

6-1-2  
KOKUYO

< 사세카와 료지 >  
관련

X 도쿄재판 관련

篠川良 -

INTERROGATION OF  
SASAGAWA, Ryoichi.

Date and Time: 18 January, 1946, 1000-1140 hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan.

Present : Mr. Joseph F. English, Interrogator.  
Mr. Dennis Kildoyle, Interpreter  
Miss Dinah Braun, Stenographer.  
SASAGAWA, Ryoichi.

Questions by : Mr. English.

Oath of Interpreter, administered by Mr. English  
to Mr. Kildoyle:

Mr. ENGLISH: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that  
you will truly and accurately interpret and  
translate from English into Japanese and from  
Japanese into English, as may be required of  
you, in this proceeding?

Mr. KILDOYLE: I do.

Questions by: MR. ENGLISH.

Q. At the first interrogation I asked if you were a member of  
the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and you said yes. Is  
that correct?

A. I was a member, a very low grade member.

Q. Were you a member of the Imperial Rule Assistance Political  
Society?

A. I was a member of the Imperial Rule Political Assistance  
Association. I was not connected with the Imperial Rule Assistance  
Association.

Q. Were you a member of the Political Association of Japan?

A. The Imperial Rule Political Assistance Association became  
the Japan Political Association later and I was also a member of  
this. All Diet members of the Peer and Lower House were practically  
forced to become members of this association.

18-11

Q. The Imperial Rule Assistance Association was formed in 1940, was it not?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were not a member of the Political Rule Assistance Society during 1940?

A. No connection at all.

Q. You became a member of the Imperial Rule Political Assistance Association in 1942, is that correct?

A. I became a Diet member in 1942 and therefore automatically became a member of the Political Assistance Association.

Q. For what purpose was this Political Association formed?

A. It was formed somewhat along the lines of the Nazi Organization in Germany, where control of government was centered in one organization.

Q. Were there any other organizations or societies functioning in Japan after the organization of this Imperial Assistance Association?

A. There were two political parties - Sei Seiyuki. Later the two political parties were broken up and formed into Seiyukai and Munseito. There were other little parties but they were so small they were of no account.

Q. Was the Kekusui Taishuto disbanded after the Imperial Rule Association was organized?

A. That was practically non-existent after the formation of the Imperial Rules Assistance Association.

Q. What effect did the formation of this political association have upon the people of Japan?

A. The people in the Imperial Rule Assistance Association were leaders - people like the Prime Minister and Governors of the various prefectures in Japan and they were able to govern or control in any way they desired.

Q. What changes took place in Japan among the people as the result of this new control?

A. It became obligatory on the people to obey the Imperial Rule Assistance Association - to absolutely obey.

Q. What methods of control of the people were used by this organization?

A. I was not an influential member of this organization and I am unwilling to say just how control was effected but I am certain that the Army and Navy and Prince Konoge - who were all very influential in this organization - had a hand in the control of the nation through this organization.

Q. Do you know of any instances in which anyone was punished in any respect by the leaders of this association?

A. I do not know exactly but I think there must have been instances. I cannot think of any specific instance in which people were punished.

Q. This society, if I understand you correctly, was similar to the Nazi Party in Germany?

A. Yes, it was the sole party in Japan that issued orders.

Q. In Germany people were put in concentration camps. Did that happen in Japan?

A. I do not think that this association went as far as that. They had not been in existence long enough. Instead of being punished the people who opposed this party were expelled from the Society.

Q. Did the police have anything to do with the enforcing of the program of this society?

A. This actually represented the government, it was the government and the governors and mayors of cities and prefectures carried out the orders and the police came under the jurisdiction of the governors and therefore had to carry out orders of the association.

Q. What was the real purpose of this society?

A. The object was to control the population and to make them obey the dictates of the government. The police forces throughout the company were not powerful enough and the job of this society was to reach everyone in the nation and to be able to control them effectively.

Q. For what purpose did the leaders of this association wish to control all of the people in Japan?

A. I think that war had already been decided upon and to effectively control the people this organization was formed in this manner.

Q. About when would you say war was decided upon by the leaders?

A. I do not know but I do want to point out that Japan is different from western nations and if the leaders, and especially the Army and Navy or, in other words, the militarists have decided to wage a war the populace have nothing to say.

Q. Then you would say that the purpose of this society was to better control the people if war broke out or if Japan decided to go to war?

A. If people like me opposed the war it would create a disturbance generally and it was with the intention of controlling every antiwar thought and idea that the leaders operated this association.

Q. Then at the time this society was formed in 1940, the leaders must have been preparing for war. Is that true?

A. I think so.

Q. Who were the leaders at that time who you think were preparing for war?

A. The Army - Mr. Tojo.

Q. Against whom were they preparing for war in 1940?

A. I do not know whether it was against the United States, Great Britain or Russia. But I am certain that it was in preparation for war.

Q. Why would the leaders be preparing for war against any of those countries in 1940?

1854

A. Because of the assistance given to China by the western nations - the "China Incident" which could not be settled and people generally thought the western nations were to blame for the prolonged war in China. That would lead to war - that was the argument put up to the nation through the newspapers.

Q. Were you ever active in this society?

A. I was only a member of the political society. I was opposed to the first society and was always in hot water.

Q. When was the Imperial Rule Political Society formed?

A. I think it was in March or April 1942. I am not certain. I am certain that plans for the formation of this Imperial Rule Political Society had been formulated long before.

Q. Was it the purpose of the Political Association to increase the control over the people to an extent greater than that exercised by the Imperial Rule Assistance Society?

A. The Political Association was an organization in which membership of all politicians and members of the Diet was compulsory. The first Association - the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, membership was not compulsory. It was just a mutual organization. The first organization is for the control of the population and the political organization was for the control of the politicians and they existed simultaneously. They still existed at the time of the surrender.

Q. Were not the politicians members of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association?

A. Many were not members of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association but membership in the Imperial Rule Political Association was compulsory for all politicians.

Q. When you use the word "politicians" what do you mean?

A. There are two classes, members of the House of Peers and Members of the House of Representatives or members of the Diet.

Q. Then the Imperial Rule Political Association was formed to control all members of the Diet?

- A. Exactly, that is why I had to be a member of this Imperial Rule Political Association.
- Q. You were in the army between 1919 and 1921?
- A. I was a first class private in the army from 1919 to 1921.
- Q. Between 1921 and 1926, were you employed?
- A. I was doing nothing during the five years. I had a lot of trouble with a broken arm which would not heal.
- Q. From whom did you get your support those years?
- A. I had means of support - my own means of support.
- Q. Where and how did you acquire the monies during that period?
- A. My father had died and I inherited from my father.
- Q. What was the extent of the inheritance?
- A. Everything was in the country and it was not very extensive but it was sufficient.
- Q. In terms of yen, how many yen did you inherit from your father?
- A. Perhaps twenty or thirty thousand yen, in addition to land and houses and other fixed property.
- Q. Did your father leave a will?
- A. A will is not necessary here. I am the eldest and therefore I inherited.
- Q. Could your father have made a will?
- A. No. When the family is large, to avoid trouble sometimes wills are made.
- Q. How many brothers and sisters did you have?
- A. Three boys and one girl in my family.

- Q. You were the eldest son?
- A. Yes, I was the eldest.
- Q. What was the value of the land and the house that you inherited?
- A. I am not certain.
- Q. Approximately how much?
- A. I think at the present time it would be worth 100,000 yen.
- Q. What year did your father die?
- A. 1920. This is his anniversary.
- Q. At the time of your father's death in 1920, what was the value of the land and the houses you inherited?
- A. It was at least 10,000 yen in money and bonds.
- Q. Then you would have inherited a total of approximately thirty to forty thousand yen in all?
- A. I suppose that would be about it but I am not prepared to give exact values for the houses I had.
- Q. What was the total estate of your father divided among the four children including you?
- A. No. I am the eldest and it was not divided. But I was responsible for the education and other matters of my brothers and sister.
- Q. If I remember correctly you said you became the head of KOKUSUI TAISHUTO in about 1933?
- A. It was in 1931. I became head of the KOKUSUI TAISHUTO in about August 1931.
- Q. You were the financier of a magazine called Kokubo?
- A. About 1926 I had a man by the name of Kiuzura Fukumatsu publishing this magazine for me. I had plenty of money and that

is one reason they wanted me to be the head of the KOKUSUI TAISHUTO organization.

Q. You were then the owner and publisher of this magazine, is that correct?

A. Yes, it was solely mine. Nobody else had any connection with it.

Q. You were the president of the ICHI KAWA UTAMON Production in Ayamaike Kara Prefecture until about 1939, is that correct?

A. I organized it.

Q. What kind of an organization was it?

A. Motion pictures.

Q. When did you organize it?

A. About 1926. I do not remember the exact date.

Q. How long did this organization stay in existence?

A. Just about one year.

Q. Was it financially successful?

A. Yes. The reason for its success was ICHII KAWA UTAMON. He was a very famous actor and could not agree with the other producers and as I had means I decided to back this man and we were very successful and the company became independent.

Q. What was the reason for dissolving the company?

A. I became disgusted with the actions and lives of the actors and producers connected with the company and I decided to dissolve the company.

Q. What was the net profit of that organization after its year's activity?

A. I do not remember but it was about 70000 or 100000 yen. That profit was not my own profit. We made a profit and I was able to take out my investment.

Q. What was the amount of the original investment?

A. Between ten and twenty thousand. The buildings were supplied by the Electric Railroad line to Nara as they looked upon this as a good advertising project.

Q. Did anyone else invest any money in this project?

A. No.

Q. If I understand your figures correctly you invested 10,000 yen in cash and after a year's operation the production company was dissolved and you netted profits of between sixty and ninety thousand yen. That is, you invested ten thousand in cash and received back seventy to one hundred thousand?

A. The 70,000 or 80,000 yen is clear profit.

Q. How long was the magazine Kokubo in existence?

A. The publication was sporadic and I think it was being edited until about four or five years ago. My younger brother was at one time connected with the magazine.

Q. Was the magazine a financial success?

A. No. After the death of the editor I could find no one to do this work.

Q. Was the magazine Kokubo connected with Kokusui Taishuto association?

A. No connection except through me. I was president of both.

Q. The words KOKUSUI TAISHUTO in English mean National Mass Party. Is that correct?

A. The reasons for taking this name were that at one time there were two organizations in Japan. One was called KOKUSUIKAI, an organization of gamblers, and another was called SHUKAI TAISHUTO. These two were both well known but in great dispute and when I decided on a name for my organization, I combined the two KOKUSUI TAISHUTO and my idea in combining these two names was that although

the name would represent two parties in great dispute, my intention was to build up a society opposed in every way to the two parties mentioned before - - on the basis of putting good wine into bad bottles, or under bad labels.

Interrogation concluded at this point.

FILE:

REPORT BY: D. L. Waldorf

RE : SASAKAWA, Ryotchi

DATE: 19 January 1946

STATUS: Pending

Formed and became President of Kokusui Taishu To (Nationalist Mass Party) a patriotic organization dedicated to aggression and the philosophy of Hakko Ichiu (Eight Corners of the World Under One Roof), which proposed Japanese domination of all nations, 1931; fellow members of Kokusui Taishu To were involved in the May 15th assassinations, 1932; led the Kokusui Taishu To in great campaigns including the question of sugar tax evasion, abolition of the Washington Agreement, opposition to anti-Japanism in Arizona, the movement against anti-imperialistic factors, and the anti-British movement; supervised the party's papers, Kokusui Taishu (Fascist Masses) and Kokubo (National Defense); had dealings with WANG Ching-Wei, head of the Chinese Puppet State, in Nanking, 1939; visited Germany and Italy by plane and investigated Battleline Welfare, 1940; during 1941 he led the Kokusui Taishu To in an "Advance to the South" movement, advocated a stronger China policy, and sponsored Anti-American and anti-British speeches in September 1941; representative of Kokusui Domei (National Essence Alliance), another nationalistic organization, member of Kokusui Kai (National Essence Society), a patriotic organization, 1943; principal speaker (and still president) at a meeting of Kokusui Taishu To, attended by 400 Japanese, October 1945.

One of the most active Fascist organizers prior to the war, SASAKAWA has fostered the ultra-nationalistic Kokusui Taishu To since its inception in 1931. Its membership has included prominent terrorists who were involved in assassinations. He strongly advocated GEA aggression and sponsored anti-American and anti-British statements in the crucial months just prior to the war. His associates have held membership in some of Japan's most Fascistic societies: Shimpei Tai (God Sent Troops), Ketsumeidan (Blood Brotherhood) and the Shizunjuku (Purple Mountain Society). Currently he is extremely active behind the scenes organizing extreme nationalistic organizations, notably Zenkoku Kinro Taishuto. An extremely wealthy man, he has access to large funds which he has used lavishly for propaganda and organizational purposes.

SASAKAWA should be apprehended because of his leadership in movements promoting aggression, nationalism, and hatred of the U. S., and because he

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

9 February 1946

FILE NO. 185

SUBJECT: Summary of Evidence found in the Interrogation  
Report of SASAGAWA Ryotchi.

TO : Mr. Joseph B. Keenan, Chief of Counsel.

FROM : William T. Hornaday, Lt. Col., Inf.

Analysis of evidence developed made by Lt. Col.  
Hornaday and Major John F. Hummel.

SASAGAWA Ryotchi Interrogation:

1. Member Imperial Rule Political Assistance Association 1942 (says not IRPA) and when IRPA became "Japan Political Association" later, also member. "All Diet members of the Peer & Tower House were practically forced to become members of this Association."
2. IRPA "was formed somewhat along the lines of the Nazi Organization in Germany, where control of the government was centered in one organization."
3. "It became obligatory on the people to obey the IRPA--to absolutely obey." The "Army and Navy and Prince Konoye had a hand in the control of the nation through this organization."

WITH

RE:

SASAGAWA Ryochi Interrogation:

5. IRPA was for control of people and IRPA was to control politicians--all politicians forced to belong. Both still existed V-J Day.

17

INTERROGATION OF

Saegawa, Ryotshi

Date and Time: 28 February 1946, 1430 - 1630 hours.

