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Including any unit of force of the Asiatic Fleet, Philippine Archipelago, Wake Island, Mariana Islands, Midway Island and Dutch East Indies.

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SUBJECT: Trip Report - United Nations

The purpose of this trip was to participate in the February (biannual) hearings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights regarding the claim for reparations against Japan.

These hearings were held at the headquarters of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland.

Representatives from each of the claimant nations were present and participated in these discussions. They were:

Dr. John Humphrey, OC, OQ, LL.D. DCL
(former Director of the Human Rights
Commission, United Nations, 1948-1968).

Mr. Brian Forbes, B.Comm., LL.B., NGO
(Non-Government Organization)-attorney
for The War Amputations of Canada -
representing the six (6) allied groups
of former prisoners of war.

Ms. Karen Parker, attorney/legal advisor
IED (International Educational Development
Inc.), representing the Korean Comfort
Women.

Dr. Etsuro Totsuka, attorney/legal advisor
IED (International Educational Development
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Mw. Dr. A.M. de Pijper, Secretary, The
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AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORREGIDOR

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Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts,
The Netherlands.

Mr. Henk C. Zeeman, N.Z. Action Committee EJOS
New Zealand.

Mr. Ralph Levenberg, Chairman, Compensation
Committee, The American Defenders of Bataan
and Corregidor, U.S.A.

Mr. Ben F. Comstock & Mr. Darwin Dodds, Wake Island
Survivors - U.S.A

In order to put this report in the proper perspective,
it is necessary to describe to the reader the picture that
one gets upon arrival at the Human Rights hall in Geneva.
There are representatives from 181 nations convening on any
given day and night. They are dressed in their native attire,
and are of every skin color and, of course, nationality. The
primary language spoken is French. However, there is no lack
of interpreters/translaters available. Interspersed among
these people are media representatives from the international
scene - all eager to get a daily story to send out to their
sponsor(s).

The Commission on Human Rights meets here in Geneva
biannually in February and August of each year. During these
hearings there are thousands of witnesses who have come from
far and wide to testify for their specific cause

An example of a normal hearing day for this body
is....convene at 10:00 a.m., hear testimony until 12:00
noon at which time they adjourn for lunch. They then
return to hear more testimony at 3:00 p.m. and adjourn
once again at 6:00 p.m., and return again at 7:00 p.m.
for more testimony until 10:30 p.m. On the particular

day that the intervention (testimony) for our claim was heard, our representatives were 22nd on the agenda and were called to appear to present their testimony at 9:30 p.m.!

To say the least, this was a most interesting and extraordinary experience....one which I will cherish for having been selected to represent The American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor and other Americans who were POWs of the Japanese during World War II.

Upon arrival in Geneva I met with Dr. Humphrey and Brian Forbes who were to present the testimony on behalf of all claimants. These gentlemen are representatives of The War Amputations of Canada and have appeared before the Sub-Commission on Human Rights on numerous occasions in the past. Dr. Humphrey was the Director of the Human Rights Commission of the U.N. for twenty years, from 1948 until 1968. He was the primary author of the Human Rights agendas which are followed to this day. I had daily consultations with both of these gentlemen as well as with my colleagues representing the other allied groups. These consultations were held in order to discuss strategies deemed most appropriate for providing a balanced and intelligent presentation.

It was determined that Dr. Humphrey and Mr. Forbes would present the intervention (testimony) for the entire group. They are accredited by the Human Rights Commission to present testimony on behalf of claimants and have been designated as NGO (Non-Government Organization) for this purpose. Their statements are herewith attached.

The representatives of claimant nation groups were then given an opportunity to present their individual statements relative to their capture and subsequent imprisonment and treatment by the Japanese.

On Tuesday, February 23, 1993, a briefing session was scheduled and widely advertised inviting representatives from all nations to attend. The purpose was to allow each of the ²¹representatives of the allied groups involved in the claim against Japan to present oral testimony of their own personal experiences as prisoners of war. This briefing was entitled: "SLAVERY BY JAPAN---THE FINGER OF SHAME THAT POINTS TO JAPAN". A copy of the flyer advertising this event is herewith attached.

At 1:00 p.m. on February 23rd, representatives from some 83 nations gathered to listen to "our" stories. The session was chaired by Ms. Karen Parker, Chairwoman (NGO) IED (International Educational Development, Inc.) who is legal advisor to the Korean Comfort Women. Ms. Parker is an American attorney from San Francisco, California. She first introduced Dr. John Humphrey who gave a short briefing on his involvement in this claim and his prior experiences as the Director of the Human Rights Commission for the U.N. Next, Mr. Brian Forbes was introduced and after a briefing as to his involvement with the claim he introduced each of the representatives of the claimant nations. Each claimant was allowed 12 to 15 minutes to present their personal experiences as POWs of the Japanese during WWII. Upon completion of these discussions, a question and answer period was provided.

Concluding hearings were held (in closed session) by the Sub-Commission. These sessions were held to provide responses from nations and/or individuals who had been reported upon as violators of human rights. Since my return to the U.S. I have been in contact with Mr. Forbes to determine if Japan had made a response. As of this writing (March, 1993), they have NOT!! Further information will be forthcoming at the conclusion of this session of the Human Rights Commission's meeting.

Mr. Forbes and Mr. Chadderton of The War Amputations of Canada will provide me with any updated information relating to this project, and I will submit subsequent reports on their findings.

My presentation to the representatives of the allied nations attending our briefing is herewith attached.

In closing, let me once again thank the entire membership of ADBC for giving me the opportunity to represent them at this important conference. It has been a most exciting experience.

Respectfully submitted,

RALPH LEVENBERG
Past National Commander
Chairman, Compensation Committee