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HEADQUARTERS
GIFU CIVIL AFFAIRS TEAM
APO 25, Unit 2 (Gifu, Honshu)

RR/tt

423

7 September 1949

SUBJECT: Technical Data on Spinning Processes

TO: Mr. Sergei Y. Fomitchev
Technical Representative of the U.S.S.R. Government
ESS, SCAP

Forwarded herewith is a compilation of the technical information pertaining to spinning processes at the Dai Nippon Boseki Co., Ltd., Gifu Plant, which you requested be forwarded to you.

FOR THE CHIEF:

VAN B. POLLARD
Capt., Ord.
Adjutant

Main File

Compilation filed Economic Sect. File (65-1)

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Report Control Symbol 49/E/IR/9

HEADQUARTERS
GIFU CIVIL AFFAIRS TEAM
APO 25, Unit 2 (Gifu, Honshu)

TSR/RR/tt

423

18 August 1949

SUBJECT: Special Report on the Development of Grid Silk

THRU: The Chief
Tokai-Hokuriku Civil Affairs Region
APO 710

TO: Commanding General
Eighth Army
APO 343

1. In implementation of the program for the stimulation of critical industries, plus a desire to effect measures, the result of which will contribute towards the accomplishment of the objective of enhancing the living standards of the Japanese people, this headquarters has made a study of a comparatively new method of spinning silk thread whereby thicknesses of from 150 denier to 1200 denier are achieved. Fabric woven from 150 to 300 denier silk thread is suitable for suiting, and possesses practically the same characteristics as wool suiting. Fabrics woven from threads over 300 denier are excellent materials for overcoats. The name applied to this type of silk thread is "mojo kiito" - translated into English as "grid silk."

2. Although this headquarters realizes the feasibility of the continuance of the policy whereby most fabrics manufactured from imported wool are exported in order to enhance the national foreign exchange balance, it is felt that, in addition to this policy, the manufacture of a fabric comparable to wool in warmth and durability, wherein only indigenous raw materials are utilized, would be a stride forward both in the rehabilitation of Japanese industry, and in the raising of the living standards of Japan.

3. Since the decontrol of silk, wholesalers and retailers have been unable to sell more than very small amounts of fabric; silk mills throughout the prefecture have been operating at the extremely low capacity of approximately 35 to 40 per cent of full capacity; and farmers fearing that the demand for cocoons will decrease are planning a reduction in output. The limited usage of ordinary silk fabrics, the comparatively high cost of silk, and general preference of consumers for a warmer fabric, are the principle reasons for the lack of domestic demand for ordinary silk fabrics. The other principle factor which prevents more intensive use of the

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silk industry's facilities is the exceedingly short demand for silk from foreign markets.

4. For several years the South Ena Silk Thread Cooperative Company, Ltd. (Keimon Kyodo Kenshi Kabushiki Kaisha), Iwasura-cho, Ena-gun, Gifu prefecture, has been experimenting with a process whereby silk threads ranging up to 1200 denier can be spun. This process which requires different type equipment from that in use in mills producing ordinary silk fabrics, was invented by one of the members of the company; patents for the process and the machinery are held by this company. Although not yet perfected, the company recently commenced operations on a limited scale and has been producing a monthly average of 260 kan of grid silk.

5. The following information supplied by those who have developed grid silk pertaining to the characteristics and saleability of grid silk is deemed of importance by this headquarters:

- a. Grid silk fabric is as warm as woolen fabric.
- b. The appearance of men's suits, women's skirts, scarfs, overcoats, etc., woven from grid silk thread is as good as the appearance of the same items woven by wool thread.
- c. Garmets woven from grid silk thread will not shrink.
- d. Although garmets made from grid silk cannot be washed without danger of stretching, if dry cleaned, no stretching whatsoever will occur.
- e. Current estimates on the durability of garmets woven with grid silk thread are that they would be 60 to 70 per cent as durable as garmets manufactured from 100 per cent wool. The durability, however, is expected to be increased upon further experimentation.
- f. Since the consumers' demands for woolen fabrics and garmets are great, in view of the unavailability of such items, and because of grid silk's remarkable resemblance to wool, the demand for grid silk fabrics and garmets is expected to be great.
- g. The cost of grid silk fabrics is such lower than that of wool fabrics as is seen by the following analysis:

