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Folder Title:

Schedule Proposal-Photo with Yukiko Sugihara

Stack:

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Row:

29

Section:

5

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11

Position:

2

February 1, 1995

send copy to A. McGuire
for letters attached
BW can look at
this one last time

MEMORANDUM TO ERSKINE BOWLES
PAT GRIFFIN
BILLY WEBSTER

FROM: DORIS MATSUI

RE: SUGIHARA SCHEDULING REQUEST

It has come to my attention that the scheduling request for a photo-op with Yukiko Sugihara has been rejected. I would like you to revisit this request.

Since submitting the original request, I have received more newspaper articles from major California newspapers as well as letters of support for this event from Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and Congressman Matsui in addition to the previous letter submitted by Congressman Mineta. Sugihara has also meet with Congresswomen Pelosi on her visit to the U.S.

The regret of this photo-op would not reflect positively on the administration to the Asian and Jewish communities, especially in the large communities in the key states of California, where she was honored last week, and New York where she is being honored this week. In addition, we have been informed by the Oral History Project staff that both the Japanese and Israeli Counsul Generals to New York will be attending the ceremony recognizing her husband's work. She is staying in New York the entire week and is prepared to fly to Washington on several hours notice.

It would be a great sign to the Japanese and Jewish communities, as well as the nation as a whole, for the President to meet with a widow, who with her husband saved approximately 8,000 lives from one of the most horrifying atrocities we have ever known, for no personal gain.

I have enclosed a copy of the original request, letters of support and newspaper clippings. Thank you.

2/3-Att to
give opinion

2/6 —
Ruby,
Please ask Alexis
to respond for
Harold.

BARBARA BOXER
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE ON BANKING,
HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

DEPUTY WHIP

United States Senate

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SUITE 990
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 239-2884

2300 TULARE STREET
SUITE 130
FRESNO, CA 93721
(209) 487-5103

February 1, 1995

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to introduce to you Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara. Mrs. Sugihara would like to meet with you during her stay in Washington, DC on January 29 through February 5, 1995.

Mrs. Sugihara is the spouse of Chiune Sempo Sugihara who serve as the Japanese Consul to Lithuania during World War II. During the month of August in 1940, Mr. Sugihara courageously issued exit visas to 6,000 Jews fleeing the Nazi occupation of Poland. These visas were issued as a matter of conscience against the orders of the Japanese government.

In 1945, Mr. Sugihara and his family were arrested by Soviet troops and moved to a Soviet prison camp. Upon return to Japan, Mr. Sugihara was forced to resign his diplomatic post in disgrace. Finally, in 1991 the Japanese government issued an official apology to the Sugihara family and awarded Mr. Sugihara the Nagasaki Peace Award.

Historians credit Mr. Sugihara with saving the second-largest number of Jews during the Second World War.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you can accommodate Mrs. Sugihara's request.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

BB:rj

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

January 31, 1995

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

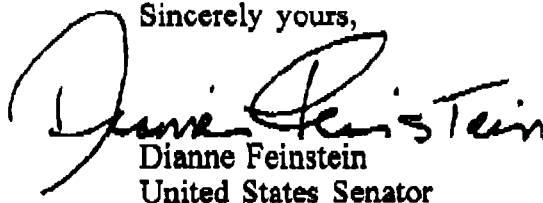
Dear Mr. President:

I would like to bring to your attention an extraordinary person who would be honored to meet briefly with you during her visit to Washington, D.C. I am referring to Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara, who, with her late husband Chiune Sugihara in 1940, signed transit visas to allow over 6,000 Jewish refugees to escape Lithuania for the Far East. Mrs. Sugihara is currently in Washington, after spending some time in California where she was honored with tributes to her late husband from the Simon Weisenthal Center in Los Angeles, and the Herbst Theater in San Francisco. She will be in Washington until February 5, 1995.