Place: Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present:

- Saegawa, Ryotshi
- 1st Lt. Samuel W. Healey, Interrogator
- T/S Tomotaru Tomi Yonehara, Interpreter

Qach to T/S Yonehara: "Do you solemnly swear by Almighty God that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you, in this proceeding."

T/S Yonehara: I do.

A summary of answers given in an interrogation of Saegawa, Ryotshi, on above date, is as follows:

The correct spelling of his name is SAEGAWA.

In respect to his answer in the interrogation of 13 January 1946, he stated that he was not certain against what countries the Army leaders were preparing for war in 1940, he stated that he sensed that some large scale operation was about to be undertaken because of the establishment of an organization, the Tokumaru Kai (TKK) and also because a large conscription mobilization (Sodotoku) was passed. This law had the power to force the people to do "anything under the sun" for instance, it abolished individual businesses not connected with the war effort, drafting workers for war factories and providing for rationing of commodities. He believes the law was passed sometime in March 1940 when the Diet was in session. He further stated that he did not know the purpose of the law then, but now believes it was passed in prospect of war with Great Britain and/or America.

money to Tajo for my purpose, and Tajo never gave him any money.

Certificate of Interpreter

I, T/3 Tamotsu Tom Yoshizawa, ASN 35931414, being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of two pages, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1946.

Certificate of Interpreter

I, 1st Lt. Samuel W. Howley, O-337897, certify that on the 28th day of February 1946, personally appeared before me, Yasuhiro, Ryotchi, and according to T/3 Tamotsu T. Yoshizawa, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers in an interrogation conducted by me, which answers I wrote down in longhand and are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Tokyo, Japan

9 March 1946.

INTERROGATION OF

SASAGAWA, Ryotshi

Date and time: 1 March 1946, 11.30 - 16.30 hours

Place: Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present: SASAGAWA, Ryotshi  
1st Lt. Samuel R. Healey, Interrogator  
T/3 Ben Ohtsui, Interpreter

Questions by: Lt. Healey

OATH TO T/3 Ohtsui by Lt. Healey: "Do you solemnly swear by Almighty God that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you, in this proceeding?"

T/3 Ohtsui: I do.

A summary of answers given in an interrogation of SASAGAWA, Ryotshi, on above date, is as follows:

SASAGAWA, Ryotshi stated that he had written Exhibit "A" consisting of three pages and Exhibit "B" consisting of ten pages, which were shown to him, to be attached to the report of Interrogation.

M.S.

SASAGAWA stated that the amount of present wealth is estimated to be 1,000,000 Yen. The difference between the amount he inherited plus what he received from the Ishii Ken Utsunomiya Production and the 1,000,000 yen (amount of present wealth), represents profits from various businesses he had an interest in. The businesses were not concerned with the manufacturing of armaments, munitions or ships. He was President of a mining company and a buying corporation (for wall digging). He made use of his money buying rice than cheap and selling when the rice increased in price, being engaged in this business from 1926 to about 1931.

After being released from prison in 1937, he did not engage in any business but became head of Tokai and Tokai (name of bank) and was in

In report to the statement in an interrogation conducted by S/sgt Francis T. Sasmal last December, that he fought bitterly against the Government and military's after being released from prison, Saagawa stated he went around making public speeches attacking the Government of Frank in the Army and high-handed methods used by the military such as slapping soldiers and dollar acts. He was also against so many privileges for officers in the Army whereby, for instance, they were furnished large supplies of sake and advocated a more humane and equal treatment for ordinary soldiers. By use of subtle remarks, the military did not realize that he went in his speeches, but his listeners did understand. If the Army had been "right", he would have supported it. He became orkpled in the right arm as a result of extraneousness of his Commanding Officer while in the Army about 1919, and he did not receive any sympathy from the officer by a visit to the hospital or a card.

When he ran for office to become a member of the Diet, the police and Government officials who belonged to the I.R.A.A. and the Youth Section, I.R.A.A. (Yoshuan Soron Dan), interfered with his campaign in 1942. Saagawa fought back by making public speeches condemning the Government, avoiding any retaliation by using subtle language so that, while listeners understood, those whom he condemned could not positively claim he was talking against them.

Saagawa also stated that Hayakawa, head of the present Liberal Party, was a close friend of his and has visited him to request his help in the Liberal Party if and when he is released from prison.

#### Certification of Interpreter

I, T/3 Ben Oshita, ASN 38668321, being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of two (2) pages, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Ben Oshita*

Certificate of Interpreter

I, Samuel B. Henley, 1st Lt., O-337897, certify that on the 1st day of March, 1946, personally appeared before me SASAKURA, Kyoichi, and according to R/3 Ben Oshida, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers in an interrogation conducted by me, which answers I wrote down in longhand, and are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

---

Note: The English translations of Exhibits "A" and "B" are to be attached to this Interrogation as Exhibits "A-1" and "B-1".

Doc # 185 - Sasaki, Byoichi  
MEMORANDUM BY BYOICHI SASAKI

(Note: The wording in this memorandum may somewhat differ from the one which I have submitted already).

It is the spirit of the law to punish one person and rescue all others from punishment. It is also the universal rule that crimes (T.M.: criminals) are punished under laws already in existence. If, by any chance, even civilians not in responsible positions are to be tried and punished retrospectively under newly enacted laws, as rumors have it, I should say that such laws are purposefully enacted only to punish the people. This is a very serious matter from the standpoint of humanity, and it would be only natural for all righteous people, not to speak of the people of the defeated countries, to hold eternal enmity toward such retaliatory acts (T.M. perpetrators of retaliatory acts) as the enemy of mankind. I assert that where there is enmity, there can be no real peace. The moment enmity arises, the seed of a third world war is sown. From the standpoint of the vanquished, the trial of the vanquished<sup>1</sup> by the victor, no matter how fair the trial may be, raised the suspicion that it is

desire for world peace, I entreat dear United States, which is now doing its utmost to establish eternal world peace, to stand for the right of trial to neutral powers and have the trial conducted by strictly impartial neutral people.

The heart of mothers is the same throughout the world. It is because they wish their children to contribute to society and mankind, but never to be branded as criminals, that they willingly undergo hardships and privations to rear their children. Man-kind, without a single exception, must never forget these pains and objects of mothers. Particularly, those persons belonging to the authoritarian class should never act the part of a devilish judge or prosecutor, who "manufactures criminals indiscriminately and in abundance," just as the mother who has struck her beloved child in the hip in her eagerness to correct his bad habit, immediately examines with anxiety whether she had injured the child, so saintly judges and prosecutors, in arresting and punishing criminals, should jointly search with the defendant for the true nature of his crime with the kind heart of a noted physician. They should endeavor to obtain their objective by searching for "innocence within guilt," pitying the defendant when any unfavorable evidence is found and blessing him when any favorable evidence is discovered, thereby giving life to the spirit of laws by acting fair as the

the expiration of the term of his sentence, he will pay a visit of gratitude to the prosecutor and judge who had tried him; just as a recovered patient visits his physician to thank him. I assert that no matter how many criminals are "created," the number of crimes will never decrease unless such considerations, fair arrests and punishments are meted out. The result of it will be the "manure of living corpses" and nothing is gained from it except the sowing of seeds for the further aggravations of thought. It is to rescue mankind from false charges that I cry loudly for the overthrow of authority devoid of love.

End.

Translation by: Mitsutshi Sadayasu

Note by Lt. Healey: I believe the note in the preface of this memorandum is a reference by Sasagawa to a memorandum previously submitted to S/Act. Francis Sasaki of G.I.S.

MEMORANDUM BY

SASAGAWA, Ryoleht

My party comrades, as well as the public, believe that I inherited immense fortune from my father, but the fact is that I inherited only about thirty thousand Yen in cash and real property now worth less than one hundred thousand Yen.

I made my fortune through my own efforts thereafter.

I managed the Ichikawa Utsurien Production, the Morikawa Borjng (?) Company, the Nippon Mining Company, the Iridomine Mining Company and other mining companies from the time previous to the Manchurian Incident. On the advice of UREZO, Ikeda, trading member of the Daijima Rice Exchange in Osaka, I made large profits by buying rice when it was cheapest and selling it when it was highest.

Even before the organization of the Ultra-Nationalist Popular Party ("Kokusui Faishto"), I possessed on hand more than four hundred thousand Yen in cash, excluding the money which I had loaned to help other people. All of my acquaintances of that time mistakenly believed that I had inherited all of my property. I loaned money to my friends free of interest and other remuneration. These debtors invariably achieved success, as the result of which I, too, benefited very much.

By 1935 I had more than one million Yen in cash, and bought with it many shares of which no one took notice. The value of these shares rose since the end of 1937, with the result that the value of some of the shares which I had bought at 80 Yen per share rose as high as 20 Yen.

Even when I was imprisoned and sentenced to three

In order to devote myself exclusively to various movements I retired from all of my enterprises at the end of 1937, with the exception of the post of president of the Japan Accomplishments Corporation ("Nippon Gakko, Inc.") which I assumed on May 1944 without remuneration. (Moreover, I loaned to it about one hundred thousand Yen without interest). I have maintained to this date no connection whatsoever with any enterprise.

(A) I was vilified by both the leftist and rightist wings of the political and official circles, because I could afford to keep a private motor-car even at the age of thirty, kept aloof from the rightist element as I had no need to receive their help, and conducted movements on my own ability; replied to those who heaped abuses upon me, and expressed my opinion without reserve. Thus, I had many opponents. In respect of the number of enemies, I stood first in Japan.

(B) I have always stressed anti-communism; the overthrow of loveless authority; and the establishment of an earthly paradise. My reasons for taking this stand are:

Communism is exclusive and self-righteous. Moreover, it leads to terroristic government.

The loveless authority and the establishment of an earthly paradise in regard to the overthrow of an earthly paradise the fact is as follows:

One of my father's friends loaned money to an acquaintance out of compassion for the latter's plight. When the debtor failed to repay the loan at maturity, the lender demanded payment from the guarantor. The guarantor, who knew nothing about the loan, complained to the police that his seal had been forged. Since the lender happened to be a man of fair standing, the detective, in order to distinguish himself, made the debtor confess that the forged seal had been used with the full knowledge of the lender. On the basis of

"The Japanese laws and regulations are so all-embracing as the air that even acts of mercy are punished. If we are afraid of clashing with them, we shall never be able to render any services to man and society. As human beings were born to render services to man and society, they must labor for the public good in accordance with the dictates of their conscience, even if such acts conflict with the laws and regulations."

And just before his death he taught me again: "Even after I am dead my soul will eternally protect you from behind your back. So, you must sacrifice yourself with joy and without hesitation for the sake of the public good, however great the danger might be."

When I was about thirty years of age, I observed that whenever the Emperor was pleased to make a tour, the people along the route of the Imperial tour were very much annoyed by the military marches and suspension of traffic. So I used to say: "If the Emperor is a God, he will not put the nation to such inconvenience and will not require any food. Nevertheless, he is the richest man in Japan and takes food. Isn't he then an ordinary man?"

On hearing about my above-mentioned talk, Lt. Colonel MAKBAYASHI of the Osaka Military Police Unit summoned me and said, "If you are indicted you will be sentenced to life imprisonment. However, if you promise to behave yourself prudently hereafter, I will respite the indictment this time. Since it's a respite only, don't forget that you may be prosecuted any time. As you are a wealthy man, I suggest that you benefit the State in atonement for your crime." *STAND YOUR MONEY FOR THE*

So I was forced to undertake various works. On top of this, he extorted from me some twenty to thirty thousand Yen to pay for his dispersing expenses. The false charge against my father's friend, which I mentioned previously, and the acts of the military colonel, which I mentioned previously,

Firstly, under the military's demands, I boosted the military's program for sending off and welcoming enlisted men and their remains, the presentation of wine and food, the holding of funeral ceremonies, the establishment of aerodromes, et cetera.

Secondly, I named my party "Kokusui Taishtuo" adopting the words "Kokusui" from the "Kokusui Kwai", which was organized by the then Home Minister TOKONAMI and headed by a reserve military officer, and "Taishtuo" from the "Shakwai Taishtuo" (Social Popular Party). Both of them were extremely unpopular at that time.

Thirdly, some of the members of my party, for the sake of propaganda, were incited in their youthful vigor to break into the homes of people suspected of being anti-militarists.

On the other hand, the reasons why I was attacked as an anti-militarist and liberalist were as follows:

① In greeting and bidding farewells to the remains of the war dead, the military authorities accorded different treatments, depending upon their official rank, while the remains of the civilians attached to the army and navy were shipped in freight cars. Feeling righteous indignation at this discriminatory treatment, I severely protested to the War Ministry. Soon as my protest was reported in the Osaka Mainichi, the military authorities had me summoned by the military police and threatened to arrest my respite and indict me for lese-majesty.

② Notwithstanding the fact that our country was not fighting for the benefit of the plutocrats and concession hunters, there was something suspicious about the sale of the rice course at Mukden. In order to make a personal investigation of it under the pretext of making a comfort tour, I went to Manchuria and demanded an investigation.

(3) When I learned from the newspapers that Lord Lytton, Head of the Manchurian Incident Enquiry Commission, League of Nations, was ill, I sent a courteous letter of sympathy. As soon as this fact was reported in the newspapers I was taken to the military police, who, saying that it was an order from the higher authorities, threatened to cancel the receipt for leave-majesty against me because I was a liberalist who schemed anti-militaristic actions under the pretense of supporting the military authorities. It was charged that the fact that in spite of repeated warnings I had failed to respect the warnings and that this was proof that I was at heart a liberalist and an anti-militarist. I was let go only after I had submitted a sworn statement of apology.

(4) Although I was not such a weakling as to yield to such pressure, I was obliged to bear it silently because it would have been harmful to my descendants if I were punished for lese-majesty. At my father's Buddhist memorial service I had all of the tombs in the village swept clean, as well as my father's and replaced old flower vases and incense holders with new ones. The newspapers reported it. Although this was a commendable act I was regarded as a liberalist and leveler for doing so.

(5) Feeling righteous indignation at Italy's attack on Ethiopia, I denounced the attitude of Italy and launched a movement to send volunteers to support Ethiopia. As it happened that the pro-Italian fever ran high in Japan at that time, I was vilified as a liberalist.