Wool Suit (6 yds. wool fabric)	Legal Price	¥6000
Wool Suit (6 yds. wool fabric)	Blackmarket	¥15000
Grid Silk Suit (6 yds. grid silk fabric)	Cost of production	¥3500

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Subject: Special Report on the Development of Grid Silk

Permitting an additional 50 per cent of the production cost for the 6 yards of grid silk fabric to be expended for transportation and marketing, the suit could be purchased by the consumer for approximately 5250 yen - 750 yen less than the fixed price of the wool suit, and 9750 yen cheaper than the blackmarket price.

6. Although all patents to the process and machinery are currently held by the South Sea Silk Thread Cooperative Company Ltd., the management of this company has agreed that if grid silk garments were to be accepted domestically as a substitute for woolen garments, they would be happy to relinquish exclusive rights to these patents. Since the machinery used in spinning grid silk thread is vastly different than that employed in the spinning of ordinary silk thread, conversion to the production of grid silk thread by a producer of ordinary silk thread would require a large capital investment.

7. This headquarters feels that the development of the grid silk industry merits special attention since each of the economic factors listed below would be affected and each would be a contribution towards raising the living level of Japan:

a. The Japanese people must be provided with a warm garment for winter use. Since most wool must be imported, the consumption of wool garments by the people would necessitate large imports of raw wool, thereby consuming a large share of the limited amount of foreign exchange available to Japan and depriving Japan of other critically needed imports. If a fabric comparable to wool were manufactured from a domestically available raw material, such imports would be unnecessary.

b. Currently, a sizeable volume of fabric manufactured from imported wool and originally destined to be exported is being channelled through blackmarket outlets, thereby depriving Japan of critically needed foreign exchange. Such a situation is caused by the shortage of a suitable winter fabric. If grid silk garments were available, the demand for blackmarket wool fabric would be considerably less.

c. Since grid silk is produced from indigenous raw materials, the business of the producers of the raw materials (the farmers) would be stimulated.

d. Since the demand for grid silk fabrics would probably be great, silk mills would be permitted to maintain operations at a high level, thereby rejuvenating a decaying industry and providing employment for many thousands of workers.

8. Recommendations:

a. The practicality of using grid silk as a substitute for wool be ascertained.

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- b. If grid silk proved to be an acceptable substitute for wool, measures be taken to encourage producers to convert to its production.
- c. Export possibilities for grid silk be investigated.

ADLAI C. YOUNG
Colonel, Infantry
Chief

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HEADQUARTERS GIV
GIFU CIVIL AFFAIRS TEAM
APO 25, Unit 2 (Gifu, Honshu)

TSR/RR/t.

423

10 August 1949

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

THRU: Liaison Office
Gifu Prefectural GovernmentTO: Dai Nippon Boseki Co., Ltd.
Gifu City, Gifu Prefecture

1. Forwarded as Inclosure 1 is a copy of a request for technical information requested by Mr. Fomitchev, technical representative of the U.S.S.R. Government.

2. If such information is available, it is requested by this headquarters that such be compiled and forwarded to this headquarters at the earliest possible date.

FOR THE CHIEF:

1 Incl:
a/sVAN B. POLLARD
Capt., Ord.
Adjutant

FILE

MIN

9 Aug. 1949

Dai Nippon Boseki Co. Ltd.

Gentlemen:

We have not received from you the full technical information on silk spinning, weaving and finishing of the silk cloth, which is done at your factory.

