

NCRR COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR R/RIntroduction/Background to the NCRR

Since July 1980, the NCRR, a coalition of organizations and individuals from major Japanese American communities throughout California and the nation, has made a nationwide impact through its work in the Redress/Reparations Movement.

At the first nationwide conference on R/R held in November 1980, the NCRR adopted 5 principles of unity. These principles have been the basis for which organizations and individuals have joined and endorsed the NCRR. The 5 principles are: (on the NCRR information brochure.)

Since the founding of the NCRR, a major part of its work has been devoted to doing community education and promotion of community involvement in the R/R issue. The NCRR feels that the R/R Movement must involve the broadest sectors of the Japanese American community. The unified strength and determination of the community will determine the success of the movement for R/R.

Mobilization to the public hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWIRC) was a major focus of the NCRR during the past 6 months. The NCRR feels that the Japanese American Community should not have been required to carry the burden of proof for violations of human and constitutional rights for the government responsible for them in the first place.

At the same time, the CWIRC Hearings was a major opportunity for the community to publicly speak out on their experiences and officially tell the Government the injustices suffered. The NCRR encouraged people to do just that--to speak out, as individuals and as a community -- to take a strong, unified stand on the injustice suffered and the Government's responsibility for it.

Hundreds spoke out, thousands more supported them, and the message has been made clear: The U.S. Government is responsible for substantial, meaningful redress and reparations to the Japanese American community.

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The Japanese American community has taken/initiative in this campaign for justice, and it must continue to do so. Now that the community has made its feelings clear, it is crucial to continue to broaden, unify, and concretize its vision of R/R. Many difficult questions remain for discussion within the Japanese American community: How much should each person receive? How will the community fund work? and many more.

Our combined unity, commitment, energy and organizational skills will be essential in carrying out the next stage



of the Movement. The NCRR plans to continue to participate in this process. Basically, it will be discussing the questions at hand in terms of its 5 Principles of Unity, which we feel address the broadest interests of the Japanese American community and the broader American public.

### COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATION FOR R/R

#### I. Overview/Perspective

In the period until the Commission makes its recommendations to Congress, the NCRR plans to pressure the Commission to take the strongest stand possible in favor of R/R. The NCRR feels that it is important to show that the community will not just "sit back and wait" to hear the Commission's findings. We need to show that the community is serious/earnest in seeing that the Government <sup>is</sup> accountable for its actions -- to see the R/R campaign through to the end.

Therefore, the NCRR is proposing the following activities to make a maximum impact on the Commission's recommendations. Essentially, the plan calls for focussed discussions on some of the main questions on R/R.

Much discussion has already taken place on these questions before the CWIRC was established within the other redress organizations and in the formation of the NCRR. For the NCRR, many of the issues were touched upon in the course of drafting our 5 Principles of Unity.

The NCRR Principles of Unity will serve as the general framework for further discussion because they have served as the Coalition's foundation. The 5 principles have been the key to building broad unity within the community, regardless of differences on the specific how-to's dollar amounts, etc. We think the degree of unity that has been achieved, based on the 5 principles, is a major accomplishment -- and a major strength of the current R/R Movement. In this next period, we hope to build upon that strength, and to rely upon it to steer us through the difficult debates that lie ahead.

#### II. Goals and Objectives of the Community Recommendations:

As stated before, the goals of the Recommendations are

- 1) To increase the Commission's accountability to the community in issuing its official recommendations to Congress.
- 2) To initiate a process to discuss a long-term strategy for winning R/R.

With these two overall goals in mind, the NCRR sees the objectives of the Recommendations as the following:

- 1) To give the CWIRC a more concrete idea of what the Japanese American community feels is appropriate R/R.
- 2) To elaborate on the NCRR Principles of Unity in more detail.
- 3) To reach a consensus among NCRR members on the Recommendations submitted to the Commission
- 4) To build a basis for drafting a "Community Bill for R/R" at a later date