Against the orders of his government, Mr. Sugihara, who in 1940 served as counsel general in the Lithuanian city of Kaunas, displayed heroic courage in order to do what he so selflessly believed had to be done. With the help of his wife, Mr. Sugihara granted both freedom and life to thousands of Lithuanian Jews who would otherwise have been among the six million to lose their lives during the Holocaust. It would be an honor for Mrs. Sugihara, and a very meaningful tribute to her late husband who passed away in 1986, to meet with you during her visit to Washington. I understand that this is very short notice, but should your schedule permit, I would very much appreciate your careful consideration of this request.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:lmb

ROBERT T. MATSUI
Fifth District, California

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2311 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0808
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COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
WHIP AT LARGE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0505

January 26, 1995

President and Mrs. William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President and Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing on behalf of Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara, a truly special individual who is currently visiting Washington D.C. I strongly urge that, if possible, you schedule a short meeting with her.

Mrs. Sugihara and her late husband, Chiune Sugihara are models of political courage in the face of great personal peril. Mr. Sugihara, a citizen of Japan who was Consul to Lithuania during World War II, violated direct orders from Tokyo and issued transit visas to thousands of Lithuanian and Polish Jews in order to help them flee Nazi persecution.

In 1940 Japan, visas had to be hand written. Mr. Sugihara worked day and night personally writing hundreds of visas each day. His wife, Mrs. Sugihara gave her husband the necessary support to continue to write visas though it was an arduous task. The total number of visas upon which he signed was more than 6,000. Many of those who received these visas literally owe their lives to the sacrifices made by these brave individuals.

The contributions that Mr and Mrs. Sugihara made to the Jewish community have only recently been recognized. The cost of Mr. Sugihara's work resulted in his dismissal from the foreign service and public shame.

Mrs. Sugihara is here in Washington D.C. until February 5. I can only reiterate what my colleagues and friends have said, and urge you to arrange a brief meeting with Mrs. Sugihara. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



ROBERT T. MATSUI
Member of Congress

NORMAN Y. MINETA
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
15TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEPUTY WHIP

CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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AVIATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0515

January 26, 1995

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TELEPHONE (408) 438-4819

TDD NUMBER (408) 984-3409

President and Mrs. William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President and Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing in the hopes that you could spare a few moments of your time to meet with Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara, a truly extraordinary woman who will be visiting our Nation's Capital in the next week.

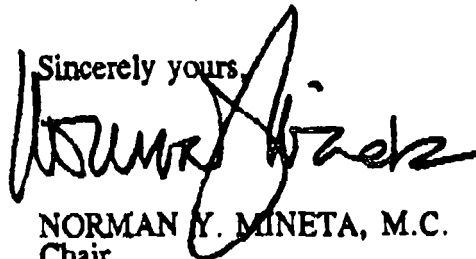
Mrs. Sugihara and her husband, Chiune Sugihara, the former Japanese Consul to Lithuania, were stationed in the Lithuanian capital of Kaunas when the Russian Army invaded in June of 1940. At the time, the Soviet Union was allied with Nazi Germany, and thousands of Jews descended on the Japanese Consulate seeking transit visas to escape to Japan. Three times, Mr. Sugihara asked Tokyo's permission to issue the visas, but his request was denied. In direct defiance of his government's order, he began issuing visas anyway.

Until he was ordered from the country, Mr. Sugihara continued to write visas day and night with his wife massaging the cramps from his hand. He wrote hundreds of visas each day, and by the time he and his family were finally forced to leave he had written transit visas for more than 6,000 Lithuanian and Polish Jews.

When he returned to Japan after the War, Mr. Sugihara was fired from the Foreign Ministry and it has only been in recent years that his story has become known outside of Israel. There is little doubt that, if it were not for the Sugiharas' courageous actions, these individuals would not have survived. When the Nazis invaded Lithuania, the vast majority of the country's 240,000 Jews were killed.

Mrs. Sugihara will be in the Washington, D.C. area from January 29 through February 5. It would be a tremendous sign of respect for the sacrifices she and her husband endured if a brief meeting could be arranged, and I would greatly appreciate anything you can do to help.