(6) As I thought it was outrageous for the masses to be severely punished for evading even one sen of tax, whereas the tax authorities tacitly permitted tax evasions by those companies which were supported by the plutocrats and political parties, and even participated in the distribution of the taxes so evaded, I filed a complaint against the Hojji Sugar Manufacturing Company and the high officials of the government. For doing this I was propagandized by the political parties, the government and the plutocrats as if I belonged to the Communist

(7) Because of my advocacy of doing away with the discriminatory use of the bollets in the naval and war offices, I was vilified as a liberalist.

(8) At the outbreak of the Soviet-German war, there was strong opinion favoring Japan's entry on the side of Germany in order to attack the Soviet Union from both sides, but I opposed it on the grounds that the violation of a treaty would be contrary to international faith. This was the reason why I was attacked by the right-wing elements as a liberalist.

(9) When I toured Germany and Italy, I spent my time in inspecting and studying the trial and criminal punishment systems there, instead of visiting and observing the military organizations, industries, etc. For doing this, the rightist elements of the Army denounced me as a liberalist.

(10) As I denounced the oppression by the military and government officials after my tour of inspection of Manchuria and China, I was treated as a liberalist and anti-militarist. On this account, when I ran as a candidate in the election, they obstructed my election as an undereared candidate.

(11) I paid consolation visits to all the prisons in Japan, even the one in Kojyo, Chosen. I contributed money to pay for expenses required in the memorial services for those who had died in prison, and presented congratulatory presents to the female prisoners who had given birth to children. My notes were based on the proverb "Condemn the offense but not its perpetrator", but the military authorities interpreted them wrongly, such that I was regarded as an anti-governmental and anti-militaristic spokesman of the masses.

(12) In my public speeches I cried out against the judge, the public prosecutor and the policeman who had arrested and sentenced young MATSUO to 15 years' imprisonment under the

worried themselves to illness over his imprisonment and were unable to pay for even the milk required to feed their infant. As the result of my negotiations on his behalf with the Justice Ministry, the accused was acquitted by the Supreme Court. For doing these things, I was abused as a liberalist by the authoritarian classes.

(13) As I supported Vice Navy Minister YAMAMOTO in his view against the strong attitude toward Britain and America maintained by the rightist elements of the Army, I, like Vice Minister Yamamoto, was denounced as a sympathizer of Britain and America by the rightists. My comrades were very concerned about me, because many people had demanded that Yamamoto and I be killed.

(14) I received the support of the masses when I spoke at sixty-six places in Japan against the government and its affiliated organs, including the Imperial Rule Assistance Youth Association and the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association. But the government, the political and financial circles, not to say the military authorities, slandered me as a liberalist.

(15) I was misunderstood to be a supporter of the Korean independence movement, because I had questioned the government in the Diet session concerning the discriminatory treatment of the Koreans. Because I went to KRIJO as an agitator of the independence movement and had OMOTO KEN (Y.K. -- "omono" probably means a "big figure") released, I was attacked as a liberalist.

(16) I denounced Director SATO of the Bureau of Military Affairs, after rejecting his compromise concerning the matter of endorsement. I boldly led the movement against the wartime criminal law, notwithstanding Y. C. Commandant KATO's intimidation. For doing these things I was branded as an anti-militarist and liberalist.

Under the situation prevailing in Japan since the China Affair, there was nobody, including the Communist Party, except myself, who made any anti-militaristic and anti-government speeches. Many documentary evidences and witnesses would testify to it.

During my enlistment in the army as a private, at twenty years of age, I was deformed through the carelessness of a senior officer. As he did not send me even a letter of sympathy, I grumbled at him. To this he replied, "If I send a postcard I can have a better private than you. A private is below a horse. He is an article of consumption."

Sympathizing as I did with the situations of the nearest relatives of the soldiers on the battle front, it was my cherished wish to eternally relieve entire mankind by settling the war quickly and establishing permanent world peace. I don't doubt that, if my conduct is analyzed and investigated, my above-mentioned cherished wish will become clear.

I have constantly asserted, since the outbreak of the Greater East Asiatic War, that Japan would become a goddess of peace as the result of this war. On the occasion of my visit to the Navy Club on the 21st of September, 1941, at the invitation of the late Fleet-Admiral TORIKU YAMAMOTO, he explained to me the inevitability of war between Japan and America. He further stated that, as in the case of travelling, so in war it would be necessary to make pre-arrangements for grasping the chance of terminating the war, etc. He expressed the opinion that the chance would come immediately after the occupation of Singapore, for (Britain) then would be afraid of our attack against Burma and India. It would be quite within the bounds of possibility that Britain would accept our peace proposals on terms favorable to Japan, he declared to me.

If his prophecy should come true, I thought, he would be associated with me because of Japan's dearth of talent.

express it, I might make Premier YAMAMOTO propose boldly to the world the complete abolition of world armaments and the redistribution of clothing, food and housing.

I did not doubt that even if this plan should fail and a severe punishment seted out to me, the seed of establishing world peace which I had planted would sprout deeply in the hearts of mankind; fertilized by my blood and graced by souls of the victims and the eight million gods for whom my lips acted as messenger, with the result that my successors would follow me one after another and attain the objective.

It is most regrettable that I have missed this chance as the result of Japan's defeat, but if the victors should offer the whole occupied territories for this purpose and take the lead in abolishing armaments, it would be possible to realize the plan. There is no better plan than this, I believe.

YH

CONFIDENTIAL

JP/10K/11498

CIVIL CENSORSHIP DETACHMENT  
CIS - CHC - AFPAC  
APO 500

11 March 1946  
Lat 210

FROM:

SASAKAWA Ryotchi  
Sugamo Prison, 3277,  
1-chome, Nishi Sugamo,  
Toshima-ku, Tokyo, Japan

TO:

Members of RYOICHI  
SASAKAWA OFFICE  
7-1 Giza, Kyobashi-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

DISTRIBUTION:

Date of Commun: 25 Dec 45

Language: Japanese

CIS

333

CIE

GS

LS

PA-Tokyo

8th A, MG

9th A, PM

IPS

PA Yok

CIC

Comment by: W/L 115

Disposition of Commun: Passed

Type of Commun: Letter

COMMENT

ORGANIZATIONS: FORMER LEADER OF ULTRA-NATIONALISTIC  
GROUP PROPOSES FREE FUNERAL PARLOR AS  
FRONT FOR SEIWA TO

Writer states:

"What did you name the free funeral parlor? Is it open for business? Sometime ago, I told MATSUZAKI to name it Holy Peace Association (SEIWA HOON KAI) but, after all, its better to read as SEIWA HOON KAI (Ex: difference in kanji-reported on separate kanji-form). The Holy Peace Party (SEIWA TO) will have great expanding possibilities in about 10 years, so I would like the funeral parlor to become part of our organization. If it has been decided, its quite all right; but in any case, I say that a very capable man as head of the association is very important therefore leave it recent till I return."

11 -  
16 - King T

INTERROGATION OF

SASAKAWA, Ryoichi

Date and Time: 10 Apr 47, 9:30 - 11:30 A.M., 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Place: Sugama Prison

Present: SASAKAWA, Ryoichi  
Wm. E. Edwards, Interrogator  
J. G. Lambert, Interrogator  
Sgt. Ode, Interpreter  
Lella M. Davis, Stenographer

MR. EDWARDS:

Q. Please state your full name.

A SASAKAWA, Ryoichi.

Q How old are you, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A 49 Japanese age--48 Western style.

Q Where were you born, please, sir?

A OSAKA.

Q Have you been interrogated before by any representative of IPS?

A Yes.

Q Are you familiar with the names of all the defendants involved in that trial?

A I know the names of them all.

Q Have you in the past been particularly friendly with any one or more of those defendants?

A Yes.

Q Which ones, please, sir?

A The ones with whom I am very familiar--SHIGEMITSU. I have met SHIGEMITSU tens of times in the past years.

Q What was your vocation at the time when you had so frequent meetings with SHIGEMITSU?

A I was the head of the KOKUSUI TAISHUTO, but I knew him even before that.

Q In what year or years were/<sup>you</sup>the leader of that party you have just named?

A 1931. From about August, 1931. The name changed once.

Q What was the name by which that same party was known after its name was changed?

A KOKUSUI DOMEI. The reason the name was changed is because the TOJO Cabinet objected to the name "TAISHUTO".

Q Upon what grounds did the TOJO Cabinet object to that name

A TOJO, HOSHINO, SHIMADA, SHIRATORI.

Q What occurred in the past that caused you to harbor ill feeling toward the defendant SATO, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A The TOJO Cabinet had an election of the House of Representatives. They recommended the people the army liked, gave them money, and elected them. And people who opposed even slightly they did not recommend and had the police suppress them.

Q Which police organization do you refer to, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A The police throughout Japan.

Q Under the direction of the Home Ministry?

A Yes.

Q Tell him to proceed.

A And I was one of those suppressed.

Q Why did they suppress you, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A I am a person who will agree with a good thing and will disagree with something that is bad, even if it is something that my father or brother says, and that was the reason. In the Diet I made the following statement: "It is bad for the government to recommend people whom the army likes and suppress the people the army does not like. That is bad." I made a report and presented it to the TOJO Cabinet. I made the notice and presented it to the Diet telling them that I was going to make this question, the question why the people whom the army

A He did not ask me.

Q Did he ask you to give him a statement in writing or an affidavit?

A No, he did not. The thing is SHIGEMITSU and I are very friendly, but SHIGEMITSU is in one corner of the prison and I am in another. His counsel came to tell me that he is well and asked me if I was.

Q Very well, Mr. SASAKAWA. I believe in the light of those facts and circumstances we can proceed with the interrogation. Therefore, please proceed with your statement regarding your past relations with the defendant SATO.

A I made the notice to the government that I was going to ask this question. I do not scare very easily, and the Japanese Government would have had a difficult time with these questions. Therefore, SATO came to meet me. He said that he heard that I was going to ask the government why these suppressions were taking place. He asked me not to ask these questions. He said that he was asked by TOJO to make this request.

Q Approximately when was it that SATO came to you on the occasion to which you refer?

A 1942, when I first became a member of the House of Representatives.

Q What month in the year 1942, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A It was the first session. I do not remember the month.

you are now telling us if you were on the witness stand in the court room and under oath?

A If I was asked, I would repeat the truth.

Q And this is the truth you are now telling us?

A Yes, it is the truth. This is in the papers.

Q Very well, proceed.

A I said, "That is bad. I did not become a member of the House of Representatives to have my name in the papers." I said, "The papers are now controlled by the government; therefore, if I ask my questions it is probable that not a word of my statement would appear in the papers, but I am quite content to have it that way."

Q What prompted you to say that the papers were controlled by the government, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A The papers at that time were controlled by the government, and if I said anything against the government the government would have prevented the papers from writing anything.

Q Please explain more clearly what you mean by your statement "The papers were controlled by the government."?

A They had the Information Bureau in Japan.

Q In which Ministry was the Information Bureau to which you refer?

A It is attached to the Cabinet. If the Information Bureau said "No", the newspapers would not publish the article.

A I didn't quit. I raised a big voice in the Diet--election which poisoned the country. Among those the election that just took place in Japan is the worst.

Q Was that in April, 1942?

A The election was in April. It might have been in a special session of the Diet, I am not sure. I raised a big voice and told the Cabinet to resign.

Q What was the basis of this "big voice" you raised?

A I raised a big voice and opposed the government's actions in the election.

Q Why?

A It is simply because what I say is correct and proper.

Q Well, now, I don't believe you were pitting yourself against the government. Please state, if you will, Mr. SASAKAWA, the Cabinet then in existence was running the government?

A The things they do are beyond reason. They tried to run the country with power.

Q Well, now, you are still talking in rather general terms. I would be inclined to assume in view of certain of your previous answers that you were opposed to the government at that time because it appeared to you that the military clique was trying to take over and manipulate the Diet in its actions. Is my assumption correct?

A I am the sort of person who says what he pleases. I am a responsible man, too, so there is not any worry about that.

Q I appreciate that, Mr. SASAKAWA. I simply made my statement because I want to be certain that you do not feel that you are under duress.

A But if it is about a person I like, even if you may not like him, I will tell you I like him.

Q That is exactly the way I want you to deport yourself, and I want you to know our sole purpose in coming here this morning is to seek the facts about several matters we will discuss with you later.

A I understand.

Q Now, sometime ago, you stated that in addition to the defendant SATO you harbor ill feeling toward several of the other defendants, including the defendant MUTO.

A MUTO brought about the SUISEN SENKYO--translation: "Recommended Election". The army recommended people whom they liked. They could not tell the people whom they did not like not to stand for election, but they used the police to interfere and suppress them. TOJO and MUTO are the ones who brought this about.

MR. LAMBERT:

Q What is the date of this "recommended election"?

A That's correct.

Q I still would like more definite details regarding what TOJO and MUTO did personally to control the election. I realize that in those high offices they had tremendous power and authority, but I would like to know what you know with respect to what they personally did to control the election.

A I do not know just what steps they took, but it has appeared as facts.

Q Very well; that covers the defendants SATO, MUTO, and TOJO for the time being. Now you also mentioned the defendant HOSHINO.

A Yes, I have all feelings against HOSHINO.

Q For what reason or reasons?

A HOSHINO was the Chief Secretary in the Cabinet. The Chief Secretary is the Manager of the Cabinet and therefore has to meet good people. When I go to see him, he says, "The food tastes awful." I go to see him to tell him that the government is not acting in the proper manner, so when he sees me he immediately says that the food tastes bad.

Q Approximately when was it that you went to see the defendant HOSHINO, and where did your meeting with him take place?

A At the office of the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet. It was during the time I was asking these questions in the Diet--the first session of the Diet after I was elected.

answer outright.

Q Now you have also indicated that you harbored ill feeling toward the defendant SHIMADA. What gave rise to your ill feeling toward that defendant?

A I did not like him because even in the affairs pertaining to naval personnel, he did exactly what TOJO said.

Q What office in the Navy Ministry did SHIMADA hold at that time?

A He was the Navy Minister.

Q And to what time are you referring, Mr. SHIMADA? Are you still talking of the Spring of 1942?

A He was Naval Minister even before the war started.

Q What in particular about the manner in which SHIMADA conducted himself as Navy Minister was objectionable to you?

