****** a. Sorge Paves Way For USSR - German Pact; The European picture was very black in the spring of 1939. The THESR had a choice of negotiations either with the Anglo-French or the Germans. After they had learned from Sorge that the Germans had proposed to Tokyo, with the support of Ambassador General Oshima Hiroshi, an alliance directed against the USSR and Great Britain, but that the Cabinet, the navy and the Zaibatsu were

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At the time of the "Nomonhan Incident," in the summer of 1939, when the Red Army and the Japanese Kwantung Army engaged in a full-scale, local war, the Red Army was able to learn Japanese intentions. They learned what units were being dispatched from what parts of Manchuria, as well as what reinforcements would come from Japan. Above all, they learned that the Japanese Government did not intend to exploit this incident, but intended to settle it locally, and the Russians conducted themselves accordingly. Aside from his sources in Tokyo, Sorge was able to get a good on-the-spot report from de Voukelitch who as a correspondent was taken to Nomenhan as the guest of the Japanese Army. The Japanese assessement of their lessons at Nomonhan, especially their need to mechanize all their forces and develop armored divisions on the German model, was transmitted by Sorge on the basis of information gathered both by the German Embassy and by Miyagi.

Sorge sent a reliable account of Japanese output of munitions, aircraft and motorcars, along with the report on the factories making these materials as well as iron and steel on 16 February 1940. From time to time, he brought these figures up to date. In August 1941 he reported on Japanese petroleum resources, a top secret bit of information of the most vital importance in estimating both Japanese war plans and capabilities. He reported that there was in storge in Japan sufficient petroleum for a two year's use by the navy, half a year by the army and half a year by the nation at large. His sources were the German Embassy and Miyagi.

1941 was the crucial year. After earlier general reports, on 20 May 1941; Sorge flashed the urgent warning that the Reichswehr would concentrate from 170 to 190 divisions on the Soviet borger, and on 20 June would attack along the whole frontier. The main direction of the drive would be toward Moscow. It will be recalled that this attack did occur on 22 June. Naturally, thereafter, the answer to the question of Japanese attack from the east became the most vital mission of the Sorge ring. All questions, whether of Japanese-American relations, the war in China or internal politics were subordinated to answering that basic question. Without a sound answer the Red Army could not draw on their Far Eastern Army for use in the west, and, as the event showed, only a massing of limitless reserves made possible the stopping of the violent German thrusts.

Sorge could not come by the answer immediately, partly because it had not been decided definitely by the responsible Japanese authorities. Naturally, Ambassador Ott was urging the Japanese to enter the war and distract the Russians on their eastern frontier. Sorge was able to report on 2 July, immediately after the Imperial Council of that date, that the Japanese Government had decided to push southward into French Indo-China and seize various bases. Meanwhile, while adhering to their neutrality treaty with the USSR, in view of the possibility of war with the Soviet Union, they would mobilize their whole forces. Late in July Sorge reported that a few troops from the Tokyo-Osaka areas had been sent south, but that to advance into Thailand and Malaya they needed 300,000 men. So far there were only 40,000 men in Indo-China.***

(Pages 49-50)

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D.D. 308/

付録且離り領

セノ右院又二

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A certain N.C.O., now being detained at the Sugamo Prison was alleged to have assaulted the responsible person of a organization, which then was employing POW labour, out of his indignation fortithe employer's lack of enthusiams towards the POWs under his employ. The injured person lodged a protest to me personally against the N.C.O. on the occasion of my visit to that organization. At other time the fact came to my knowledge that a certain interpreter attached to a POW camp, though he had the habit of stiking a POW from a slight cause, would, when a POW happened to fall sick, attend on him whole-heartedly almost without taking any rest or food, with the natural result that he was always popular with the POWs in spite of his bad habit. From these facts I can assure you that the POW camp staffs were real guardians for the Prisoners of War under their charge.