Sincerely yours,



NORMAN Y. MINETA, M.C.
Chair
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

SF Chronicle
1/26/94

Japanese 'Schindler' Widow Burglarized

By Ken Hoover
Chronicle Staff Writer

The widow of a Japanese diplomat who saved thousands of Jews from the Nazis during World War II lost airline tickets, passports and about \$3,000 in yen and dollars to an early-morning intruder in the San Francisco hotel room she shared with two relatives.

The cat burglar, who has not been caught, slipped into the ground floor suite of the Miyako Hotel in Japantown at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday as Yukiko Sugihara, 81, slept in one bedroom and her son and his wife slept in another. Sugihara had come to the United States to be honored in tributes to her late husband.

According to hotel manager John Banta, Sugihara's son Hiroki woke up to a noise in his bedroom closet that he initially thought was his wife, Michi. When he noticed his wife was still in bed, he jumped up and shouted.

The intruder shined a flashlight in Hiroki Sugihara's eyes — evidently to prevent him from identifying the burglar — and ran away. The man gained entry through an unlocked sliding glass door facing Laguna Street after

climbing and crawling along a passageway designed to insulate rooms from traffic noise, Banta said.

Hiroki Sugihara phoned the hotel switchboard, and a security guard searched without success for the burglar.

Yukiko Sugihara's husband, Chitune, was Japanese consul general assigned to the Lithuanian city of Kaunas when war broke out in Europe. Defying his government's orders, he and his wife issued thousands of transit visas to Jews trying to escape after the German invasion of Poland forced many to flee to Lithuania, which was then invaded by both Germany and the Soviet Union.

Chitune Sugihara, who died in 1988, has been called "the Japanese Schindler," after German businessman Oskar Schindler, who saved many Jews during World War II and became the subject of the Steven Spielberg movie, "Schindler's List."

Her emotional U.S. tour is not only a chance to meet many of the survivors and their families, but to promote a "higher awareness" of war and suffering.

Banta said he believes the Sugiharas were the victims of a burglar who struck at random.

"We just feel terrible about it," said Banta, who added that he is aware of only one other similar crime at his 600-room, 16-story hotel during the past four years.

A hotel executive was sent to

BURGLARY

From Page A15

Sacramento yesterday to find the Sugihara family and reimburse them for the lost cash and their return airline tickets to Japan. The executive also took along a camera to shoot new passport photos.

The story of the burglar has already appeared in the Japanese press, where it seems likely to reignite Japanese fears about crime in American cities.

"These cases are a big part of the Japanese press, unfortunately. People are alarmed to a certain degree," said Hiroshi Furusawa, press officer for the Japanese consulate in San Francisco.

Potential Japanese visitors to the United States have been frightened by a number of high-profile crimes committed against Japanese in the United States, among them the killing of a Japanese student in Louisiana and in 1993, the slaying of an exchange student whose body was found at a Concord BART station.

"We certainly hope that this case will not be blown out of proportion here in the states," Furusawa said. "There are quite a few crime cases, that's a fact, but there are many good people that we encounter daily here in San Francisco."

The "hot-prowl burglary," as police call it, did not deter the Sugiharas from maintaining their busy schedule. Yukiko Sugihara was in Sacramento Tuesday and yesterday. She attended a private luncheon in a state Senate conference room with legislators and other dignitaries, then attended a press conference.



Sugihara

BURGLARY: Page A17 Col. 1

The Oakland Tribune.

A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1995 • PAGE A-12

Robt
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Ph

Chur
Assistant Managing Ed
Chur
Assistant Managing Ed

CONGRESS shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791

EDITORIALS

Remembering an act of humanity and courage

IT was 1940. Polish Jews were fleeing the Nazi persecution in Poland. They made it to Lithuania any way they could, looking for a way to escape to a country where they might be safe from the escalating horror of the Holocaust.

They lined up outside the Japanese Embassy, seeking visas. Chiune Sugihara, consul general, asked the Japanese government if he could sign the visas. He was told no.

He asked again. The answer was again no. He asked a third time. His government didn't budge.

And then, between July 29 and August 30, against the explicit orders of his government, Sugihara signed close to 2,100 visas. A family could travel on each visa. Sugihara's act saved between 6,000 and 8,000 lives.