A I did not like him for the simple reason that he agreed with everything that TOJO said, instead of agreeing with what is correct and disagreeing with what is wrong.

Q Now what is the basis for your ill feeling toward the defendant SHIRATORI?

A There is something wrong with his head.

Q What was SHIRATORI's official capacity at the time when you were in the Diet?

Japanese, would you be willing to swear to it as your statement if we so desired you to do?

A Yes, I am willing to swear to what I say.

Q Very well, now I should like to refer back to some of the points we covered earlier in our discussion. I have in mind particularly your earlier statement regarding the time when you state that the defendant SATO came to you when the Diet first convened in the Spring of 1942. At that time SATO was Chief Military Affairs Bureau in the War Ministry. Now, I should like to ask if you recall ever having been called to the defendant SATO's office for the purpose of meeting with him?

A He sent a messenger to me saying that he wanted to see me, so instead of having him come to see me, I went to see him.

Q Well, now, so the record will be clear, are you meaning to correct your earlier statement that instead of SATO coming to see you on the occasion you previously referred to, as a matter of fact, he sent a messenger for you to come to see him?

A The thing is, he sent a messenger to me saying that he would like to see me.

Q And I take it that you then proceeded to the defendant SATO's office. Is that correct?

A He sent a messenger to me in the House of Representatives, and in the House of Representatives there is no reception room. There is one in the War Ministry.

Q Very well, did you have occasion at any time to meet with the defendant SATO in his office as Chief Military Affairs Bureau?

A Yes.

Q Approximately when did that meeting take place?

A I think it was after this one. SATO presented his point of view. I rejected that.

Q Did he present anything else?

A No.

Q Was there any other person or were there any other persons present on the occasion of that meeting?

A No.

Q What views, very briefly, did he express to you at that time?

A I asked him whether the army wanted to win the war or not. He said, "Yes." I told him, "In that case, respect the wishes of the people. You should respect the wishes of the people and obtain their cooperation."

Q What did he say in answer to that?

A I told him, "In order to seek their cooperation, it is necessary to have them satisfied."

Q Please answer my question. What did SATO say?

A He said, "What you say is correct."

Q Then I take it you would say that TANAKA, Ryukichi, was mistaken if he were to say he recalled such an occasion?

A Yes, he would be mistaken. I would like for you to bring him here to see me.

Q We probably will be obliged to. There seems to be a difference of recollection.

A There is no mistake in my recollection.

Q In your capacity as a leader of the political party known as "Kokusui Taishtu", did you ever have money presented to you as a leader of the party, or as an individual, or on behalf of that party, for use in connection with election campaigns?

A No.

Q Are you aware of the fact that 700 candidates were given money early in 1942 for use in their campaigns for the Diet in the April, 1942, elections?

A That is a fact.

Q What do you know about that situation, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A It is not that I saw the actual passing of the money.

Q Would you say that a report to the effect that some 700 candidates received 5,000 yen apiece was probably correct?

A It is absolutely correct.

Q Now, upon what information do you base your answer?

(Interrogation resumed at 2:00 P.M.)

Q Before the noon recess we were discussing the elections held in April, 1942, and more particularly, the rumors that were abroad regarding the payment of 5,000 yen each to some 700 candidates.

A It must be less than 700, because the limit of the number of members in the House of Representatives is 466. I doubt if they will pay for more than that number.

Q According to the report you heard, Mr. SASAKAWA, to how many of the candidates were payments made?

A 5,000 yen was the minimum. I believe the higher-ups got much more.

MR. LAMBERT:

Q How many individuals?

A Almost all of them. Either they received money, or the government organizations backing them had provided them with posters and other things.

MR. EDWARDS:

Q You still have not answered my question, Mr. SASAKAWA. A month ago I suggested that the rumor had it that 700 candidates received payments. I understood you to correct me by pointing out that there were not that many representatives in the Diet, and so I then asked you to state how many candidates did re-

Q Was Kimitsuki made available to your party for use in connection with election campaigns?

A Not one cent.

Q Of what party was ABE, Nobuyuki, a member at that time?

A At this time the parties were united into one by the army and the government. I do not recollect the name, but it starts with "Yokusan".

Q Were you therefore affiliated with ABE, Nobuyuki, in political activities?

A I do not like ABE, and ABE does not like me.

Q That does not answer my question. Were you at that time affiliated with ABE in political activities?

A I haven't even met him.

Q Was he a member of the same party with which you were affiliated at the time we are speaking of?

A I joined the party at the very end because we were told that everybody was going to be included in this party. HATOYAMA joined the party at the same time as I.

Q Mr. SASAKAWA, I do not believe you have answered my question yet. I am going to repeat it and ask you to answer it, if you will, please. At the time we are speaking of, is it a fact that ABE, Nobuyuki, was affiliated with the same political organization with which you were affiliated, and please answer

Q Where did you deposit the funds which belonged to the party?

A I am a rich man from a long time ago.

Q My question, Mr. SASAKAWA, was, "Where were the funds belonging to the party deposited?"

A I didn't deposit them.

MR. LAMBERT:

Q Where did you keep the funds?

A I left the money in the safe in the office.

MR. EDWARDS:

Q How much in the way of campaign funds would you say your party had on hand before the April, 1942, election?

A I had a lot of money, but the money I spent for the expenses is different. Do you want the money I spent for the elections or the money I had available?

Q First, the money you had available, and, second, the money you spent, approximately.

A I had about 700,000 or 800,000 yen--almost a million. Shares, of course, would not be included.

Q What do you mean by "shares"?

A The shares of various companies.

Q Now, there is no question, is there, that you have stated that that million yen comprised of both cash and stock represented a fund which belonged to the party and not you personally?

A No, it is not the party's money. It is mine. I supplied the money that was required for the party.

MR. LAMBERT:

Q How much money did the party have?

A The party had no money at all. I supplied the money.

MR. EDWARDS:

Q Well, you certainly want to correct some of your previous answers, do you not?  
it?

A Isn't/a misunderstanding on your part? This is not a party such as you have in the states where the public contributed the money for the parties.

Q My questions, I think, were perfectly clear, and I thought your answers, finally, were exactly responsive to the questions.

A I think it is a misunderstanding on your part. When I was questioned by the prosecutor last time, he asked me how many members of my party were in the House of Representatives. It is not a big party like that.

(NOTE: In the interest of clarifying the record, Sgt. Ode has discussed with Mr. SASAKAWA certain of the previous questions and answers regarding the total funds held by the party based

Mr. TANAKA is not friendly towards me.

Q By your answer, I take it that sometime in the past you and Mr. TANAKA had some kind of controversy or argument. Is that correct?

A The reason I don't like him is because what he says and what he does do not agree.

Q Again, Mr. SASAKAWA, I can only remind you that we are seeking the facts; hence, the necessity for asking these questions.

A There are no instances where we did not agree. We did not have any relationship.

Q Do you still feel honor-bound not to tell us who received the payments at the time of the April, 1942, election?

A It is my honor. They told me these things because they felt that I would not spread what they told me.

Q Were they aware of the fact that the funds came out of kimitsuhi?

A I do not think so. All this money came from Mr. ABE.

Q Do you refer to ABE, Nobuyuki?

A That is correct.

Q And you are aware that ABE obtained the funds from kimitsuhi from War Ministry, are you not?

A I do not know for a fact, but there is no other source from

the only thing is, I don't want you to go and tell him that I gave you his name.

MR. EDWARDS:

Q I can't invite you to give the name off the record; however, on the record I will give you assurance that if we contact such individuals we will not state that their names were ascertained from you.

Q (Let the record show a brief recess from 3:00 P.M. to 3:10 P.M. and that during the recess an informal discussion was held with Mr. SASAKAWA, at the conclusion of which he agreed to provide us with the name of the individual who informed him that he had received "assistance money" when campaigning for the Diet; however, it was expressly understood that the source of our information in this regard would not be divulged.)

Q Now, in view of the understanding which we have reached, are you now prepared to give us the name of the individual who informed you that he had received assistance money?

A I heard from this man, but I did not hear from the other people for the simple reason that they all keep these matters confidential.

Q Very well, who was "the man"?

A OKURA, Samuro, of Fuse, Osaka.

Q When and under what circumstances did OKURA repeat this information to you?

Q How much did he say he received, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A He didn't say the exact figure, but I think it was about five thousand yen, and he was saying that he was elected quite easily. He was saying that if he were elected, thanks to the assistance of the government, and I failed to be elected, he would have felt sorry for me.

Q From whom did OKURA say he received the money?

A He didn't say, but he said it was from this organization YOKUSAN SEIJI, TAISEI KYOGI KAI. This is just for your reference, but the people who were elected with the help of the government supported and passed the bill "SENJI KEIHO", which gave TOJO power to do as he liked. I was the leader who opposed this bill. There were several other leaders who opposed it, and people who received assistance could not oppose this bill, naturally.

MR. LAMBERT:

Q Were there three candidates elected from Osaka in this election?

A Four were elected in my district.

Q Who were the other two?

A KATSUDA and SUGIYAMA. They were all recommended by the government, and SUGIYAMA belongs to the Farmers' Union. At this time, the candidates who belonged to the Farmers' Union were a bit on the socialist side. If they were the kind of people who would support the government, they were recommended.

MR. EDWARDS:

Q Commerce and Industry?

A Yes. A while ago I said KOBAYASHI was my subordinate, but then I hope you will make the correction in the record because KOBAYASHI, Ichizo, will be angry if he hears I say that.

Q Did you hear any rumor to the effect that the militarists spent money--kimitsuhi-- to have KOBAYASHI, Ichizo, defeated or unseated?

A KOBAYASHI did not stand for election.

Q I intended to ask if you had heard a rumor to that effect involving an effort to have him unseated as Minister of Commerce and Industry?

A There is no such thing. He is very clever, so he will act to please everybody.

Q Who was your campaign manager?

A TOYODA. The government was afraid that if I were elected I would talk freely in the Diet, so they put TOYODA in the jail.

Q What was TOYODA's first name?

A Kichitaro.

Q You say he lives in the vicinity of Tokyo?

A Osaka. Please ask him and he can tell you what the police did that time. They beat him up in prison and told him to say

A He didn't tell me, but it must be from the organization of which ABE is the head.

Q Did you know of a TSUGUMO, Kunitoshi?

A Yes, I know him.

Q Did you also know MIYOSHI, Hideuki?

A If you ask them, they will probably say that I'm crazy. I opposed them.

Q Did you know them to be in great favor with TOJO?

A They were very friendly.

Q They were leaders of the party known as "Yokusaikai"?

A He was one of the "Somu" (Managers), and there were about ten Somu, and these people were the ones who decided things.

Q Now, we have been discussing TSUGUMO and MIYOSHI. In your answer last given you said "he". To which one of these two men were you referring?

A Both of them were "Somu". They were the bad ones.

Q Did you happen to hear a report or rumor to the effect that both of these men received a million yen from TOJO or his clique to be used in manipulating the Diet?

A Yes, I heard it. I don't know about such big sums, but to a

Q I think, Mr. SASAKAWA, we are saying identically the same thing, only in a different way. I think I understand the point you wish to bring out, and my understanding is as follows: You desire to make it clearly understood that it was money was paid before the candidate was elected so that that not, in your opinion, a bribe in the sense of the word that it was paid to them as a member to do or to refrain from doing some particular thing.

A That is correct.

Q But we agree that the government only gave assistance to those whom they were assured in advance would support the government's program in the Diet?

A That's correct.

Q Realizing that our primary interest lies in the use of army kimitsuhi for purposes such as we have discussed this afternoon, and bearing in mind the subject matter we have covered, does anything come to your mind, Mr. SASAKAWA, which you think would be helpful to us in our effort to ascertain the facts?

(Let the record show that following the propounding of the last question there ensued a rather lengthy discussion between the interpreter and Mr. SASAKAWA, and that in view of the extended nature of the discussion and the hour the interrogation was concluded for the time being at approximately 4:00 P.M.)

INTERROGATION OF

SASAKAWA, Ryotchi, and TANAKA, Rikichi

Date and Time:

6 May 1947, 1410-1500

Place :

Sugamo Prison

Present :

SASAKAWA, Ryotchi  
TANAKA, Rikichi  
William E. Edwards, Interrogator  
Yoshiaki Ogita, Interpreter  
Jean Barringer, Stenographer

Q For the purpose of the record, General TANAKA, will you please state your full name?

TANAKA: TANAKA, Rikichi.

Q And likewise, Mr. SASAKAWA, for the purpose of the record, will you please state your full name?

SASAKAWA: SASAKAWA, Ryotchi.

Q It is true is it not, Mr. SASAKAWA, that on or about the 10th day of April 1947, I had occasion to interrogate you with respect to certain matters here in Sugamo Prison?

SASAKAWA: Yes.

Q It is further true, is it not, that on the occasion of that

I just invite both of you to bear in mind, if you will please, I have my official duty to perform, and I propose to do so in a situation of this sort where we are faced with conflicting stories. There appears to be no other way to arrive at the facts besides doing as we're doing this afternoon, suggesting that the two people who share different points of view sit down and like gentlemen discuss it.

SASAKAWA: I understand.

Q Now, in order that the record may be perfectly clear with respect to the situation which I should like to discuss with you gentlemen this afternoon, I would like first, General TANAKA, to relate in my own words what my understanding is of the event which, according to your report, took place in the office of the defendant SATO on a certain occasion in which I will now make reference. For the time being I shall not endeavor to delve into the details such as dates or hours, but very briefly say to you, General TANAKA, that it is my understanding that on a certain occasion you as Chief, Military Service Section, paid a visit to the office of the defendant SATO who at that time was Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau.

TANAKA: Yes.

Q It is my further understanding that the defendant SATO was seated at his desk and that you were seated in a chair to the right of his desk.

TANAKA: I was standing.

Q Thank you for the correction. It is my further understanding that you observed Mr. SASAKAWA, who is present here this afternoon, come into the defendant SATO's office, walk up

TANAKA: That is how I remember it. I must apologize if the man was not the same, but as I recall it was SASAKAWA.

Q Well, I'll invite you now, General TANAKA, to study the facial characteristics and physique of Mr. SASAKAWA, and after doing so I shall ask you if he in fact is the man who you recalled came into defendant SATO's office on that occasion. Let the record show that Mr. SASAKAWA stood in order that General TANAKA could study his height, etc.

