

## **On the Criteria for the Issuance of a Travel Permit To be Handled by the Consular Police as Part of Provisional Measures on Japanese Travelers to Japan.**

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File: Concerning the Restrictions and Regulations of Japanese Citizens Who Travel to China after the Outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War; Outlines of Provisional Measures, Vol. 1 (May 1940)

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Annotation:

According to instructions by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Classified Third Division of American Affairs Bureau Documents, no. 511, May 8, 1940), Japanese citizens' travels to China were required to be processed as per the travel regulations and permission stipulated in the Classified Third Division of American Affairs Bureau Documents, no. 2119 (May 8, 1940). That said, considering potential confusion caused as to the criteria for the issuance for a travel permit, the police authority issued provisional measures as follows: 1) A travel permit shall be granted if the purpose of an applicant's travel is housework, or to reside or work in China under the condition that the applicant's family relationship and other relevant information are verified; 2) The military shall grant permits to civilians personnel or employees in the military; 3) In principle, permits are not granted to geisha, prostitutes, maids, or the employees of "comfort stations." However, travel permits shall be issued as an exception if there is a need to fill vacancies in "comfort stations" and employment vacancies are verified.

In sum, this document indicates that although Japanese' travels to China including that of "comfort women" were restricted in principle, travel permits were exceptionally granted to fill vacancies in "comfort stations".

Sources:

WAM Collection (Foreign Affairs\_009)

Collection of the Asian Women's Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 137-138.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 252-253.

Sourcebook by Yoshimi, pp. 125-127.

Notes:

The complete text of this document is found in the Sourcebook by Yoshimi and the Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1. In the Sourcebook by the Asian Women's Fund, parts of the Sections 2, 3. (1), 3. (2) and notes 3 and 4 are omitted. The version in the WAM Collection is almost identical with that of the Asian Women's Fund, except that there is no mark of omission in the WAM Collection.