"I saw the children standing in line. My father told me they would be killed if he didn't save them."

— Hiroki Sugihara

According to his family, it was the faces of the children that moved Sugihara to defy his government.

"I saw the children standing in line. They were my age," said Hiroki Sugihara, a son who was 5 at the time. "My father told me they would be killed if he didn't save them. I asked him why don't we help them."

With those precious visas, the Jewish refugees traveled to Japan through Siberia, where they tried to get visas to the United States, Canada or Australia. Most were turned down. The majority ended up spending the rest of the war in Shanghai, then migrated to the U.S. or Israel.

The dramatic history came home recently when the San Francisco-based Holocaust Oral History Project sponsored an event that honored Sugihara's widow, Yukiko, and

family and reunited them with some of the survivors he saved.

Three of the Bay Area survivors and their children met the family at the airport. That night at dinner, they all wept together.

"Oh yes, it was very nice," said Hiroki Sugihara. "It's always a wonderful thing to see them." The family first met some of the survivors in 1968 when they traveled to Japan and searched for the man who had saved them. That visit led to the first newspaper accounts of Sugihara's courageous act; the family had never before told anyone what they had done.

The popularity of Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*, a similar story about an industrialist who saved the lives of hundreds of Jews, and the independence of Lithuania and release of historical records, have drawn more atten-

tion to the Sugihara story.

Although his courage was recognized before his death at 86 in 1986, Sugihara paid a price for his defiance. He had to resign his office, ending his diplomatic career. After the war he went to Romania. The family was captured by the Soviets and stayed in a camp for one year.

Hiroki Sugihara attributes his father's act to his "love, kindness and courage. His first thought was the humanity of the people."

The lesson? "If I can borrow my father's words, he always said, 'If you understand their language, you can be more friendly. And you can avoid war.'"

We salute the courage of Chiune Sugihara and the wisdom of his words. They ring as true today as they ever have.



BY PETER DuSILVA/THE CHRONICLE

Yukiko Sugihara, widow of diplomat who gave visas to Jews in World War II, was greeted by Solly Ganor (left) and Jerry Milford

Widow of Japanese 'Schindler' Visits S.F.

World War II survivors, descendants honor couple who saved 6,000 Jews

By Benjamin Pimentel
Chronicle Peninsula Bureau

Yvonne Ryzak warmly grasped the hand of the woman who, with her husband, saved the lives of 6,000 people, including Ryzak's father, 50 years ago.

Yukiko Sugihara, widow of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul general who helped Jews escape from Lithuania during World War II, was welcomed yesterday to San Francisco by survivors of the war and their descendants.

"It's not every day that you get to meet the person who, in essence, saved your life by saving your parent's life," Ryzak, a 38-year-old public affairs consultant from San Mateo, said after greeting Sugihara at San Francisco In-

ternational Airport.

Sugihara, accompanied by her four grown children, flew in from Los Angeles, where she met with other World War II survivors and movie personalities including Steven Spielberg. Spielberg directed the Academy Award-winning film "Schindler's List," about the life of the German businessman who also helped Jews escape the Nazis during the war.

Chiune Sugihara has been referred to as the "Japanese Schindler."

Sugihara said she came to the United States to meet some of the survivors that she and her husband helped and to promote a "higher awareness" about war and suffering.

"The suffering and pains we went through, the messy parts of the war, young people don't know about them," Sugihara, 81, said through an interpreter.

Sugihara discovered the pain of war when her husband was assigned to the Lithuanian city of Kaunas shortly before the war broke out in Europe.

In 1940, Chiune Sugihara defied the orders of the Japanese government by issuing transit visas to thousands of Jews trying to escape after the Nazi invasion of Poland forced them to Lithuania, which itself was invaded by both the Soviet Union and Germany.

One of them was Barek Winter, who escaped to Japan and then to China before coming to the United States. He now lives in

San Francisco.

He said he does not remember meeting Yukiko Sugihara during the war, but at the airport, he shook her hands, thanking her repeatedly in Japanese.