TANAKA: I remember that this man was wearing a Japanese kimono. That is how I remember it, and I don't think my memory could be wrong.

Q Am I to understand that as best you recall, Mr. SASAKAWA appears to be the man who did in fact come into the defendant SATO's office on that occasion?

TANAKA: Yes, that is how I remember it.

Q Now I should like to ask you this express question, General TANAKA, do you wish at this time to confirm your statements to us regarding that incident as we have reconstructed it here this afternoon, briefly?

TANAKA: Yes.

Q Now I should like to ask you one further question. In the past have you ever been involved in a controversy or argument with Mr. SASAKAWA, or has any event ever taken place which conceivably could, prejudice your feelings or possibly distort your recollection of what occurred on that occasion?

A No.

Q You don't recall a meeting in the defendant SATO's office when he handed you a substantial amount of cash in yen at a time when TANAKA, Ryukichi, was present?

A I have never presented any money and have never received any money.

Q Then I take it you would say that TANAKA, Ryukichi, was mistaken if he were to say he recalled such an occasion?

A Yes, he would be mistaken. I would like for you to bring him here to see me."

Q Now, Mr. SASAKAWA, do you recall my having addressed those questions to you and do you recall having given those answers?

SASAKAWA: I remember clearly.

Q Now let the record show that I am referring to another series of questions and answers which begin near the bottom of page 16 of the above mentioned transcript.

"Q I am not too certain whether I asked you this question before the noon recess or not. Did you, as an individual, as distinguished from being a party leader, receive kimitsuhi?

A No.

Q Not at any time?

SASAKAWA: Yes.

Q Do you have any further statements that you would care to make at this time?

SASAKAWA: Yes, many things.

Q I must ask you to confine your remarks to this matter we are discussing now please, sir.

SASAKAWA: Then I will speak of this later. At the last interrogation when you told me of this affair I thought perhaps it might have been a joke in that it was absurd. Therefore, I wrote a letter addressed to you requesting a meeting with Mr. TANAKA.

Q Is that the letter to which you make reference, Mr. SASAKAWA?

SASAKAWA: Yes, this is the letter in which I stated that I was very indignant about the statement made by Mr. TANAKA, and since the fact remains that I have never received even a drink from SATO or MUTO, so I request an immediate meeting with Mr. TANAKA.

Q Do you want me to accept the letter at this time?

SASAKAWA: Please.

Q Thank you.

SASAKAWA: On the back of the letter I have other data. After this talk is over, I have something to request.

Q And it is my recollection that you answered in the way you just have, so far as you know there is just no reason why the charge should be made, so I assume that in so far as you are concerned you believe it must be a case of mistaken identity.

SASAKAWA: Yes, that is exactly right.

Q General TANAKA, what is your present feeling about the matter?

TANAKA: I believe there is no error in my memory.

Q Then I take it, Gentlemen, we are at an impasse. It is my understanding that General TANAKA, according to his best recollection, still believes that the incident took place, and it seems rather clear that you, Mr. SASAKAWA, vigorously deny it. That being the situation I can only thank you both for the cooperation you have shown and we shall consider the interrogation closed.

SASAKAWA: During the recess, Mr. TANAKA told me that we had never met before. However, I recall certainly that I met Mr. TANAKA in his office and talked to him for about 15 or 20 minutes on one occasion. Mr. TANAKA indicated agreement to my memory. Therefore I'd like to ask you, Mr. Edwards, how did you get my name mixed up into this matter when Mr. TANAKA's memory is not as good as can be expected through the simple incident which occurred during the recess? Mr. TANAKA told me that we had never met, but I remember it and he also seems to remember a meeting which we had in his office.

Q In answer to your statement, Mr. SASAKAWA, I would say that as a lawyer I fully appreciate that it is not only with the possibility

TOP SECRET

G-2, SCAP recommendations re

GII

SASAGAWA, Ryozo

"In summary, SASAGAWA appears to be a man potentially dangerous to Japan's political future. He has had long years as the leader of an extreme nationalist party. He may have suffered personal injustices from the Army, and in that sense be entitled to portray himself as a critic of the military, but in a larger and more important sense, he has been squarely behind Japanese military policies of aggression and anti-foreignism for more than twenty years. He is a man of wealth and not too scrupulous about its use. He chafes for continued power. He is not above wearing any new cloak that opportunism may offer.

"Therefore in view of SASAGAWA's past record and future potentialities, G-2 believes that his case should be thoroughly scanned for possible base for indictment."

TOP SECRET

LOCAL SECTION

NAME: SASAKAWA, Ryosaburo.

PRESENT STATUS: Confined in Sugamo Prison.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT is a violent nationalist and was an important figure in the early plots and "coup-de-etats" of the military extremists during the '30's. He organized the "NATIONAL RESISTOR MASSES PARTY". Police records reveal that he was instrumental in the plot to murder Ex-President WAKAYUKI in September 1932. He was involved in the SHIBUYAMA Incident. He was an intimate friend of HASHIMOTO and NAKANO.

The "National Resistor Masses Party" along with the "Eastern Society" and others were demanding war with the United States in the summer of 1941. SUBJECT was also connected with the "Political Parties Destruction Alliance".

He was re-elected to the Diet in 1942 as an ultra-nationalist without the support of the IMAFU. He joined the IMAFU after

L.S.

Date: 26 February 1948

Report of Investigation Division, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP,

Inv. Div. No.  
1555

CRD No.

Report by: Capt Norman S. Tracy  
O-1319683

Title: CHANGED:  
Ryoichi SASAKAWA.

Synopsis of facts:

Case reopened. Sanjo MATSUOKA and Yoshimatsu MASAKATSU dropped from title. Check sheet from G-2 Military Intelligence Section contains information from informant Shigeru KATSUNO indicating war crimes of SASAKAWA.

- P -

Reference: Report of John J. Marshall, dated 17 June 1947

DETAILS:

At Tokyo:

This case is reopened and the title changed to delete the names Sanjo MATSUOKA and Yoshimatsu MASAKATSU, and further reports will be on the continued investigation of Ryoichi SASAKAWA.

This report is predicated upon the receipt of a check sheet from G-2, Military Intelligence Section, GHQ, containing information from informant Shigeru KATSUNO, Korean name, RI SHO TAKU, presently confined in Yoshijima Prison, Hiroshima City, under suspicion of theft; and indicating knowledge of war crimes of Ryoichi SASAKAWA.

The following is a transcription of the information forwarded to this office, the original of which is being transmitted to the Criminal Registry Division with their copy of this report:

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Military Intelligence Section, General Staff

CIS/OD  
APO 500  
26 January 1948

Distribution:

- ✓ 1 Pros (Mr Lipscomb)
- 1 CRD (1 Encl)
- 1 Osaka
- 1 G-2 (MI Sect)
- 1 Inv Div (File 1555)

Do not write in this space.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: **NND 770115**  
NY **ERC** DATE: 8-16-83

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT: SASAKAWA Ryotchi, possible War Criminal.

1. The following information has been received from RI SHO TAKU, Korean, who is being held in Yoshijima Prison, Hiroshima City on suspicion of theft:

a. SASAKAWA Ryotchi (Japanese), of Tokyo-to, Hongo-ku, Komagome, Horai-cho, 66 banchi, was a very important figure in Japanese intelligence from 1935-1945. SASAKAWA and his secretary, YASUI Kichii (Jap), were responsible for a network of Tokuma Kikan agents in Manchuria, Mongolia, Korea and China as early as 1935. SASAKAWA worked closely with General MINAMI Jiro (Japanese), General IWAGAKI (JNU) (Japanese), and minister of the Japanese State Department, SUZUKI (JNU) (Japanese) and on more than one occasion flew in his private plane to hold conferences with MINAMI who was in Korea.

b. RI SHO TAKU was working for SASAKAWA as a messenger boy from 1935-1945, but in reality was using the job as a means to keep SASAKAWA and associates under surveillance for an American missionary, JO GOKU TAI, who was at Zenta, Hokudo, Zenshu-fu, Korea. (JO GOKU TAI is a Caucasian but RI SHO TAKU does not know his English name). JO GOKU TAI was interested in SASAKAWA because of the activities in which Koreans were urged to accept the Japanese Emperor system and to pledge their support to the Japanese Militarists. KO UM RIN (American), was another missionary also interested in SASAKAWA and his group.

c. RI SHO TAKU states that he pilfered some docu-

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

The Osaka Office -- At Okayama -- Will make a search at Okayama-shi, Futatabi-cho, 56 Branch, to ascertain the presence of documents mentioned by Shigeru KATSUNO.

The Tokyo Office -- At Tokyo -- Will ascertain the status of Shigeru KATSUNO at Yonijima Prison, Hiroshima.

Will make necessary arrangements for the appearance of Shigeru KATSUNO at the Tokyo Offices of Legal Section to be interrogated on his knowledge of the activities of Ryoiichi SASAKAWA.

Will maintain contact with Mr. Lipscomb of Prosecution Division for the purpose of additional investigation necessary in the prosecution of Ryoiichi SASAKAWA.

P E N D I N G

Date: 11 March 1948

Report of Investigation Division, Legal Section, GHO, SC&P, Osaka Branch.

Inv. Div. No.  
1555

OPD No.

Report by: James B. Lynn  
Captain, CTF.

Title: Tyoichi SASAKAWA

Synopsis of facts:

Address given for RI Oho Taku alias Shigeru MATSUDA,  
is that of Okayama Prefecture Jail, RI Sho Taku  
presently confined in Hiroshima Jail for theft.  
Previously arrested by British SIB for impersonating  
British MP. Escaped from jail. Arrested a number  
of times. Personal history of RI secured and set  
out. Has brother who resides in Kobe. RI has  
numerous aliases. All information secured and set  
out.

- P -

Reference: Report of Capt Norman S. Tracy, dated 26 February 1948.

DETAILS:

At Okayama:

Pursuant to instructions received from Captain Tracy of the Tokyo

RI Sho Taku has used the Japanese names of Kiyoshi TANAKA and Shigeru KATSUNO, and the Okayama Police believe that he has used many other names. At the time of his second arrest in Toctori-ken, he gave his home address as Ito-be-shi, Ikuta-ku, Ato-cho, 3 chome, 15 bancho. His uncle Sunichi KATSUNO resides in Tokyo-to, Nakano-ku, Chiyoda-cho, 34 bancho.

Following is the report of the Okayama Police received by the Osaka Office on 27 February 1948, with reference to RI Sho Taku:

OKAYAMA PREFECTURAL POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Okayama, Ionshu.

27 February 1948

SUBJECT: Record of Investigation on Shigeru KATSUNO.

TO : Captain James B. Lynn  
SCAP's Osaka Legal Division,  
Osaka, Japan.

In compliance with your directive, a report is hereby made as follows:-

1. Name, address etc. (according to his own statement at the time of the arrest)

Name : Shigeru KATSUNO  
Age : 29 yrs. (Japanese age)  
Perm. domic.: 34 Chiyoda-cho, Nakano-ku, Tokyo.  
Pres. address: c/o Yonago Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at  
5/2 Takuban-cho, Yonago City, Toctori Prefecture.

(1) KATSUNO instigated Ryuma MORIMOTO who was in the police lock-up for his possible offence against the Occupation Forces saying "Don't tell the truth" and thus, KATSUNO retarded the police investigation.

(2) Upon seeing the fact that the said MORIMOTO being a repairman attached to the Okayama City Water Works Department, entrusted his repairing tools together with his bicycle to a police guard at the lock-up, KATSUNO acting jointly with two or three of his inmate planned to kill policemen on guard duty and to break away from the lock-up, and grabbing an opportunity, KATSUNO stole from MORIMOTO's tool-box such tools as spike, hammer, spanner and others to break the lock-up and concealed the same under the quilt, which were discovered by police just before the final minute, and failed in the attempt.

(3) KATSUNO stole gloves from a Japanese inmate, but strongly denied his theft, disclaiming his knowledge. Thus, KATSUNO has done reprehensible conducts.

3. Investigation of KATSUNO:--  
The investigation was not directly participated by Japanese police, and moreover, the record of police investigation of the case which was of 1946 was appropriately disposed and could not be ascertained. Sgt. Jyes has left Japan and the interpreter who worked at time could not be located.

Police Sergeant Kiyoishi KAWAMURA of the Public Peace Section of the Okayama East Police Station who concerned with the investigation has faint memory of the case.

According to Police Sergeant KAWAMURA, KATSUNO

(1) was very good in speaking and writing Japanese language

On 4 July 1947, at about 0200 hours, KATSUNO escaped from the Room No. 6 of the Disciplinary Quarters, Okayama Prison Camp.

(1) Method he took in breaking away from the Camp:-

On or about 11 June 1947, while he was in nursing quarters, he attempted to break away, and he was discovered tools in his possession, and he was removed to the No. 6 Disciplinary Room for punishment. On 4 July 1947, at about 0200 hours, he broke way from the room through ventilation window after removing iron bars which were screwed with wooden screws and escaped from the camp jumping over a wooden fence at the south-eastern side, utilizing a bamboo pole (about 2 inches in circumference and 18 feet in length) and an axe, which were at the temporary bath-house near his room.

(2) Conducts in the camp:-

(a) In the prison camp, he was made to work at the iron works shop. Declaring himself as a member of the Special Investigation Unit of the Occupation Forces, he instigated other convicts demanding "execution of the terms with love".

(b) He continued improper conducts in defiance of the execution in every respect.

(3) After his escape from the prison:-

KATSUNO was again arrested in Tottori-Prefecture, and served at the Tottori Prison. And later on, he was taken to the Hiroshima Prison, where he is at present.

4. Relation between KATSUNO and Hideichiro MITSUO:-

KATSUNO became to have known MITSUO when the two were in lock-up at the Okayama Post Police Station.

Hiroshim-ken Detective Section

25 February 1948

Investigation of RI-CID-DL/KU

Birthplace : Okuno-cho, Sasusui-cho, Heikzan-gun, Korea.  
Address : Kobe-shi, Ikuta-ku, Aoki-cho, 3 chome, 15 banchi.  
Date of Birth : 10 March 1919.  
Japanese Name : Shigeru KATSUNO, Kiyo-shi (ANAKI).

1. History of Criminal.

- 1933 - Entered the Sugano Middle School Night Class in Tokyo-to.  
1938 - Graduated from Sugano Middle School Night Class and became a houbou of a member of Parliament SA/SA/KAN/1. at Komagano-ku, Tokyo-to and entered the Ryo Jun Koka University Preparatory Course through SA/SA/KAN/1.
- Kind of  
1940 - Returned to his domicile address and at the end of 1941 again became a houbou at SA/SA/KAN/1's home in Komagano-ku, Tokyo-to.
- End of  
1945 - Subject was hired by the Special Investigation Unit at Yonago Occupation Forces.
- July  
1946 - Sentenced to 5 months hard labor because of theft of some commodities of Occupation Forces and also a false deposition to the Occupation Forces. Escaped from confinement of Japanese procurator.

Sept

At the domicile address:

Wife	Aiko RI	- 25 years old
Son	Akira	- (age not known)
Father	Shori RI	- 69 years old
Mother	Taku	- 56 years old
Older brother	Etkan	- 32 years old
Younger brother	Shu	- 21 years old
Sister	Chiyoiko	-

The above mentioned persons are residing at domicile address.

Date of Marriage : 27 February 1943

Brother-in-law : So-to-saki, 30 years old.

Address : Ko-be-shi, Ikuta-ku, A-toi-cho, 3 chome,  
15 bancho.

Uncle : To-shikazu KATSURU. (age unknown)  
Address : To-kyo-to, Itano-ku, Chiyoda-cho, 34 bancho.

Wife and child returned to domicile address in the end of  
January 1947 and until that time they lived at Ko-be-shi, Ikuta-ku,  
3 chome, 15 bancho.

Subject is sick and diagnosis is Phthisis.

The record does indicate that RI Sho Taku or Shigeru KATSUNO as he is  
known, was employed by S.S.K.K.W.I. The record also discloses that RI has  
been arrested a number of times for various violations and is presently  
incarcerated in Hiroshima Jail. One of his arrests was for impersonating  
an Allied MP. He escaped from jail after serving five months of a three

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CIVIL CENSORSHIP DETACHMENT  
CIS-MIS-GHQ-SCAP  
APO 500

hm

LIST:

TO:

FROM:

SHIN YUKAN  
(New Evening Newspaper)  
Tokyo, Japan

Event/Allee:

Diapor of Commun:

Date of Commun:

DISTRIBUTION:  
STA LOCAL:

204-9-18

Passed

11 Sep 47

GB/POL  
CIS/OP  
GS  
IPS

Prev. Records:

Language:

Type of Commun:

Japanese

News Item

Comment by:

Prep. Date:

M. Okuda

16 Sep 47

**COMMENT**

**CIVIL AFFAIRS: MYSTERIOUS DOCUMENTS ACCUSING NISHIO OF BEING WAR CRIMINAL SUSPECT CIRCULATED**

"It is rumored that four mysterious documents slandering Mr. Suehiro NISHIO have been circulated among interested quarters under the name of the Democratic Education League. According to the documents Mr. NISHIO, who has been recommended as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the newly-organized Democratic Political Education League, is a war criminal suspect and a Fascist. During the days of the KONOYE Cabinet, he is believed to have encouraged the late Prince KONOYE to act like Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin, at a time when the Diet was under the influence of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association (TAISRI YOKUSAI KAI). At that time, NISHIO and MIZUTANI were the only 2 proletarians to support KONOYE.

"Moreover, NISHIO is a very good friend of Ryuichi SASAYAMA, now under detention as a war criminal suspect, whom he personally saw off when he was arrested. The picture of the incident was printed clearly in foreign newspapers. If his former speeches should be examined, everything would be clear.

"Political circles are beginning to suspect that the discord between NISHIO and HIRANO, now reaching a climax, may have some connection with the mysterious documents."

Examiner's Note: NISHIO is Chief Secretary of the Cabinet and HIRANO Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

NOTICE: Distribution of the information contained in this document obtained from private communication will be confined solely to those officials military and/or civilian who are specifically authorized to receive such information.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

LEAD SHEET

SUBJECT: SASAGAWA, Ryoichi (also known as SASAKAWA)

Subject should be further interrogated to develop the following:

(1) What means were used to activate the program adopted by KOKOSUI TAISHU TO (National Essence Masses Party), an ultra-nationalist society which he headed from 1934 to 1945. (Case No. 185, serial No. 15)

(2) What steps were taken to promote the society's campaigns for abolition of the Washington Agreement and the Anti-British Movement.

(3) More detailed information concerning subject's alleged dealings with WANG, CHING-WEI, head of the Chinese puppet government in Nanking in 1939. (Case No. 185, serial No. 15)

(4) The aims, purposes and activities of the Ultra-Nationalist Alliance, of which subject was present. (Case No. 185, serial No. 13)

(5) Aims, purposes and activities of the Ultra-Nationalists Mass Party, led by subject in 1941, particularly in connection with its Southern penetration policy. (See Case No. 185, serial No. 18)

(6) His association with KODAMA, Yoshio.

Copies should be obtained of KOKOSUI TAISHU (Fascist Masses) and KOKUBO (National Defense), monthly publications of KOKOSUI TAISHU TO. These publications were issued from 1934 to 1945 and purportedly reflect subject's strong anti-American, Anti-British and ultra-nationalist leanings.

Full translation of that part of IPS Document #762 (Weekly Reports of the Secret Service Police) as pertain to SASAKAWA and his Ultra-Nationalists Mass Party, should be obtained and examined for further leads.

*Johnson F. Monroe*  
JOHNSON F. MONROE,  
Investigator, ID-IPS,  
Room 381.

*file 185*

*185-46*

May 7th, 1947

Dear Mr. Edwards:

I beg to express my respects to you for your efforts in searching for actual facts with an impartial attitude for the sake of upholding personal rights and justice. Moreover, I take pleasure in being able to co-operate with you. Slanders trying to satisfy their personal enmity may criticize me as being a person resorting to physical force, but I have, ever since my birth, never yet for once assaulted anyone. There is in fact no need whatsoever of assaulting people as I am strictly adhering to my firm belief that a just person is certain of victory. I emphatically assert however that, for the sake of upholding justice, I am ready to risk my life by adhering to the non-resistance policy. I beg to tender you my profound thanks for yesterday's meeting, which I enjoyed very much. I somewhat regret that, due to your not being able to understand Japanese like a Japanese, you might not have been able to adjudge how far the following piecemeal remarks by Mr. Tanaka were true or otherwise, viz:-

"I possess friendly feelings towards you."

"Did Mr. Satomi come for an interview?"

"Such a thing like this does not matter at all."  
/T.N. The last sentence can also be interpreted as  
"This matter does not come into question at all."/

As Mr. Tanaka said in his personal remarks, and as everyone would agree to, the question about giving and taking of secret funds should not be made a matter for discussion at all, but for me, who values his honour more than his life, it is more serious and painful than being killed. As this is a groundless insult that I can never forget all my life long, I shall gladly exert my utmost efforts towards ascertaining the actual true facts. When Mr. Tanaka replied to you that, if he remembered correctly, he believed it to be Mr. Sasakawa, I wished to thoroughly probe him directly regarding this contradictory statement, but in view of your instructions at the start to be gentlemanly, I did not interrogate him directly, as per your wishes. However, I would like to be given another chance of meeting him in order to discuss matters with him directly. I asked your interpreter to kindly have you point out that

(1) That the wearing of Japanese clothes is not my exclusive monopoly,  
and to also ask Mr. Tanaka as to

"How he, who says that he saw me for the first time in Sato's room, knew that it was Sasakawa." Although these matters in themselves may seem trivial, the ascertaining of the actual truth (facts) will serve as excellent material in order to find out about the verity of Mr. Tanaka's testimony

185-45

until now, so that I am co-operating with interest. At the time when you asked whether there was anything on my part to incur the enmity of Mr. Tanaka, I replied "No," but just before taking our departure after the cross-examination Mr. Tanaka remarked that he had received my document from Mr. Satomi. As these words may possibly serve as a clue to the solution of this matter, I beg to report to you as follows.

This document, which was delivered to Mr. Hajime Satomi Co Higuchi, No. 183 Seijo-machi, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo City, is written by me and I shall now explain about what I asked Mr. Satomi:-

"The action taken by the Soviet Union towards Japan around the time of the termination of the War constitutes violation of Treaty, aggression (invasion) and looting, and if such treacherous acts should be allowed to go on unnoticed, it would encourage aggressive warfare and destroy justice, resulting in a very Inferno where the weak would become the victims of the strong. In order to prevent such an evil situation as well as for the sake of preserving the sanctity of the Tokyo trial, I have come to the firm conviction that the best plan would be to severely attack the Soviet's injustice and perfidy in Court by challenging the Soviet judges and prosecutors present and to appeal to the public opinion of the world. I gladly entered prison impatiently awaiting the time when my aforementioned hope could become realized, but as I was not indicted in May last year I expressly appealed to General MacArthur for an indictment, but this too ended in failure.

As one who was always feeling indignant at the high-handed behavior of the Soviet Union, I sent out letters from prison (as per annexed copy of letter) to the Communist Party, my younger brother, my fellow comrades. Thinking that the publication of the said letter might possibly lead to the weak Japanese opposing the Soviet Union and the Communists, I fully explained the object to Mr. Satomi and asked him, upon his release, to have same published with the approval of the U.S. Army authorities; secondly, to do his best that I would be indicted without fail on the occasion of the Second Indictment, and thirdly, in the event of there being no hope of a Second Indictment, to arrange for my release after the very last of the Class "A" suspects instead of releasing me with the old people, etc.

These represent the three points of my request.

In one of the letters to my younger brother I strongly criticized Mr. Tanaka. I still have a draft of it in my possession and shall show it to you if necessary. It might possibly be that a copy of the said letter may have been among the documents handed to Mr. Tanaka from Mr. Satomi. If chicken-hearted Mr. Tanaka should have seen it he would undoubtedly bear a grudge against me. On coming to think over matters in this way, I was mistaken when I stated to you that there was no reason for any grudge against me.

If I should have been sued before Mr. Tanaka received the documents from Mr. Satomi, I believe that he must have picked on the wrong person, but if it should have been after that, it is evident that he must have resorted to a baseless slander in order to satisfy his personal enmity for having been sharply criticized in my letter. I therefore beg you to kindly investigate about the date thereof.

Furthermore, although Mr. Tanaka stated that he had come with friendly feelings towards me, a glance at what efforts were exerted in connection with the publication of the copies of my letters that he was requested by Mr. Satomi would make it clear as to whether such "friendly feelings" really existed or not, so please make investigations on this point.

Being outspoken by nature and as one possessing righteous indignation against the abuse of authority by the KEMPEI TAI about the time before and after the outbreak of the Japan-American War I used to frequently denounce Tanaka, who was then Chief of the Military Service Bureau having full control over the KEMPEI TAI, to numerous people, and this may have come to his ears, thereby leaving him to bear a grudge against me.

Further, as it was around February or March of 1943 when there were great discussions regarding the wartime Criminal Law, that I met Sato, I beg you to kindly investigate the year and month that Tanaka claims that he saw me in Sato's room as well as the period when Mr. Tanaka was absent from duty due to some mental trouble. I would, indeed, feel grateful if you could kindly advise me after you have ascertained the date.

As there seems to have been various organizations a large number of whose members went around visiting various places with long moustaches and attired in Japanese clothes, I would like, for the sake of upholding justice, to discover the real facts through your efforts as well as my humble co-operation, without mentioning at all to Mr. Tanaka that he might have mistaken who the actual person was.

I shall not say any bad things about Mr. Tanaka to you until the actual facts about this matter have become cleared up. I shall also not commit any deed for the sake of satisfying my personal grudge against Mr. Tanaka's slander. In fact I rather sympathize with Mr. Tanaka who is affected with the bad disease of not feeling shame at making a baseless slander.

I hereby beg to offer, from prison, my 10,000 prayers to the 8,000,000 gods of the Universe for your great happiness (fortune).

Yours respectfully,

Ryoichi SASAKAWA

21 August 1947

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Joseph B. Keenan  
FROM : William B. Edwards  
SUBJECT: SAKAKAWA (SASAKAWA), Ryotchi, Case File 185

It is my opinion that this Subject should be retained in Sugamo Prison and that, in the light of the discussions listed in Section IV of the attached Dossier, further investigation should be conducted.

WBE/nob

My late father immediately before his death gave me his last few instructions as follows: "You must not be a coward because you fear that you may conflict with laws and regulations which are minutely formulated like the air. As long as you do not go against your conscience, it is all right even if you violate laws. Render great services for the benefit of mankind and society even at the sacrifice of your life.

Do not fear in any dangerous situation because my soul which is always behind you (lit. in your back) will, with God, protect you."

I respect righteousness and value honor and confidence more than my life. Therefore I am very indignant at Tanaka's words to the effect that I received a large sum of money from SATO, Chief of the Bureau of Military Affairs in the presence of TANAKA, Ryukichi. Whether in TANAKA's presence or no I have definitely never received any money PTD not even a penny, from SATO and MUTO, both Chiefs of the Bureau. In order to determine who is right, TANAKA or myself, I beg to be confronted with him so that the decision can be made as quickly as possible.

21 July 1947

MEMORANDUM

SASAKAWA (SASAGAWA), RYOICHI

Case File No. 185

1. Recommendations

a. Under date of 4 June 1947, an excellent resume of the file was prepared by the G-2 Section (Case 185, Serial 39), a copy of which will be found annexed hereto as Tab "A", which concluded with the following summary and recommendations:

"6. In summary, SASAGAWA appears to be a man potentially dangerous to Japan's political future. He has had long years as the leader of an extreme nationalist party. He may have suffered personal injustices from the Army, and in that sense be entitled to portray himself as a critic of the military, but in a larger and more important sense, he has been squarely behind Japanese military policies of aggression and anti-foreignism for more than twenty years. He is a man of wealth and not too scrupulous about its use. He chafes for continued power. He is not above wearing any new cloak that opportunism may offer.

"7. Therefore in view of SASAGAWA's past record and future potentialities, G-2 believes that his case should be thoroughly scanned for possible bases for indictment."

