

Baby's Citizenship is issued

MORMUGAO, Portuguese India, Oct. 16 (UP.)—.

Cheers by several hundred Japanese rang out across the water as the *Gripsholm*, painted white with diagonal stripes in Sweden's colors and bearing the word "Diplomat" in large black letters on her side, was pushed into her berth here today. The passengers sang as the liner anchored directly below the veranda of the Antigo Palacio Hotel.

The *Gripsholm*'s arrival quickly overshadowed what had been the chief topic of debate among the freedom-hungry persons awaiting transfer, the nationality of the youngest passenger aboard the *Teia Maru*. She is 13 days old, and the debate arises from the international circumstances of her birth.

She was born on a Swiss-supervised Japanese ship, formerly owned by France, while the vessel lay off Japanese-occupied British territory. The ship was en route between Japanese-occupied Manila and this outpost of Portugal.

The parents are American. Some, of the passengers aboard the *Teia Maru* argue that the baby is British, some that she is American and some that Japan can lay a claim to her citizenship.

The most authoritative opinion assures the parents that she is 100 per cent American, but that does not stop the argument, which is a relief from shuffleboard.

So far the only direct contact with the passengers has been by consular agents. Correspondents will not be permitted to obtain personal stories until the repatriates have been transferred to the Swedish liner *Gripsholm* and the *Gripsholm* reaches Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope.

The *Teia Maru* carries nearly three times as many passengers as her one-time owners, the French *Messageries Maritimes*, conceived could be accommodated in the first and second class cabins, but the passengers have taken their over-crowding in good spirit.

Tall tales of experiences in prison camps have gone the rounds. Each seemingly sought to out-boast the other on the amount of weight he had lost

during incarceration. Eventually the talk drifts around to food, the great, rich mounds of American food they are going to eat soon.

Japanese prison camps in Japan, China and the Philippines are represented aboard the Teia Maru. The internees were confined for periods ranging from six to twenty-two months. One group spent time in two or more camps. They call themselves "post-graduates of the Japanese internment system."

Committees have been organized to conduct school for the children; to supervise exercise on the crowded decks, which one passenger said reminded him of Coney Island on a summer Sunday, and to assist the Swiss delegate, Hans Abegg, in looking after the ship's company.

The passengers include 492 Protestant missionaries, representing thirty-five denominations. There are three university groups and 162 Roman Catholics, representing twelve orders of nuns and eighteen orders of priests.

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