

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL

December 16, 1941.

Memorandum:

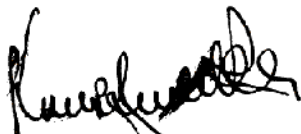
Dear Mr. Keeley:

Attached is a copy of the letter from the Secretary of War to the Secretary of State in which you are interested.

For your information, my office telephone numbers are:

War Department, Extension 6576

or 6327.



Karl R. Bendetson,
Major, J.A.G.D.,
Chief, Aliens Division.

C O P Y

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Geneva Convention (1929) establishes certain standards of treatment for prisoners of war. Its provisions, however, do not apply to alien enemies.

The War Department proposes that the American Government apply the provisions of the Geneva Convention not only to Japanese, German and Italian prisoners of war but also, so far as applicable, to all alien enemies of the nationalities mentioned who may be detained or interned. Should it develop that such provisions are not reciprocally applied, this Government should, of course, expressly announce its reservation of the right to take appropriate action.

If you concur in such a policy, it is suggested that you take such action as you may deem necessary to effect such a proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of War.