Therefore we kindly ask you to submit to us the technical data according to the following questions:

- 1) Technical characteristics of the raw material, refined waste, production from the dressing machines, roving machines, spinning and twisting frames, and weaving machines including the burret spinning.
- 2) Technical data, characterizing the machines and the technological process on them including:
 - a) Technological and kinematic schemes of the machines.
 - b) The speed of the machine and of all the working organs, including the speed of the outgoing product.
 - c) The data for sizing and finishing processes: the solution composed of the different chemical materials, the quantity of chemical materials and water to be used, the concentration of the solutions, time required, temperature, etc.
 - d) The gauge between the surfaces of the dressing organs.
 - e) Data characterizing the loading of the loom for receiving the cloth which are at present produced at your factory.
 - f) Actual productivity (approx. of the daily prod.) of every machine.
 - g) How many machines and spindles are serviced per employee in every process.

We kindly ask you to prepare this information in a possible short time and send to Tokyo by the following address:

Marunouchi, Mitsubishi 21
Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ S. Fomitchev

/t/ Sergei Y. Fomitchev
Technical Representative of the
U.S.S.R. Government.

Incl. 1

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Reports Control Symbol 49/B/IR/6

HEADQUARTERS
GIFU MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
APO 25, Unit 2 (Gifu, Honshu)

TSR/RR/tt

423

2 May 1949

SUBJECT: Special Report on the Silk and Rayon Industry
in Gifu Prefecture

THRU: Commanding Officer
Tokai-Hokuriku Military Government Region
APO 710

TO: Commanding General
Eighth Army
APO 343

MAIN FILE

1. A recent survey, conducted by this headquarters, of the silk and rayon fabric industries in Gifu prefecture revealed that each mill equipped with less than twenty looms was operating at between 30 and 60 percent of capacity; ninety-five percent of all silk and rayon mills located in this prefecture operate less than twenty looms.

2. At a general conference attended by the management of the silk and rayon fabric industries, the central government's policy of allocating high quality threads only to factories producing against export orders was held, by management, to be the cause for the low utilization of the equipment of the textile mills in this prefecture, since all orders for export which were received by the central government were allocated to mills which operate twenty or more looms. The principle behind the government's policy was stated to be that foreign purchasers of fabrics desired the fabrics to be of a uniform weave, and while a large entity operating many looms of the same type and employing the same productive methods throughout the plant could produce a fabric of a comparatively uniform weave, the smaller mills utilizing different looms and different production processes could not achieve a weave sufficiently uniform to meet the standards of uniformity of weave required by foreign buyers. Since only mills producing for export are receiving adequate allocations of the finer grade threads, and since this prefecture's mills are not large enough to obtain export orders, allocations of thread have not been forthcoming; the consequence being that most of this prefecture's silk and rayon mills are operating at less than 50 percent of capacity.

Reports Control Symbol 49/E/IR/6

OMGT 423

2 May 1949

Subject: Special Report on the Silk and Rayon Industry
in Gifu Prefecture

3. It was unanimously agreed that the small mills could produce a rayon crepe fabric, the weave of which would be sufficiently uniform that it could meet the standards of foreign buyers. In other words if an export order for rayon crepe were allocated to several different small mills, the fabric would be, when gathered together, of sufficient uniformity of weave that it could meet the standards established by foreign purchasers. Manufacturers agreed that for the sake of the overall economy of Japan it would be wise for the government to continue its policy of allocations of export orders for regular weaves only to larger factories, but to concentrate the production of rayon crepe in the smaller entities, thereby utilizing the facilities of both larger and smaller mills to the fullest extent commensurate with the supply of silk and rayon threads.

4. Recommendations:

a. Ascertain whether or not smaller mills are capable of producing a rayon crepe fabric of sufficient uniformity of weave to be able to meet the standards required for its export.

b. If feasible, and for the purpose of increasing the total output of silk and rayon fabrics, as well as for the purpose of utilizing existing plant equipment and labor to the fullest extent, it is recommended that the present system of allocating orders for silk and rayon fabrics for export only to larger manufacturers be continued, but if the smaller mills can produce a rayon crepe fabric suitable for export to permit or even concentrate production of this type of fabric in the smaller mills.

ABELAI C. YOUNG
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding