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YOU'RE INVITED!

MAY 16th AWRIC RECEPTION

For Members of Congress, Staffers and Community Groups

WHEN: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

WHERE: 2105 Rayburn House Office Building

WHAT:

- Meet AWRIC delegates from the Japanese, German, Italian and Muslim American communities, including former Japanese Peruvian internees
- Get your copy of the AWRIC Report and Video
- View the AWRIC Video
- Learn more about:

S2296/HR4901-Commission on Wartime Relocation & Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent

S1354/HR3198-Wartime Treatment Study Act

Delicious Light Refreshments will be provided

The Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (AWRIC) community delegation, including former internees and family members of Japanese, German, and Italian descent, would like to invite you to an informal joint House and Senate and community reception. The newly published AWRIC report, *HERE IN AMERICA? Immigrants as "The Enemy" During WWII and Today*, and companion video will be given to attending Congressional staff. The report documents a public event held last year and provides background information about the World War II Enemy Alien Program and its relevance for all Americans today.

AWRIC delegates are **Grace Shimizu**, Director of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project and daughter of former Japanese Peruvian internee; **Karen Ebel**, founding member of the German American Internee Coalition and daughter of former German internee; film-maker **Judith Ehrlich-Bertoni**; former Japanese Peruvian internees **Art Shibayama**, **Libia Yamamoto** and **Blanca Katsura**; former Japanese American internee **Ruth Ichinaga**; AWRIC Report designer **Noreen Rei Fukumori**; and **Samina Faheem Sundas**, Executive Director of American Muslim Voice.

On April 8 & 9, 2005, the AWRIC event was held at Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, California. This public testimonial event documented the wartime experiences of persons of Japanese, German, and Italian ancestry who were classified as "enemy aliens" during World War II and their ongoing efforts to gain acknowledgment for the violation of their constitutional and human rights. Representatives of the Arab, Muslim and South Asian American communities also shared their experiences of being targeted as "the enemy" today. This forum provided an opportunity to draw lessons from the past which are relevant to present day concerns. With an overview of the government policies and actions, excerpts of personal testimonies and resource material, the AWRIC Report and Video provides educational background information which is useful for policy makers, educators and researchers.

During the week of May 15th, AWRIC delegates will also be meeting with members of Congress to emphasize the usefulness of this education resource and important historical information when considering current and future legislation, especially bills that would fund fact-finding investigations and public education about the WWII period.

Two such bills are currently pending in both the House and the Senate. The Wartime Treatment Study Act (S1354/HR3198) would create two commissions: One to investigate and study the wartime treatment of persons of German and Italian descent from the United States and Latin America, including internment and use for prisoner exchange, and the other to investigate and study the denial of asylum by the US to Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in Europe. The Commission on Wartime Relocation of Latin American of Japanese Descent Act (S2296/HR4901) would create a commission to investigate and study the seizure of persons of Japanese ancestry from 13 Latin American countries and their internment in the United States for the purpose of prisoner exchange.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE RECEPTION!

For more information or to RSVP, contact:

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Karen Ebel, German American Internee Coalition, 603-454-8550 or kebel@yahoo.com.