

## On “Comfort Women’s” Travel to Occupied Territories in the Southern Areas

Author: Shigenori Tōgō, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Recipient: Teruo Hachiya, Head of Foreign Affairs Department in Government-General in Taiwan

Date: January 14, 1942

File: Miscellaneous Matters Concerning the Restrictions and Regulations of Travels to Southern Territories (Including Occupied Areas) in the Time of the Great East Asian War

Location: Southern areas

Keywords: Overseas travel

Annotation by Hye-in Han, Ph.D. Researcher, Sungkyunkwan University

Annotation Link:

[http://contents.nahf.or.kr/search/itemResult.do?levelId=iswc.d\\_001\\_0020\\_0160&setId=893827&position=2](http://contents.nahf.or.kr/search/itemResult.do?levelId=iswc.d_001_0020_0160&setId=893827&position=2)

Annotation:

This document is a response (no. 10) sent from the Minister of the Foreign Affairs to an inquiry made by the Head of the Foreign Affairs Department in the Government-General in Taiwan (no. 6). The Minister’s instruction to the consulate office in this letter is to allow those whose purpose of travel is either to open the military “comfort stations,” or to work for “comfort stations” to travel overseas under the condition that they hold a certificate of identity issued by the military. This document indicates that the “comfort women” who travelled overseas were treated as military supplies instead of travelers who fall under the jurisdiction of consulates. The exception made for the “comfort women” is that they were allowed to travel on a military vessel. Moreover, the “comfort women” were not required to carry a passport to be able to board passenger ships whereas regular passengers who travel overseas were required to do so.

Sources:

WAM Collection (Foreign Affairs\_016)

Collection of the Asian Women’s Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 165-166.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, p. 388.

Sourcebook by Yoshimi, pp. 142-143.

Note:

In the Yoshimi’s sourcebook, the date of this document is marked as January 13, 1942, the date when it was drafted. The sent date is January 14, 1942.