"Arigato, arigato," he said.

Moshe Langer, 82, of San Francisco, who also escaped from Lithuania with Sugihara's help, said he wished that he could have seen Chiune Sugihara before he died in 1986.

Another survivor was Jerry Ryzak who, his daughter Yvonne said, went to Sugihara's house in Lithuania early one morning to ask for his help.

He got a visa to Japan, moved to China and arrived in the United States after the war. Ryzak,

SAVIOR: Page A16 Col. 1

from the San Francisco Chronicle 111 1 T 104 1005

SAVIOR: Widow Visits S.F.

From Page A15

who died three years ago, is survived by three daughters and six grandchildren.

"My sisters and I wouldn't be here if not for her and her husband," Yvonne Ryzak said. "We are really the fruits of their labor."

For his heroism, the Israeli government honored Sugihara in 1985, the year before he died.

Lani Silver of the Holocaust Oral History Project, which helped organize Yukiko Sugihara's visit, said they hope to make the Sugiharas' story as popular as those of other World War II heroes.

Recent publicity about the tale also sparked the interest of some high school students who came to welcome Yukiko Sugihara.

One of them, Christine Lopez, 16, asked her to sign her autobiography, which was a best-seller in Japan.

"Great honor to meet her," she said. "It's not in our textbooks. We don't know about it, so finding about it is a great experience."

Sugihara will be honored during a gala tribute in San Francisco on Sunday. She will then visit other U.S. cities, including Sacramento and New York, before returning to Japan in early February.

Japanese 'Schindler' finally gets his due

S.F. tribute to little-known lifesaver

By Annie Nakao
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

Yvonne Ryzak grew up listening to her father talk of his miraculous escape from the Nazis and about Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who made it possible.

"My parents believed in talking

about their experiences," said Ryzak of San Mateo. "But while the Holocaust was always talked about in the world, Sugihara — whom my father called a great man, a righteous man — was almost mythical to us because no one else talked about him."

The late Sugihara, who may have saved between 6,000 and 10,000 Jews by issuing them transit visas to the Far East, is being revered as an example of moral courage that still shines 54 years later.

On Sunday, his widow, Yukiko Sugihara, will attend a gala tribute at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre organized by the Holocaust Oral History Project and 10 other Jewish and Japanese American organizations. Project officials count a dozen survivors or their family members who were aided by Sugihara in Northern California.

"This is an obscure man, but he

[See SUGIHARA, A-10]

◆ SUGIHARA from A-1

Little-known hero saved WWII Jews

rose to great heights in a moment in time," said Hillel Levine, director of Boston University's Center for Judaic Studies, who is writing a book about Sugihara. "He knew these people were doomed, so he issued visas with wild abandon."

Sugihara may be the least known hero of the Holocaust. Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg is credited with saving 100,000 Hungarian Jews by setting up safe houses and intervening personally after their arrests. And thanks to director Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List," we know the story of Oskar Schindler, a freewheeling German capitalist who used his wiles and charm to save 1,200 Jewish factory workers.

But Sugihara, a minor diplomat little known to the world, in a sense outshined them both, Levine says. Unlike Wallenberg, who was backed by his government, Sugihara acted against the direct orders of his government.

And unlike Schindler, who at least initially profited by using Jews as cheap labor, Sugihara had no personal motives.

In many ways, Sugihara seemed an unremarkable product of his



Chiune Sugihara may have saved as many as 10,000 Jews.

times, a young provincial Japanese growing up in the early 20th century.

Sugihara didn't even attend the University of Tokyo, the preeminent institution that made careers. He graduated from second-rated Waseda University.

But a remarkable talent for languages — he spoke seven — landed him a job with the Foreign Ministry. He was especially good in Russian.

In the summer of 1940, at 40 years old, with a wife and two

young sons, Sugihara was stationed in the Japanese Consulate in Kaunas, then the capital of Lithuania. That small country soon became a tiny oasis for thousands of Jewish refugees who had fled Hitler's juggernaut in Poland.

Lithuania hadn't fallen, but the Soviets were poised to invade. Jews flooded the country, hoping to escape to other nations.

Word somehow got out that the Japanese consul was giving out visas, and crowds swelled outside the consulate's gates.

Scholars can only speculate on why Sugihara did what he did. He probably knew few Jews himself, although it is known that he had befriended a young Jewish boy named Solly Ganor who had gone to his consulate asking for stamps.

The young stamp collector invited Sugihara to his home for Hanukkah, and Sugihara was delighted with the Jewish "Festival of Lights," which reminded him of some Japanese celebrations.

A special Hanukkah

There, the family told him of Nazi atrocities. It is likely that they had a strong effect on Sugihara's decision to help the Jews, the Holocaust Oral History Project believes.

In any case, it was hard to ignore the flood of humanity outside

his gates. Sugihara cabled his government three times, asking permission to grant visas. Each time, it was denied.

Then, after consulting with his wife, he began issuing them on his own. Between July 9 and Aug. 31, 1940, Sugihara issued 2,139 visas, according to archival records in the Japanese Foreign Ministry uncovered by Levine. Since these were issued to heads of households, it is estimated that between 6,000 and 10,000 Jews may have been helped.

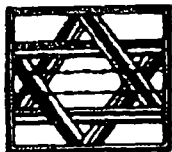
Among the lucky recipients of those visas was Ryzak's father, then a 32-year-old mill worker who had escaped Poland, where most of his family had perished. It was a dangerous journey.

"He ran from town to town, and every time he looked over his shoulder, he saw the town on fire," Ryzak said. "That's how close he came to not making it."

Ryzak's father, too, heard the rumors about the Japanese Consulate. Never one to join the crowds, however, he got up at dawn, went to the consulate, picked up Sugihara's morning paper and waited. When the diplomat emerged in his white morning robe, Ryzak gave him his paper and made his request.

"He was told very nicely to come back in a few hours," Ryzak said. "He came at the appointed

from The San Francisco Examiner Tuesday, January 17, 1995



Holocaust Oral History Project

January 5, 1995

President Bill Clinton

Dear Mr. President,

We at the Holocaust Oral History Project in San Francisco request your assistance in helping us honor one of the great humanitarians of our time. **We would like to bring Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara to Washington D.C. to meet with you at the end of January! Present plans call for her to be in Washington from January 28th to February 6th.**

In August, 1940, the Japanese Consul-General to Lithuania, Chiune Sugihara, was moved by the plight of the Polish Jews attempting to flee Nazi persecution. Their only hope was to escape to the East, as the occupation of Poland had been well established for some time. Hundreds of Jewish families lined up on Sugihara's doorstep in Kaunas, Lithuania, hoping to receive visas for the flight through Russia. Sugihara asked his government three times for permission to write the visas, and was denied each time. Encouraged by his wife Yukiko, Sugihara defied his government and handwrote some 2,000 visas, saving the lives of between six and ten thousand Jews, the second largest number saved after Raoul Wallenberg. Sugihara, while answering to a higher authority than the Japanese government, was still not beyond its reach and was stripped of his position and treated as a pariah for the rest of his life until his death in 1986. Until very recently, his great deed went unrecognized.

We were very pleased at the success of our mission to Japan in August of this year, which honored Mrs. Sugihara. We held many wonderful events, and were even fortunate enough to have Ambassador Mondale attend and speak at one. The one drawback of our trip is that we could not reunite as many of the "Sugihara Survivors" (those that received visas and were saved) with Yukiko as we would have liked. Out of thousands, she met only two. Therefore, we have invited Mrs. Sugihara to the United States!

Mrs. Sugihara, as well as her son Hiroki, will be arriving in Los Angeles January 12, and will begin a four week tour of our major cities- Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and New York. We presently have two wonderful events planned: the first in Los Angeles on January 15 at the Simon Wiesenthal Museum (with Steven Spielberg), and the second in San Francisco at the Herbst Theater on January 22. However, we would be eternally grateful if you would be so gracious as to meet with Mrs. Sugihara and some of those she and her husband rescued. We sincerely believe that

Mrs. Sugihara and the memory of her husband deserve this recognition. We would be honored if you would give it to her.