2. Should the conclusion be reached that the case does not include sufficient evidence to support charges for Class A crimes, it is pointed out that there is not evidence in the file which would support charges for Class B and C offenses.

TAB A - Copy of Summary of file as prepared by G-2, under date of 4 June 1947.

~~SECRET~~

SASAGAWA Ryoichi, Internee in Sugamo Prison.

Legal Section 4 Jun 1947  
(Attn: Invest. Div. GB/CIS/OD?NER?mc  
Lt. Col. R. E. Radisill)

G-2

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div.  
Mr. E. P. Monaghan)

1. Curriculum vitae of SASAGAWA Ryoichi (TAB A) shows that he is a man of wealth who from 1933 was President of the nationalistic KOKUSUI TAISHU TO (National Essence Masses Party). He had an active interest in Manchuria and China, and while claiming to be on the outs with the Army, he apparently had a sufficiently cordial relation with the latter to present an airfield to them and to obtain their permission for travel to the Asiatic continent and Europe. Subsequent to the surrender, he was engaged in forming a new labor party at the time of his apprehension as a suspected war criminal.

2. Evaluation of SASAGAWA at the time of his arrest in December 1945 reads as per TAB B.

3. Direct and implied accusations against SASAGAWA in this document (TAB B) are that:

- a. "He formed and became President of the KOKUSUI TAISHU TO (Nationalist Mass Party), a patriotic organization dedicated to aggression... and Japanese domination of all nations."
- b. "He had dealings with WANG Ching-wei, head of the Chinese Puppet State, in Nanking, 1939."
- c. "He visited Germany and Italy by plane and investigated battle line welfare, 1940."
- d. "He led the KOKUSUI TAISHU TO in great campaigns including the question of sugar tax evasion, abilitation of the Washington Agreement and opposition to anti-Japanism in Arizona."
- e. "He was the representative of KOKUSUI DOMEI (National Essence Alliance, another nationalistic organization."
- f. "He was a member of KOKUSUI KAI (National Essence Society), a patriotic organization."
- g. "He strongly advocated GEA aggression and sponsored anti-American and anti-British statements in the crucial months just prior to the war."
- h. "Currently he is extremely active behind the scenes organizing extreme nationalistic organizations, notably ZENKOKU KINRO TAISHU TO."
- i. "An extremely wealthy man, he has access to large funds which he has used lavishly for propaganda and organizational purposes."
- j. "SASAGAWA should be apprehended because of his leadership in

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority CFAC/EC  
BY JET NANS, Date 6-10-76

185-39

185-42

~~SECRET~~

SASAGAWA Ryoichi, Internee in Sugamo Prison.

G-2

Legal Section

4 Jun 1947

(Attn: Invest. Div.)

GB/CIS/OD:NER/mc

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div.)

movements promoting aggression, nationalism and hatred of the U. S.; and because he is currently active in organizations likely to impede democracy.

cont'd

4. In addition official records show that SASAGAWA was connected with the KOKUSAI HANKYO DOMEI (International Anti-Communist League and with the YOKA KAI (Eighty Day Club).

5. Investigation of SASAGAWA and his activities reveals that:

a. SASAGAWA, after completing only a primary school education, worked in his father's sake brewery until his service as an army conscript. During this service he injured his arm, and received such cavalier treatment from his superiors that, according to his own claim, he developed a permanent antagonism to the corruptness of the military system.

b. In 1921, upon finishing his army service, and with a small fortune inherited from his father's business as his stake, he engaged in various mining enterprises. With his capital substantially enlarged, he began to speculate in rice in 1926 and in the course of the next five years became a millionaire. During this period he became interested in nationalism, and backed the magazine KOKUBO (National Defense), whose tenets of extreme nationalism and anti-Communism were to remain basic in SASAGAWA's philosophy up to the present. According to his own story, sometime in the nineteen-twenties he made various statements about the humanity and personal fortune of the Emperor which were seized upon by the military police as a pretext to mulct him of large sums of money under threat of charging him with lese majeste.

c. In 1931, SASAGAWA expanded his nationalistic interests into a wider political sphere, becoming President of the KOKUSUI TAISHU TO (National Essence Masses Party) (TAB C). Through the course of his own imprisonment on charges of extortion, and various changes in the name of his party, he kept the leadership of this fascistic group until his eventual interment in Sugamo as a suspected war criminal. Throughout the years, the KOKUSUI TAISHU TO was notable for its extremely nationalistic and anti-foreign stand at times extending its activities to violence. Whatever SASAGAWA may claim, his party's activity was almost always closely connected with contemporaneous military policies' for example, in 1932 party members were involved in the assassination plots directed against statesmen whom the Army considered too

185-39

~~SECRET~~

85-42

~~SECRET~~

SASAGAWA Ryoichi, Internee in Sugamo Prison.

G-2

Legal Section  
(Attn: Invest. Div.)

4 Jun 1947  
GB/CIS/OD:NER/mc

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div).

1 "liberal"; in the mid-thirties, the party supported the Army's campaign  
cont'd against Professor MINOBE's Organic Theory of the Emperor; in 1941 the party  
loudly demanded war with the United States and even plotted an attack upon  
the American Embassy.

d. Late in 1931 began a peculiar sequence in SASAGAWA's relation-  
ship to the Army. Upon the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident, SASAGAWA  
had his party play a prominent role in sending off troops with lavish  
entertainment and cheer. Next he went to Manchuria in 1932 to "comfort"  
the troops, but while there discovered extensive race-track graft on the  
part of some high-ranking officers. His well-published criticism of such  
Army corruption put him in the Army doghouse. SASAGAWA and his party went  
along with the Army in opposing the inclusion of Chinese member in the  
LYTTON Commission; then SASAGAWA fell from grace again by sending a letter  
of sympathy to Lord Lytton on the occasion of the latter's illness. His  
next act, in 1933, was to build an airfield near Osaka with his own private  
funds, and 'because of his interest in aviation', to train a small corps  
of civilian flyers which he called the GIYU HIKOTAI (Patriotic Air Group).  
The airfield he soon gave to the Army as a present. SASAGAWA also showed his  
sympathies by favoring the recognition of Manchoukuo, and excoriating the  
Arizona legislature for its anti-Japanese immigration law. Recognizing  
Manchoukuo, he said, was as natural and inevitable as for a mother to recog-  
nize her own child. Perhaps from these and subsequent intricacies, it would  
be fair to say that SASAGAWA upheld basic Army policies, but at the same  
time enjoyed needling the Army on its minor venalities.

e. About 1934 SASAGAWA led his party in a loud campaign upon the  
Maiji Sugar Company tax evasion case which had been going on since 1932.  
High government officials were reportedly involved in the acceptance of huge  
bribes. SASAGAWA filed a court complain charging various Finance Ministry  
officials with graft. When the case ended with minimum fines and warnings,  
followers of SASAGAWA's protested by apologizing silently to the Emperor  
and attempting to indulge in a hunger strike in front of the Imperial Palace.  
SASAGAWA's public-spiritedness in this campaign would have been more sig-  
nificant if he had not himself in 1935 been charged with extortion and  
sentenced to two and one-half years imprisonment. Strong rumors existed to  
the effect that SASAGAWA's graft was predicated on information he acquired  
during his expose of the tax evasion case. His trial was an up and down  
affair. At first he was acquitted, then a higher court convicted him, and

185 - 39

-3-

~~SECRET~~

185-42

~~SECRET~~

SASAGAWA Ryoichi, Internee in Sugamo Prison.

G-2

Legal Section

4 Jun 1947

(Attn: Invest. Div.)

GB/OIS/OD:NER/mc

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div).

1  
cont'd eventually he was again acquitted.

f. Emergine from prison in July 1937 with a sense of having been unjustly treated, SASAGAWA retired from all his business enterprises. His time henceforth was devoted to his political interests, and in a minor way to investigating prison and court conditions. As might be expected, his support of Japanese policies in China tied in with the military scheme, whereas his outspoken criticism of governmental corruption in courts and prisons, and particularly discrimination in the Army's treatment of officers and men was a source of annoyance to the military. In 1937 his KOKUSUI TAISHU TO was one of the affiliated members of the KOKUSAI HANKYO RIMMEI (International Anti-Communist League) (TAB D); and SASAGAWA himself joined heartily in the League's anti-Communist activities, taking part in celebrations related to Japan's signing of the Anti-Comintern Pact with Italy and Germany. In 1939 SASAGAWA obtained the consent of the Army to fly to Italy and Germany to 'strengthen the Anti-Comintern Pact.' He was interested in the purchase of Italian planes for his volunteer flying group. He apparently spent all of his spare time on the trip inspecting Italian and Germany courts and prisons, almost neglecting to observe the military facilities. The Army chided him for this on his return, perhaps because he gave a series of talks on the superiority of Italian treatment of enlisted men in the matter of latrines and mess facilities.

g. In 1940 the Army again allowed SASAGAWA to go to Manchuria and North China to comfort the troops. This time he responded by investigating the military police system there, and was critical enough to have the military police on his trail from that time on, he claims. Whether it was the effect of the military police or not, he was active in the months before the war in anti-American speech making, and he and his party urged TOJO to make war.

h. In 1942, SASAGAWA was somewhat on the outs with TOJO, who made him change the name of the KOKUSUI TAISHU TO to KOKUSUI DOMEI (National Essence League). He ran as a non-recommended candidate and was elected to the Diet. There he was actively critical of TOJO, the IRAA and the whole war machine. He joined the YOKA KAI (8th Day Club) (TAB E), a group of non-conformists who in particular opposed the revision of the Criminal Code as a wartime measure, and in general were anti-IRAA.

i. At the conclusion of the war, SASAGAWA dissolved his party, but was active in the formation of a successor to it, the ZENKOKU EINROSHA DOMEI (National Wage-earners League) (TAB F). The new group, while still

185-39

4

~~SECRET~~

85-42

~~SECRET~~

SASAGAWA Ryoichi, Internee in Sugamo Prison.

G-2

Leg Section 4 Jun 1947  
(Attn: Invest. Div.) GB/CIS/OD:NER/mc

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div.)

1 as anti-communist as the old, replaced its former aggressive nationalistic  
ont' policies with promises to fulfill the Potsdam Declaration and to 'realize  
Japanese Democracy'. Its roster of officers was an almost complete carrying-  
over from the old KOKUSUI TAISHU TO. Before the new party could be offi-  
cially inaugurated, SASAGAWA was interned, and the party's preparatory  
committee was disbanded.

j. Even in Sugamo Prison, SASAGAWA has not given up his desire  
for power. Representing himself as a misunderstood man, he advocates a  
SEIWA TO (Holy Peace Party), and suggests that an important office be held  
vacant until his 'return'.

6. In summary, SASAGAWA appears to be a man potentially dangerous to  
Japan's political future. He has had long years as the leader of an ex-  
treme nationalist party. He may have suffered personal injustices from the  
Army, and in that sense be entitled to portray himself as a critic of the  
military, but in a larger and more important sense, he has been squarely  
behind Japanese military policies of aggression and anti-foreignism for  
more than twenty years. He is a man of wealth and not too scrupulous about  
its use. He chafes for continued power. He is not above wearing any new  
cloak that opportunism may offer.

7. Therefore in view of SASAGAWA's past record and future potentialities,  
G-2 believes that his case should be thoroughly scanned for possible bases  
for indictment.

TAB A- Curriculum Vitae of SASAGAWA Ryoichi  
TAB B- Evaluation of SASAGAWA at time of his arrest  
TAB C- KOKUSUI TAISHU TO  
TAB D- KOKUSAI HANKYO REMMEI  
TAB E- YOKA KAI  
TAB F- ZENKOKU KINROSHA DOMEI

-----O.A.W.-----

5

185-39

~~SECRET~~

185-42

22 July 1947

DNS:wo

MEMORANDUM TO: Investigative Division

FROM: D. N. Sutton

I hand you herewith the original case file, the Legal Section File, four copies of the Dossier and four copies of the Memorandum on the two individuals whose names and case file numbers are listed below:

SHIODEN, Nobutaka Case File 180

SASAGAWA, Ryoichi Case File 185

I am delivering to Mr. Horwitz one copy of the Dossier and one copy of the Memorandum on each of these individuals, together with a copy of this Transmittal Memorandum.

Please acknowledge receipt of these papers by initialing and returning to me a copy of this Memorandum.

  
D. N. SUTTON  
Assistant Counsel

cc: Mr. Tavenner  
Mr. Mahoney  
Mr. Horwitz

*Put in Mr. King's - Inv. Div.*

26 June 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. W. E. Edwards  
FROM : Investigative Division  
SUBJECT : Dossier Data

The following information pertaining to the status of subjects listed below is submitted herewith for inclusion in dossiers:

SASAKAWA, Ryoichi - Confined Sugamo Prison

a. Date and auth. for apprehension:  
Letter to Imperial Japanese Government of 1 Dec 1945,  
GHQ, SCAP, AG 383.7 (1 Dec 45) CI, subject: Apprehension  
of Japanese Personnel.

b. Entered Sugamo Prison 11 Dec 45

SHIOTEN, Nobutake - Confined Sugamo Prison

a. Date and auth. for apprehension:  
Letter to Imperial Japanese Government of 1 Dec 1945,  
GHQ, SCAP, AG 383.7 (1 Dec 45) CI, subject: Appre-  
hension of Japanese Personnel.

b. Entered Sugamo Prison 12 Dec 45

Curriculum Vitae of SASAGAWA Ryoichi

- 1899 - Born, Osaka Prefecture  
1913 - Completed 8 years of primary school. No further education
- 1913-1917 - Worked in father's sake brewery  
1919-1921 - Served as army conscript. Right arm injured in plane crash
- President, ICHIKAWA Utsumo Productions (moving picture company)  
- Manager, MORIKAWA Boring Co., Ltd.  
- Manager, NIPPON KOZAN KK (Japan Mining Co., Ltd.)  
- Manager, IRIDOSUMIN KOOYO KK (IRIDOSUMIN Industrial Co., Ltd.)
- 1926-1931 - Made fortune speculating in rice  
1926 - Backer of KOKUMU (National Defense) magazine  
1932 - Made trip to Manchuria  
1931-1945 - President, KOKUSUI TAIHEI TO (National Essence Masses Party)
- 1933 - President, GIYU HEIKYUAI (Patriotic Air Group)  
- Presented his Osaka airfield to Army
- 1935-1937 - Arrested on charges of blackmail and extortion; imprisoned for two years; eventually acquitted.
- 1937 - Retired from all his business enterprises  
1939 - Made trip to Italy and Germany  
1940 - Made trip to China and Manchuria  
1942 - Changed name of his party to KOKUSUI DOMEI (National Essence League)  
- Elected to Diet as non-recommended Cabinet  
- President, KOHUNICHI SHIMBUN, Osaka newspaper  
- Member of YOKA KAI (Yokohama Club) in Diet
- 1943 - Dissolved his KOKUSUI DOMEI  
Aug 1945 - Active in the formation of the ZENKOKU KINROSHA DOMEI (National Wage-earners League)  
Oct 1945 - Interned in Sugamo Prison as suspected war criminal  
Dec 1945

**SECRET**

Evaluation of SASAKAWA, Ryoken at time of Movement - Dec 1945.