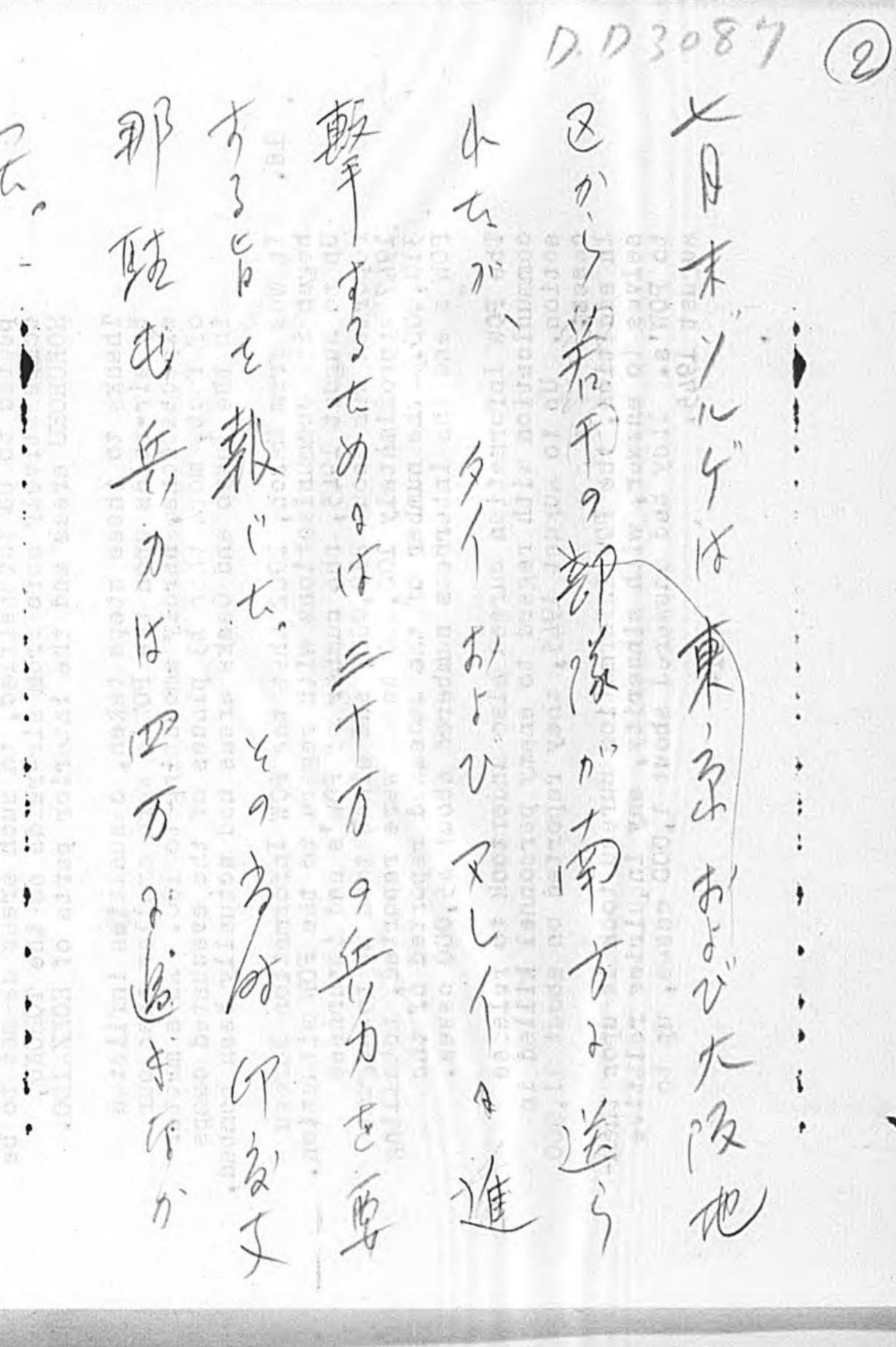
- 17. Measures Relative to the disposition of POW's in case of Gradual Change in the Situation (army, Asia, Secret, No.2257) Aimed at the Following Two Points: (Ex.No.1978)
 - (1) To transfer POW camps in order to avoid, by all means the giving up of POW's to enemy hands, and to prevent, as much as possible, POW casualties which might be inflicted by the air-raids.
 - (2) Not to make any mistakes in disposition in the event we were obliged to resort to emergency measures against POW's, owing to unavoidable circumstances, as stated above, this notification was made in order to protect POW's, and did not bear any implication of mistreatment towards them. As a result, for the purpose of preventing POW casualties to the utmost, about 10,000 POW's held in our homeland were removed from the Tokyo-Yokohama area, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Hakodate, Muroran areas, where air-raids were expected to be intensified, to such areas deemed to be comparatively safe from air-raids as the TOHOKU, HOKUROKU areas and the interior parts of HOKKAIDO.

Thanks to these steps taken, casualties inflicted by air-raids upon the POW's were smaller than our expectations, hardly amounting to 100. As a matter of fact, more than 13 places of the evacuated camps in the Tokyo and Osaka areas had actually been bombed.

18. It was from March, 1942 that the POW Information Bureau began its communications with regard to the POW situation. Up to August 1945, the number of POW's and internees reported was about 210,000, and since then up to August 1947 approximately 100,000 cases were reported, totalling 310,000. The number of the deceased reported of the POW's and the internees numbered about 45,000 cases.

The POW Information Bureau also undertook to release communication with regard to enemy personnel killed in action. Up to August 1945, they reported on about 11,000 cases.

In addition, the POW Information Bureau took it upon themselves to answer, with sincerity, any inquiries relative to POW's. They had answered about 1,000 cases, up to August 1945.



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