We are trying to coordinate her stay in Washington with the Holocaust Memorial Museum, and hopefully they will host an event for her. We would be even more grateful if you could invite her to the White House. We would also welcome your presence at the San Francisco event on January 22 if that is better for your schedule. Our goal is to have the name of Sugihara just as well known as those of Schindler and Wallenberg, and we would like you to help play a part in bringing this about.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Lani Silver
Executive Director



Bill Schwartz
Event Coordinator



Eric Saul
Archivist



Sean Simplicio
Project Volunteer

Schedule Proposal**1/27/95**

	<u>ACCEPT</u>	<u>REGRET</u>	<u>PENDING</u>
TO:	Billy Webster Deputy Assistant to the President Director of Scheduling and Advance for the President		
FROM:	Alexis M. Herman  Assistant to the President Director of Public Liaison		
REQUEST:	Brief meeting and photo with Yukiko Sugihara.		
PURPOSE:	To recognize the heroic actions of Yukiko and her husband, the late Chiune Sugihara		
BACKGROUND:	Chiune Sugihara was the Japanese Consul to Lithuania in 1940 when the Soviet Union, who at the time was allied with Nazi Germany, invaded. Against direct orders from Tokyo, he wrote 2,000 transit visas saving the lives of between 6,000 and 10,000 jews. These visas allowed Lithuanian and Polish Jews to escape the Nazis via the far East. Following the war, Sugihara was fired from the Foreign Service. It is only recently that his story has become known outside of Israel. The vast majority of the country's 240,000 Jews were killed. Sugihara is known as the "Japanese Schindler". Mrs. Sugihara is visiting the United States where she and her late husband have been honored for their heroic efforts by many including Senators Boxer and Feinstein, Congresswomen Pelosi, Mayor Jordan of San Francisco and Steven Spielberg.		
PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION:	None		
DATE AND TIME:	She will be in Washington between January 29 - February 5.		
BRIEFING TIME:	None required		

DURATION: 10 minutes

LOCATION: Oval Office

PARTICIPANTS: Mrs. Sugihara and her children (7)

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: President greets Mrs. Sugihara and her family, photos taken and the group departs.

REMARKS REQUIRED: None.

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer only.

FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE: NO

VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE: NO

RECOMMENDED BY: Doris Matsui
Sara Ehrman

CONTACT: Doris Matsui 6-2930
Danny Wexler 6-2930

ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL: Requests from Holocaust Oral History Project in San Francisco and Congressman Mineta attached.

SECOND LADY'S ATTENDANCE: NO

NORMAN Y. MINETA
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
15TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEPUTY WHIP

CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AVIATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0515

January 26, 1995

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2221 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0515
TELEPHONE (202) 225-2431

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1245 SOUTH WINCHESTER BOULEVARD
SUITE 310
SAN JOSE, CA 95128-3863
TELEPHONE (408) 984-8045

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY:
TELEPHONE (408) 438-4819
TDD NUMBER (408) 984-9409

President and Mrs. William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President and Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing in the hopes that you could spare a few moments of your time to meet with Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara, a truly extraordinary woman who will be visiting our Nation's Capital in the next week.

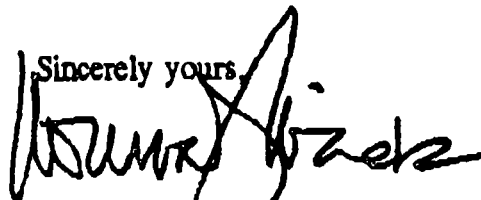
Mrs. Sugihara and her husband, Chiune Sugihara, the former Japanese Consul to Lithuania, were stationed in the Lithuanian capital of Kaunas when the Russian Army invaded in June of 1940. At the time, the Soviet Union was allied with Nazi Germany, and thousands of Jews descended on the Japanese Consulate seeking transit visas to escape to Japan. Three times, Mr. Sugihara asked Tokyo's permission to issue the visas, but his request was denied. In direct defiance of his government's order, he began issuing visas anyway.

