

MANZANAR COMMITTEE  
1566 Curran Street  
Los Angeles 90026, California

February 24, 1973

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Manzanar Committee announced this week that April 14, 1973 has been designated for the Pilgrimage to Manzanar. The pilgrimage will be especially significant this year in view of the dedication of the plaque describing the conditions and origins of Manzanar.

Final approval has been delayed for more than a year due to the controversy over portions of the text that the State found objectionable. Therefore, a last-ditch effort was made by the Manzanar Committee to reach an agreement with the State. Two members of the Committee flew to Sacramento in early February and met with staff members of the State Dept. of Parks and Recreation. From this meeting evolved a tentatively-agreed upon text, pending final approval by both sides.

The Manzanar Committee wishes to credit the involvement of the Asian American community during this critical juncture in turning the tide to favor preserving the body of the original text as proposed by the Manzanar Committee. The response during the past two months in the form of letters and petitions to the Historical Landmarks Registration Committee was impressive. The creation of ad hoc Manzanar Committees in San Francisco, Chicago and New York was equally important.

The proposed text as it will appear on the plaque is as follows:

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## MANZANAR

AS A RESULT OF THE HYSTERIA IN THE EARLY DAYS OF  
WORLD WAR II, 110,000 PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY  
WERE INTERNED IN RELOCATION CENTERS BY EXECUTIVE  
ORDER NO. 9066, ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 19, 1942.

MANZANAR, BOUNDED BY BARBED WIRE AND GUARD TOWERS,  
WAS THE FIRST CAMP CONFINING 10,000 PERSONS, THE  
MAJORITY BEING AMERICAN CITIZENS.

MAY THE INJUSTICES AND HUMILIATION SUFFERED IN  
THESE CONCENTRATION CAMPS AS A RESULT OF RACISM  
AND GREED NEVER EMERGE AGAIN.

PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND  
RECREATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE MANZANAR COMMITTEE  
AND THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE.

APRIL 14, 1973.