comfort women” recruitment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, therefore, sought understanding from the Consulate General in Hankou, and their immediate responses to the matter so the travel could be arranged before the end of the year.

Sources:

WAM Collection (Foreign Affairs_007)

Collection of the Asian Women’s Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 131-132.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 187-188.

Sourcebook by Yoshimi, pp. 121-122.

Notes:

A file of this document is found in the WAM collection. The name of the military unit was marked as Amano (天野) in the original document, both the Sourcebook by Yoshimi and the Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1 corrected the name and replaced it with Amaya (天谷). It appears that there was a typo of Amaya Naojiro (天谷直次郎) in the original document. Meanwhile, the original document was dated February 22, 1939; it is incorrectly dated (i.e. February 23, 1939) in the Sourcebook by Yoshimi; the Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, and the WAM Collection.