Until he was ordered from the country, Mr. Sugihara continued to write visas day and night with his wife massaging the cramps from his hand. He wrote hundreds of visas each day, and by the time he and his family were finally forced to leave he had written transit visas for more than 6,000 Lithuanian and Polish Jews.

When he returned to Japan after the War, Mr. Sugihara was fired from the Foreign Ministry and it has only been in recent years that his story has become known outside of Israel. There is little doubt that, if it were not for the Sugiharas' courageous actions, these individuals would not have survived. When the Nazis invaded Lithuania, the vast majority of the country's 240,000 Jews were killed.

Mrs. Sugihara will be in the Washington, D.C. area from January 29 through February 5. It would be a tremendous sign of respect for the sacrifices she and her husband endured if a brief meeting could be arranged, and I would greatly appreciate anything you can do to help.

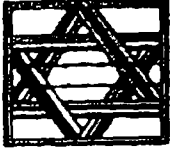
Sincerely yours,



NORMAN Y. MINETA, M.C.
Chair
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus



093563



Holocaust Oral History Project

January 5, 1995

President Bill Clinton

Dear Mr. President,

We at the Holocaust Oral History Project in San Francisco request your assistance in helping us honor one of the great humanitarians of our time. ~~We would like to bring Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara to Washington D.C. to meet with you at the end of January. Present plans call for her to be in Washington from January 28th to February 6th.~~

In August, 1940, the Japanese Consul-General to Lithuania, Chiune Sugihara, was moved by the plight of the Polish Jews attempting to flee Nazi persecution. Their only hope was to escape to the East, as the occupation of Poland had been well established for some time. Hundreds of Jewish families lined up on Sugihara's doorstep in Kaunas, Lithuania, hoping to receive visas for the flight through Russia. Sugihara asked his government three times for permission to write the visas, and was denied each time. Encouraged by his wife Yukiko, Sugihara defied his government and handwrote some 2,000 visas, saving the lives of between six and ten thousand Jews, the second largest number saved after Raoul Wallenberg. Sugihara, while answering to a higher authority than the Japanese government, was still not beyond its reach and was stripped of his position and treated as a pariah for the rest of his life until his death in 1986. Until very recently, his great deed went unrecognized.

We were very pleased at the success of our mission to Japan in August of this year, which honored Mrs. Sugihara. We held many wonderful events, and were even fortunate enough to have Ambassador Mondale attend and speak at one. The one drawback of our trip is that we could not reunite as many of the "Sugihara Survivors" (those that received visas and were saved) with Yukiko as we would have liked. Out of thousands, she met only two. Therefore, we have invited Mrs. Sugihara to the United States!

Mrs. Sugihara, as well as her son Hiroki, will be arriving in Los Angeles January 12, and will begin a four week tour of our major cities- Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and New York. We presently have two wonderful events planned: the first in Los Angeles on January 15 at the Simon Wiesenthal Museum (with Steven Spielberg), and the second in San Francisco at the Herbst Theater on January 22. However, we would be eternally grateful if you would be so gracious as to meet with Mrs. Sugihara and some of those she and her husband rescued. We sincerely believe that

Mrs. Sugihara and the memory of her husband deserve this recognition. We would be honored if you would give it to her.

We are trying to coordinate her stay in Washington with the Holocaust Memorial Museum, and hopefully they will host an event for her. We would be even more grateful if you could invite her to the White House. We would also welcome your presence at the San Francisco event on January 22 if that is better for your schedule. Our goal is to have the name of Sugihara just as well known as those of Schindler and Wallenberg, and we would like you to help play a part in bringing this about.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

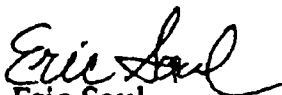
Sincerely,



Lani Silver
Executive Director



Bill Schwartz
Event Coordinator



Eric Saul
Archivist



Sean Simplicio
Project Volunteer

1

THE WHITE HOUSE

Harold -

My inclination
is still to
decline -

is that ok -

Yes

No

Tracy

FEB - 6 1935