

File

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
APO 234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. 55
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE: 5 Oct. TIME: 1000

Division of Origin: MFC

SUBJECT: Functions of Labor Management Section.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Suetaro OKAMA SU - Head of Labor Management
Section of Ministry of Commerce.

Taketoshi TABUCHI - Ass't to Head of Labor Man-
agement Section of Ministry of Commerce.

Hiroshi IRIE - Ass't to Head of Labor Manage-
ment Section of the Ministry of Commerce.

Where interviewed: Labor Management Section of the Ministry
of Commerce.

Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. DeWolf.

Interpreter: Lt. Cary.

Allied Officers Present: None.

Summary:

1. Functions of Labor Management Section.
2. General Information about manpower allocation.

DISTRIBUTION:
All Divisions.

1. Suetaro OKAMATSU, Head of the Labor Management Section of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was interviewed for approximately two hours at his office on 5 October. Two assistants, Taketoshi TANURA and Hiroshi IRIE, participated. Lt. Cary acted as Interpreter; none of the Japanese speaking more than a few words of English.

2. Functions of Labor Management Section: Although the Labor Management section ostensibly had responsibility for workers in Mining, Chemical and Iron industries, the Section was in OKAMATSU'S own words, a "flat wheel". He explained that the Section was largely a vehicle of convenience for the Ministry of Welfare. Although the Section supposedly had authority to lay down rules for hours of work, working conditions and food rationing for workers in Mining, Chemicals and Iron it appears that this authority was largely limited to recommendations to the Eight District Munitions management ministries and to the prefectural government who had charge of food in their respective provinces. The Section also dealt through the five sectional mining bureaus in questions relating to mines. A list of these offices is appended as Annex A.

3. General Information: Near the end of 1943, the officials said, the Iron, Chemical and Mining industries began to run short of manpower, largely because of military draft demands. They indicated that later the military somewhat relaxed the draft of workers in these industries. The officials said that difficulty was experienced in keeping up production schedules in all three industries, but most particularly in coal mining. Effort was made to increase coal production by allocating more men to the mines but the calibre of labor was such that even though more manpower was allocated to a mine, production failed to rise. Some mines had in excess of 50 per cent Korean labor.

4. Evaluation: The interview was unsatisfactory in virtually all respects. Although the Japanese were cooperative, there was a dearth of decisive information. IRIE probably was the best informed of the three and might be worth a separate interview later.

ANNEX (A)

DISTRICT MUNITIONS OFFICES

KOKKAI Area (SAPPORO)
Northsea
TOHOKU Area (SENDAI)
Northeast
KANTO SHINETSU Area (TOKYO)
TOCKAI HIKURIKU Area (NAGAYA)
KINKI Area (OSAKA)
CHU KOKU (HIROSHI A)
SHIKOKU (MATSUYAMA)
KYUSFU (FUKUOKA)

DISTRICT MINING OFFICES

HOKKAI Area (SAPPORO)
TOHOKU (SENDAI)
11 - TOHOKU (TOKYO)
SHIBU (OSAKA)
KYUSFU (FUKUOKA)