

~~Mr. Rablisk~~

HEADQUARTERS
U S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

~~SECRET B~~

INTERROGATION NO. 2
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE Tokyo
DATE 29 Sept TIME 1400

Division Of Origin MFC

SUBJECT: Manpower

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Miwa, Jōsō - Tokyo attorney and past advisor
of several labor organizations + unions. Former
secret member, and General Secretary Socialist Party.
Where interviewed (office) Marunouchi, 3 chome 6 Banchi

Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. O.W. DeWolf, USNR

Interpreter: Lt. Otis Cary, USNR

Allied Officers Present: _____

Summary:

~~Miwa's Background~~
Background of Organized Labor +
its Suppression
Other Labor Leaders

Incl. of. X

~~2. The subject is Mr. Q~~

~~(Handwritten)~~

~~Subject - Interview of Mr. Q~~

29 September 1945

~~MEMORANDUM FOR: Lieut. Comdr. Wilds.~~

~~SUBJECT: Interview with Mr. Jusō MIWA, Tokyo Attorney~~

1. Mr. MIWA was interviewed in his office at Marunouchi, 3 Chome 6 Banchi on 29 September by the writer and Lieut. Cary, interpreter, for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes on Japanese organized labor.

2. Mr. MIWA is a prominent Tokyo attorney and a former Member of Diet, 1937-42. In 1939 and on several other occasions, he has served as General Secretary of the Socialist Party and his political sympathies are probably best described as a little left of center. He was graduated from the Tokyo Imperial University, Department of Law, in 1920 and for the next six years worked with a Mr. Tetsu KATAYAMA on union problems, both farm and industrial. From 1926 to the present he has been identified with socialistic and labor political movements. He said that he had acted in advisory capacities in his relationship with unions or projected labor movements and consequently was not a member of any executive committees. He identified one such organization as the NIPPON Rodo Sodo MEI, which corresponded roughly to the American Federation of Labor, only on a much smaller scale.

3. According to Mr. MIWA organized labor reached its peak in 1936 with a membership of 420,000. In 1938 the government commenced to actively discourage large-scale, well-organized unions with the result that the movement broke down into a number of small factory unions apparently unrelated to each other. In 1940 these small unions were centralized in the DAI NIPPON Sangyo Hoko KAI under the thumb of the Minister of Commerce and, although the organization boasted of some 8,000,000 members, it was not a labor union in the western sense. Mr. MIWA indicated that the government through the Ministry of Commerce actively blanketed all individual union enterprises with a resultant loss of initiative on the part of both former labor leaders and members. The workers themselves were apathetic to the government stepping in, according to Mr. MIWA, who attributed this to their general ignorance. Unionism in Japan, he said, died in 1938.

4. Mr. MIWA and friends, some of whom are listed below, are interested in a rebirth of Japanese Unionism but presently are not active. He gave the impression that this circle was waiting for the present confusion in government to clear away before any steps would be taken by his group. This group, which apparently has no name, would appear to consist of socialist leaders, liberals, etc. Mr. MIWA did not paint a bright picture for the future of organized labor in Japan. On the contrary, he indicated that it would be a long slow process of education coupled with organization before Japanese unionism would make any marked gains. In other words, the present ignorant Japanese laboring man is going to have to be educated before he can be organized successfully.

5. Mr. MIWA named the following men, with whom he has been associated, as possible further contacts along political-labor lines:

Komakichi MATSUOKA
Mitsu KONO , Member of Diet
Suehiro NISHIO, Member of Diet
Gan AYUZAWA (Speaks English)
Gantaro SUEHIRO (Professor at Tokyo Imperial
University)

6. EVALUATION: Mr. MIWA was completely cooperative and indicated a desire to be helpful in every way possible. However, he apparently has little if any statistical or research data. His interest in socialism and unionism is largely outside the scope of the Survey's interest in the Japanese War Manpower situation and it is believed that little would be gained in interviewing him further. As a later date, perhaps, it might be well to interview one of the men mentioned in paragraph 5 as a cross-check and further elaboration on the political aspects of Japanese labor, if such is desired.

Respectfully,

O. W. DeWolf
O. W. DeWolf,
Lt. USNR.