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Maj Madden

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20734

21 Feb 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Col. Ewert

SUBJECT: Significant Developments of the Past Week in Japan

1. The negotiations on the Administrative Agreement continued to be the most important high-level political activity in Japan. Yomiuri Shimbun reports keen interest on the part of the public in these talks, particularly with reference to three questions, viz.: (1) Will the National Police Reserve be sent abroad? (2) In what emergency will U.S. troops be called into action and which country will sanction the move? (3) The problem of extraterritoriality, which is "particularly important to national sentiment".

2. On 14 Feb the Government announced the depurge of 240 persons, including 110 former general officers and 55 former naval officers of flag rank.

3. On 15 Feb the Japanese reparations mission returned to Japan after a "preliminary" meeting in Manila. Chief delegate TSUSHIMA expressed satisfaction, but the press indicated that the conference had not been very successful and bemoaned the Philippine people's "deep-rooted antipathy for co-existence and co-prosperity with Japan".

4. ROK-Japanese talks began in Tokyo on 15 Feb ~~to discuss~~ concerning a treaty of friendship and a fisheries agreement. Discussion of the latter item alone is expected to last for several weeks. The Foreign Office hopes to conclude negotiations by the time the San Francisco Treaty comes into force.

5. The trial of seven Japanese Communists for subversive activity began 18 Feb. All the accused pleaded innocent.

6. The theft of some 2,200,000 yen from the Senju Bank in Tokyo on 18 Feb has received an extraordinary amount of attention in the press. At least one news service seized upon the incident as an opportunity to urge that adequate provisions for the handling of U.S. personnel who may in future be involved in criminal activities be included in the Administrative Agreement. The matter was discussed in the Lower House Judiciary Committee on 20 Feb, but an interpellation on the robbery scheduled by Communist Councillor IWAMA was cancelled.

7. Formal negotiations for the resumption of normal relations between Japan and Nationalist China began in Taipeh on 20 Feb.

8. Diet members anticipate dealing with as many as 181 pieces of legislation during the current session. Thus far they have been preoccupied with consideration of the budget, and particularly the defense aspects thereof. These have given rise to much discussion of the question of rearmament in the Diet, in the press, and over the radio. The Opposition has launched a campaign against the Government for its alleged failure to explain Japanese commitments in this regard.

9. An official of the Japanese Foreign Office, recently returned from a visit to Burma, is optimistic as to a peace treaty between that country and Japan. Burma's desire for reparations in cash and her recognition of Red China are regarded as difficulties to be surmounted in the course of arranging a resumption of normal relations with Japan.

10. A repatriation rally has been scheduled for 22 Feb by the National Council for Promoting Repatriation of Japanese Nationals. Membership in the organization and its affiliates is close to 500,000. Some 2,000 delegates are expected from various parts of the country. New reports continue to be received of Japanese held in China.

11. Twelve candidates have registered for the Tokyo Sixth District by-elections to be held 12 Mar to fill two vacant Lower House seats. The event is regarded as a political weathervane, particularly with reference to the much-criticised Liberal Party.

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13 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Col. Ewert

SUBJECT: Significant Developments of the Past Week in Japan

1. The principal political event of the week was the by-election held on 12 Mar in the sixth district of Tokyo for two vacancies in the Lower House. Only 42.2 percent of the electorate turned out to vote--24 percent less than during the general election of 1949. ARAI Kyota (Liberal Party) and KUMAMOTO Torazo (Right-wing Socialist Party) were elected.

2. Premature publication by the Mainichi Shimbun on 9 Mar of the Chinese draft of the Sino-Japanese Peace Treaty angered the Chinese. The rather stalled negotiations have continued, however, important headway having been made on 12 Mar. Premier YOSHIDA says the Taipeh negotiations have no political significance.

3. The Government's refusal on 4 Mar to grant passports to those desiring to attend the Moscow enonomic conference next month was countered by the USSR on 8 Mar. The office of the Political Adviser was asked to convey to the Japanese Government a guarantee of the lives and property of Japanese delegates. The result of this is to embarrass TSUCHIYA Jun, Chief of the Bureau of American and European Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, since the Passport Law does not justify the Government's refusal.

4. On 6 Mar Premier YOSHIDA stated in the Diet that the Constitution does not prohibit a war potential for self-defense. He maintained that this is not rearmament. The Opposition seized upon YOSHIDA's statements as evidence of insincerity. On 10 Mar the Premier modified his statement, announced his intention of creating a defense ministry, and said he would call for an amendment of the Constitution. YOSHIDA announced also that the NPR would be dissolved in Nov.

5. The fifth and sixth supplementary depurges, which occurred 10 and 11 Mar, brought the total of supplementary depurgees to 1,867. Most recent depurgees include former generals, admirals, gendarmes, and diplomats. KURUSU Saburo, special envoy to U.S. at war's start, was depurged 11 Mar.

6. A four-degree earthquake occurred on 7 Mar in the western part of Honshu, resulting in 2 deaths and damage to 3,500 houses. Rail service, temporarily interrupted, was resumed the next day. Minor shakes have followed the major earthquake that took place in Hokkaido on 4 Mar. Appropriate aid to the victims of the various quakes continues.

7. Japanese press has given emphasis to the NOMURA Plan for rearmament, which calls for an army of 15 divisions (260,000 men), a navy of 377 vessels and 40,000 officers and men, and an air force of 1,789 first-line planes, 40,000 ground personnel, and 20,000 flying personnel.

8. The Foreign Ministry is about to announce the future composition of 20 embassies and 14 legations. Vice-Foreign Minister IGUCHI Sadao is almost certain to be a member of the Washington embassy. Meanwhile the Japanese Government has agreed to the appointment of five ambassadors and three ministers to be accredited to Japan after the Peace Treaty comes into force.

9. The U.S. Senate is scheduled to begin debate on the Peace Treaty on 14 Mar. A vote in the early part of next week is hoped for by Senate majority leader McFarland.

10. A new society, called the Soviet Affairs Research Institute, has been established in the Diet. Its aim is to investigate all available information on the USSR. Its program calls for a monthly publication, lectures by prominent authorities, and "open study meetings". SATO Naotake, President of the Upper House and head of the Japan United Nations Association, is President of the new organization.

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11. The Cabinet is expected to present to the Diet shortly a bill authorizing the Government to request admission to the UN. An agreement with the UN similar to the US-Japan Administrative Agreement is reportedly contemplated by the Foreign Office, providing for a concrete means for Japan to co-operate with UN member nations that are sending troops to Korea. The UK, France, and Australia have reportedly proposed such an agreement.

12. Columnist Drew Pearson predicts that Russia will return the lower half of Sakhalin Island to Japan as a Trojan horse. Undoubtedly the Soviets have considered such a move.

13. A trade pact between Japan and Sweden, to continue in effect even after the Peace Treaty is ratified, was signed on 6 Mar.

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