**SASAKAWA Ryoken**

Ryoken had become President of Kokumai Falcin To (Nationalist Mass Party), a patriotic organization dedicated to aggression and the publication of Hakkio Toku (Right Owners of the World Under one Roof), which proposed Japanese domination of all nations. 1931 fellow members of Kokumai Falcin To were involved in the May 15th assassinations, 1938 led the Kokumai Falcin To in great campaigns including the question of sugar tax evasion, abolition of the Washington Agreement, opposition to anti-Japanism in America, the movement against anti-imperialistic factors, and the anti-British movement's supervised the party's papers, Kokumai Falcin (Fascist Masses) and Kokubo (National Defense); had dealings with Wang Ching-Wei, head of the Chinese Puppet state; in Hankow, 1939 visited Germany and Italy by plane and investigated Battle Line Welfare, 1940 during 1941 he led the Kokumai Falcin To in an 'Advance to the South' movement, advocated a stronger China policy, and sponsored anti-American and anti-British speeches in September 1941 representative of Kokumai Dantai (National Reserve Alliance), another nationalist organization, member of Kokumai Dai (National Reserve Society), a patriotic organization, 1943 principal speaker (and still president) at a meeting of Kokumai Falcin To, attended by 400 Japanese, October 1945.

One of the most active Fascist organizers prior to the war, SASAKAWA has fostered the ultra-nationalistic Kokumai Falcin To since its inception in 1931. Its membership has included prominent terrorists who were involved in assassinations. He strongly advocated gun aggression and sponsored anti-American and anti-British statements in the crucial months just prior to the war. His associates have held membership in some of Japan's most Fascistic societies: Shingei Dai (God Sent Troops), Keimomokan (Blood Brotherhood) and the Shinsuikan (Purple Mountain Society). Currently he is extremely active behind the scenes organizing extreme nationalist organizations, notably Zenkoku Kinzo Falcin To. An extremely wealthy man, he has access to large funds which he has used lavishly for propaganda and organizational purposes.

SASAKAWA should be apprehended because of his leadership in movements promoting aggression, nationalism, and hatred of the U.S.; and because he is currently active in organizations likely to impede democracy.

KOKUSUI TAISEI TO  
(National Essence Masses Party)

Established: February 1931

Officers: President: SASAKAWA Fozohi  
Chief Director: KIKUCHI Fozohiro  
Advisors: ITO Genkuro

Leading Members: KIMIZAWA Ryuzai  
YUJI Yoshio

YUJIWARA Fumakichi  
YAMADA Yasaburo  
KAWASAKI Otsuchi  
KODAMA Yoshio  
OKADA Tatsaburo  
SUOTERA Ataru  
YAKADA Fozohi  
YAKUSHI Mochi  
YAMADA Shigeo  
YOSHIMATSU Masakatsu

Organs: KOKUSUI TAISEI (National Essence Masses) and  
KOKUSO (National Defense), both monthlies.

- Program: 1. We are resolved to protect and expand the culture characteristic of our country, which has been nurtured by the living spirit of the foundation of the nation by Emperor Jimmu, and thereby enrich the people and profit the nation.
2. We are resolved to abolish the evils of free competition in industry and to bring about an everlasting spirit of mutual assistance.
3. We are resolved to break down the evils and faults which exist in legal administrations and local self-government and thereby to extend the true spirit of the divine land.

Activities: This extremely nationalistic party of SASAKAWA was distinguished by various acts of violence. In September 1932, a party member HONJO Iashiro was arrested for plotting the murder of ex-Premier WATATSUKI Kajiro; it was reported at the time that his plot was instigated by SASAKAWA. During the uproar over the clarification of the constitution and the anti-KIMORI campaign, another party member, KIKUCHI Fozohiro, was arrested.

KOITSUJI TAISHU TO

the party was vocal in demanding war with the United States, and plotted to attack the American Embassy, the plot being thwarted by the police. The party petitioned Premier TOJO, upon his appointment, to go to war with the United States.

After SASAKAWA was elected to the Diet in 1942, he decided to join the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society, and changed the KOITSUJI TAISHU TO to the KOITSUJI DOMEI (National Rescue League) in July 1942. The group was not active during the war, since its objectives had now become national. SASAKAWA dissolved his group at the close of the war.

In September 1945, SASAKAWA and some of his colleagues started a new organization, the ZENKOKU KINROSHA DOMEI (National Wage-earners League). In an attempt to enlist the following of young wage-earners, but the group was dissolved in January 1946, at which time SASAKAWA was already interned as a suspected war criminal.

**HOKUSAI HANRYO RENMEI**  
(International Anti-Communist League)

Establishment: May 1937

Officers & Managing Director:  
Directors:

IWA Tetsuzo  
KIKUCHI Takao  
INOUE Kiyosumi  
IRIE Tadamasa  
IWAATA Akimasa  
KIKUCHI Takao  
OGA Kozo

Secretaries:

Advisors:

AOYAMA Kenichi  
KAWABARA Shinichiro  
YAKAHATA Kichiro  
HIRANUMA Kichiro  
KUNOZE Junzuro  
TANAKA Kohji  
TOYAMA Mitsuru

Aim: To combat Communism

Organ: **HANRYO JOHO** (Anti-Communist News)

Activities: Held mass meetings and demonstrations, such as that celebrating the signing of the 'Anti-Communist Pact' with Germany and Italy.

Personnel of the League was almost identical with that of two other societies:

1. **KOKUTAI YUDO RENMEIKAI** (National Constitution Protection Federation).
2. **KOKUTAI KEIHO TASEI RENMEI** (League Clarification and Accomplishment of the National Constitution).

(Note: This League urged Prof. KINOSHITA to conduct harassment.)

Member Organizations:

**AIKOKU SHI** (Patriotic Society)

**YUWA KAI**  
(Night Day Club)

Established: 26 May 1943

**Promoters:**

AKAO Rika	KIKUCHIWAJI Toshio
IYO Genshiro	KITAHARA Tokuo
HIRANO Rikisuo	KIUCHI Genshiro
KURODA Inao	SAGAWA Fuyuhiko
MASAKI Katsunji	SHIBUYAMA Toshio
MITSURUO Masahiro	

**Members:**

ABE Kozo	KIKI Rikichi
BOUCHI Satoru	KITAHARA Genshiro
KASAHARA Satoru	KAKAO Satoru
KARA Tomohiko	KAWASAKI Shunzo
HONDA Satoru	SASAKI Tokuo
HOSHYO Satoru	YAMAMOTO Tokuo
DAI Toshiyuki	YAMAMOTO Tokuo
INOUE Toshio	YANO Satoru
KIMURA Tokuo	

**Supporters:**

AKAKAWA Shunzo	NAKANO Masaru
BAIHO Katsuo	NAKA Satoru
FUJIO Tetsuro	KASAHARA Masahiro
HOSHINO Kenzo	OKI Rika
IZAWA Eisaku	OHMI Hiroshi
IZUMI Hajime	SAITO Tokuo
IZUMI Kenzo	SUZUKI Fuyuhiko
KAWAUCHI Tetsuo	SUZUKI Masaru
KAWASAKI Minoru	SUZUKI Shigeo
KITA Etsuro	TAJIMA Rika
KIRIYAMA Tetsuo	TOYAMA Tokuo
KITAHARA Tetsuo	YAMAMOTO Tetsuo
KITAHARA Tetsuo	YAMAMOTO Tetsuo
KOJIMA Fuyuhiko	YAMAMOTO Tetsuo
KURASAWA Shunzo	YANO Tetsuo

Purpose: To oppose the revision of the Criminal Code as a wartime measure, which was to be presented in the Diet meeting of the

YOJA KAI (Nighth Day Club)

Imperial Rule Assistance Association of the whole TOHO KAI group and a number of other dissenters. WAKANO's arrest and suicide forced the Club's activities to decline.

The Club was significant in that it was a nucleus for opposition to the TOJO regime as early as the Spring of 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE 185

SUBJECT: SASAKAWA, Ryotachi

DATE : 13 Feb 47

1. A copy of CIS studies entitled "The Brocade Banner", the Story of Japanese Imperialism, is to be found in Investigation Division files, Room 300.
2. It is believed that this background material will prove helpful in making decisions as to disposition of major war criminal suspects remaining undicted.
3. The index of personal names and organizations of "The Brocade Banner", the Story of Japanese Imperialism, shows special reference to subject.

DOUGLAS L. WALDORF,  
Chief, Investigation Division, IPS.

DISTRIBUTION: 3 copies File

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE 185

SUBJECT: SASAGAWA, Ryotchi

DATE : 11 Feb 47

1. Copies of CIS studies entitled "War Politics in Japan", dealing with the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and its affiliated societies and politics in general during the war years are to be found in the Investigation Division files, Room 300.
2. It is believed that this background material will prove helpful in making decisions as to disposition of major war criminal suspects remaining undiacted.
3. The following pages in said document pertain to subject:  
15, 88

DOUGLAS L. WALDORF,  
Chief, Investigation Division, IPS.

Date: 24 February 1947

Report of Investigation Division, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP.

Inv. Div. No. 1567	CRD No.	Report by: JOHN J. MARSHALL Civilian Investigator
-----------------------	---------	--

Title: **HYOLOHI SASAKAWA**

*See file 185  
p. 8. 07.*

Synopsis of facts: Military and Biographical history of subject set out. Case closed in view of the fact that matter is being handled by IPS.

*Reference: Report by John J. Marshall, dated 24 January 1947*

DETAILS:

At Tokyo:

On 19 February 1947, K. Aekaki, Director of General Affairs, Central Liaison Office of the Imperial Japanese Government, forwarded the following Military and Biographical history of Hyolohi SASAKAWA, the original of which is being forwarded to the Criminal Registry Division with their copy of this report:

a. Biographical record:

Around 1937: Published a magazine "Tokube" (National Defence)

It is learned from the Prosecution Division that this case is being solely handled by the International Prosecution Section and therefore not assigned to any one in the Prosecution Division of GHQ Legal Section. In view of this fact, it is the opinion of this Agent that this case should be considered as closed by the Investigation Division, and no further investigative matter collected on this criminal.

**C L Q S E D**

Report of Investigation Division, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP

Date: 24 January 1947

Inv. Div. No. 1567

CRD No.

Report by: JOHN J. MARSHALL  
Civilian Investigator

Title: RYOICHI SASAKAWA

*File 181*

Synopsis of facts:

CCD intercept states letter from subject, presently in Sugamo Prison, to OFFICE, SASAKAWA, RYOICHI, alleges Allied Authorities executed 1st class War Criminals of Germany and scattered ashes over ocean. Military and biographical history requested.

- P -

DETAILS:

At Tokyo:

This investigation is predicated upon an intercept from the Civil Censorship Detachment, GHQ, SCAP, dated 10 December 1946, original of which is being forwarded to the Criminal Registry Division with their copy of this report.

Intercept states a letter was written in Japanese by...

File No. 185

REPORT BY: Lt. Samuel Healey

Re: SASAGAWA (SASAKAWA), Ryoichi

STATUS: CLOSED

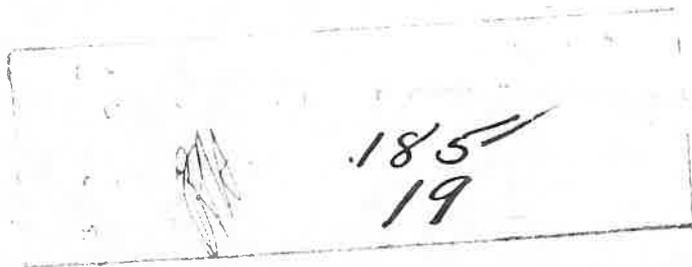
Date: 14 March 1946

Attached hereto are copies of translated memoranda (#2048 and #2096) obtained from the Interrogation and Translation Section of C.I.C. through Lt. Branstad. Such memoranda contain material written by above subject which reveals information on various Japanese personalities and organizations, an account of subject's inspection trip to China and Manchuria, his connection with the Kokusin Taishuto, his conflicts with the Japanese Army and police, etc.

It is to be noted that part of the information contained in translation #2096 may also be found, at least in substance, in Exhibit "B-1" attached to an interrogation of the subject on 1 March 1946.

CLOSED

COPIES: 3 File 185



MAR 16 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 2 JP/TCK/H1492 CONTINUED

ones that we have to be aware of. The Japanese people who have come through so much difficulty, might again become slaves to the selfish, fearful administration of the autocrats. I believe that the ones who are capable of leading the Japanese people to a free and new life are those who suffered in prison as suspected war criminals and who were released, and not those who were merely observers. Concerning this matter, the coming trial has a significant meaning. However, it cannot be seen without a thorough segregation test. Probably there may be one or two persons who can qualify as leaders, and this I believe is very important. Whenever I see ministers or generals, I wondered why they weren't locked up before they could mislead the people, however it may be too late. I firmly believe, for the world's sake, and for the sake of Japan, that if there were leaders like those found in the Meiji era, who had to undergo sufferings before becoming leaders, there would not have been a prefecturing administration."

WAR CRIMINALS: NAMES MENTIONED

Writer states:

"I want to request Mr. ISHIZU to experiment on something new that can be used as a substitute for rice."

CONFIDENTIAL