

Legal Section - KUWARA TUSANASUKE
(2538)

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD Letter, Apr. 12, 1974
By *[Signature]*, NADS, Date *9-17-75*

(Do not remove from attached sheets)

File No.: Subject: KUHARA Fusanosuke, Internee under House Arrest

Note No. From: G-2 To: Legal Section Date: 27 MAY 1945
(Attn: Lt Col R. E. Rudisill GB/CIS/OD:TPD/FAF/mk
Investigation Division)
Info Copy To: IPS (Attn: Mr. E. P. Monaghan)
Investigation Division

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1. Curriculum Vitae of KUHARA Fusanosuke (TAB A) indicates that he is one of the so-called "new Zaibatsu" who rose to be a prominent multi-millionaire industrialist during the business boom of World War I. In 1927, having faced bankruptcy, KUHARA suddenly entered the political field under the sponsorship of General Baron TANAKA. KUHARA's political career, like his business career, rode through many turbulent storms and, too, ended suddenly.

2. Evaluation of KUHARA at the time of his arrest in December 1945 reads as per TAB B.

3. Direct and implied accusations embodied in this document (TAB B) are as follows:

- a. "Prominent politician, industrialist, friend and supporter of Baron TANAKA, General ARAKI."
- b. "Advocate of strong policy toward China."
- c. "Involved in Incident of February 26, 1936."
- d. "Ardent nationalist, closely associated with military circles and aims."

4. In addition KUHARA was Minister of Communications in the TANAKA Cabinet, Chief Secretary and Head of the KUHARA faction of the SEIYUKAI Party, Member of the Advisory Councils of the ABE, YONAI and 2nd KONOYE Cabinets, Advisor of the TAISEI YOKUSAN KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Association) and of the KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI (National Spirit Mobilization Central League) and Councillor of the KOA MEKKYO REMMEI (Rise Asia Anti-Communist League).

5. Furthermore, fate has associated the name of KUHARA with many scandalous affairs in both the business world and the political arena.

6. Careful study and analysis of the case of KUHARA, of his business and political activities shows the following:

- a. KUHARA was indeed a successful industrialist, one of the so-called "new Zaibatsu" who amassed millions during the boom period of World War I. He was engaged in multifarious activities - shipbuilding, mining,

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b. The statement that KUHARA was a friend and supporter of General ARAKI is substantiated only by Hillis Lory in his "Japan's Military Masters": "Rallying around Araki were the ultra-patriots within civilian and military circles. Many of them were active in secret or semi-secret reactionary societies. Among the prominent civilians linked with his programme, three especially deserve mention. The first is Baron Kiichiro Hiranuma... The second is Kenzo Adachi... and lastly F. Kuhara, who was prominent in the Seiyukai."

c. The statement that KUHARA was an "advocate of a strong policy toward China" is indisputable. The Japan Weekly Chronicle reports in its November 22nd, 1928 Edition: "... His (KUHARA's) garden party last week was, in a sense, an occasion for letting the world know that he is taking a very leading part in the Cabinet. Perhaps it was unfortunate that the members of the Diplomatic Corps all had other engagements, but the occasion served well enough... It appears that Mr. Kuhara's line is the very simple and attractive one of promising a strong policy in China... It may not matter very much what permutations and combinations are made in domestic politics; but it would be a deplorable thing if the country were led into a bullying policy toward China for the purpose of ministering to Mr. Kuhara's political ambitions..." The same periodical states in its November 29th, 1928 Edition: "Mr. Kuhara's denunciation of the China policy of the Tanaka Cabinet as too weak is another cause for strong resentment among his critics. His attitude only discloses a lack of unity among the members of the Cabinet and impairs the dignity of the Cabinet... His promise... to make the Government adopt a stronger policy towards China is even more reprehensible...", and the December 27th, 1928 Edition reports: "Mr. Kuhara does not rule so high in the political

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f. KUHARA held but one position in the TAISEI YOKUSAN KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Association)--that of Advisor. Validity of such activity as basis of war crimes charges depends upon the ultimate evaluation of the Imperial Rule Assistance organizations. In its study "War Politics in Japan", of which LS and IPS have copies, CIS has already given its opinion of these societies and of the men active in them:

"These societies were neither secret nor terroristic. Nor did they disband for the purpose of avoiding detection. They were basically political and patriotic organizations whose part in the wartime life of Japan was to gear the nation's politics and economy to the war effort."

"Activity in one or more of these societies should not in itself be considered prime evidence of war responsibility but should be weighed carefully as to the extent of that activity as well as in the light of the individual's actions in other fields."

g. KUHARA was an advisor of the KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI (National Spirit Mobilization Central League) (TAB I), a KONOYE movement and a precursor to the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, which was dissolved after the formation of the IRAA. He was also an advisor of the KOA MEKKYO REMMEI (Rise Asia Anti-Communist League) (TAB J).

h. KUHARA's name is linked with the murder of Marshal CHANG Tso-Lin toward the end of the TANAKA Cabinet. Detailed information is contained in CIS's "The Brocade Banner", of which LS and IPS have copies. Also, in 1928 KUHARA was reported blackmailed by a Shanghai gang in an opium smuggling deal (TAB K - A KUHARA STORY).

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7. On 4 March 1947 the morning edition of the JIJI Press reported that according to the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, KUHARA was planning to stage a comeback; he had decided to run for the House of Representatives from his home prefecture, Yamaguchi, and had submitted an application for screening. However, the evening edition of the JIJI Press reported that KUHARA had been warned by the Home Minister to refrain from leaving his home and from engaging in political activity. At the same time he was reminded of his present status - "under house detention as a war crimes suspect". (TAB L - KUHARA REPORTED PLANNING POLITICAL COMEBACK and KUHARA WARNED AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY).

8. KUHARA is best characterized as an unscrupulous businessman and one of the worst types of political bosses--a man with wide influence but of dubious honor in business and politics.

9. In summary, accusations directed against KUHARA appear to be of a political nature, but he can hardly be considered to rate as a war criminal.

10. Unless it is decided as a matter of policy that unscrupulous political activity will form a basis for indictment, G-2 recommends his release from internment without preference of charges.

TAB A - Curriculum Vitae of KUHARA Fusanosuke
TAB B - Evaluation of KUHARA Fusanosuke at time of arrest
TAB C - KUHARA'S CASE - HOW HE SWINDLED A BRITISH COMPANY
TAB D - THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A MINISTER
TAB E - KUHARA PAYS UP
TAB F - KUHARA SHOWS READINESS TO DISSOLVE PARTY
TAB G - KUHARA THINKS HITLER CAN TEACH JAPAN
TAB H - THE BASIS FOR A SINGLE PARTY
TAB I - KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI
TAB J - KOA MEKKYO REMMEI
TAB K - A KUHARA STORY
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2. Evaluation of KUHARA at the time of his arrest in December 1945 reads as per TAB B.

3. Direct and implied accusations embodied in this document (TAB B) are as follows:

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7. On 4 March 1947 the morning edition of the JIJI Press reported that according to the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, KUHARA was planning to stage a comeback; he had decided to run for the House of Representatives from his home prefecture, Yamaguchi, and had submitted an application for screening. However, the evening edition of the JIJI Press reported that KUHARA had been warned by the Home Minister to refrain from leaving his home and from engaging in political activity. At the same time he was reminded of his present status - "under house detention as a war crimes suspect". (TAB L - KUHARA REPORTED PLANNING POLITICAL COMEBACK and KUHARA WARNED AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY).

8. KUHARA is best characterized as an unscrupulous businessman and one of the worst types of political bosses--a man with wide influence but of dubious honor in business and politics.

9. In summary, accusations directed against KUHARA appear to be of a political nature, but he can hardly be considered to rate as a war criminal.

10. Unless it is decided as a matter of policy that unscrupulous political activity will form a basis for indictment, G-2 recommends his release from internment without preference of charges.

- TAB A - Curriculum Vitae of KUHARA Fusanosuke
- TAB B - Evaluation of KUHARA Fusanosuke at time of arrest
- TAB C - KUHARA'S CASE - HOW HE SWINDLED A BRITISH COMPANY
- TAB D - THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A MINISTER
- TAB E - KUHARA PAYS UP
- TAB F - KUHARA SHOWS READINESS TO DISSOLVE PARTY
- TAB G - KUHARA THINKS HITLER CAN TEACH JAPAN
- TAB H - THE BASIS FOR A SINGLE PARTY
- TAB I - KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI
- TAB J - KOA MEKYO REMMEI
- TAB K - A KUHARA STORY
- TAB L - KUHARA REPORTED PLANNING POLITICAL COMEBACK and KUHARA WARNED AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY

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Curriculum Vitae of KUHARA Fusanosuke

Curriculum Vitae of KUHARA Fusanosuke

1869 Jan	Born, Yamaguchi Prefecture	B
1889 Dec	Graduated from Keio University	C
1890 Jul	Joined Morimura Gumi (Morimura Company)	
1891 Nov	Joined Fujita Gumi (Fujita Company)	
1895 Dec	Established Kuhara Kogyosho (Kuhara Industries)	
1912	Formed Kuhara Mining Company, Ltd.	D
1915	Manager, Hitachi Mining Company	
1915	Succeeded to father's property	
1915	Director, Kuhara Real Estate	E
1915	Director, Kuhara Trading Company	
1917 Apr	Kuhara's Nippon Kisen Kaisha (Drydock) entered into contract with Federal Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. to build ships for British Government	F
1918 Aug	President, Kuhara Shoji K. K. (Kuhara Trading Co., Ltd)	
1918	Visited New York by invitation of Judge Gary of U.S. Steel Corporation. Vacationed at Yosemite National Park and stopped in Hawaii before returning to Japan in December	G
1919 Jan	Federal Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. cancelled contract	
1919 Jan	President, Kyoho Life Insurance Co., Ltd.	H
1920 Dec	Managing Director, Kuhara Honten (Kuhara Holding Co., Ltd.)	
1921 Jan	President, Kuhara Estate Co., Ltd.	I
1922	Supreme Court in Tokyo handed down decision in favor of the British Government	
1922 May	KUHARA sued Shimidzu Co. for ¥960,000 due on ship-building contract	J
1923 Mar	Distrain order issued for failure to pay the British Government. KUHARA declared bankrupt but KUHARA agreed to pay by installment;	
1927 Oct	Visited Germany and Russia as Special Economic Envoy and returned in January 1928	K
1928	Retired from private industry following failure	
1928	Member, Seiyukai Party	L
1928 Mar	Elected Member, House of Representatives from Yamaguchi Prefecture (4 times)	
1928 May	Minister of Communications, TANAKA Cabinet	
1928 Oct	Paid the British Government by means of a loan from INUI Shimbei	
1931	Chief Secretary, Seiyukai Party	
1936	Implicated in the 2:26 Incident	
1939	Member, Directorate, Seiyukai Party	
1939 May	Head of KUHARA faction of Seiyukai	
1939 Dec	Member, Cabinet Advisory Council, ABE Cabinet Toured China and Manchuria	
1940	Member, Cabinet Advisory Council, YONAI Cabinet; resigned in June 1940	

Curriculum Vitae of KUHARA Fusanosuke

1940 Oct-1941 Jul Member, Cabinet Advisory Council, 2nd KONOYE Cabinet
1940-1941 Taisei Yokusan Kai (Imperial Rule Assistance
Association)
Advisor 1940 Oct - 1941 Jul
Advisor, Kokumin Seishin Sodoin Chuo Remmei (National
Spirit Mobilization Central League)
Councillor, KOA Meikyo Remmei (Rise Asia Anti-
Communist League)
1945 Interned under House Arrest on apprehension order of
17 November 1945

Evaluation of KUHARA Fusanosuke at time of Arrest

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SECRET

Evaluation of KUHARA Fusanosuke at time of Arrest

Background Information

KUHARA Fusanosuke, a member of the Japanese Communist Party, was arrested in London on February 26, 1950. He was active in the Japanese Communist Party in London and was a member of the Japanese Communist Party in London.

The arrest of KUHARA Fusanosuke was the result of the operations of the Special Branch of the Home Office.

He was arrested on the basis of information received from the Special Branch of the Home Office.

Evaluation of KUHARA Fusanosuke at time of Arrest

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SECRET

Evaluation of KUHARA Fusanosuke at time of internment

"KUHARA Fusanosuke

"Prominent politician, industrialist, friend and supporter of Baron TANAKA, General ARAKI. Advocate of strong policy toward China. Involved in Incident of February 26, 1936. Ardent nationalist, closely associated with military circles and aims.

"On apprehension order of 17 November 1945."

Interned under House Arrest

KUHARA'S CASE
HOW HE SWINDLED A BRITISH COMPANY

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**KUHARA'S CASE
HOW HE SWINDLED A BRITISH COMPANY**

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KUHARA'S CASE

HOW HE SWINDLED A BRITISH COMPANY

MINSEITO INDICTMENT

Mr. Kuhara's act of bad faith towards a British steamship company has at last come to attract hostile public attention in Japan. At a meeting of the committee of the Minseito for the enforcement of official discipline on the 5th instant, Mr. Yokoyama, the Chairman, described the case as follows:-

"In April 1917, the Nippon Kisen Kaisha under the management of Mr. Kuhara Fusanosuke, entered into a contract with the Federal Steam Navigation Company in London for four steamers (31,000 tons) at the rate of £48 per ton, and received ¥2,800,057 in advance. As the Nippon Kisen Kaisha failed to deliver the ships under contract even in January 1919, that is, after cessation of the European war, the British company notified it of the cancellation of the contract, demanding the return of the money, which it had paid in advance. The refusal of the Nippon Kisen Kaisha to meet this demand led to a lawsuit, which went against the Japanese company both in the Osaka Chiho Saibansho and in the Osaka Appeal Court. It appealed against the judgement, but its appeal was rejected by the Court of Cassation in December 1922. In the Courts, Mr. Kuhara pleaded that the embargo put by the American Government on the export of iron had caused a shortage of iron supplies and the building of the vessels under contract had been rendered impossible. As a matter of fact, however, his company obtained large supplies of iron from America on the testimony of the British Government - supplies large enough to build about thirteen vessels with, - and its failure to meet the contract with the British company was because it preferred to sell its ships to others at the rate of six hundred yen per ton, rather than to deliver them to the British company in accordance with the contracted price, namely, £48 per ton (which was only ¥400 at the exchange rate ruling at the time). The result was that Britain could not use the vessels contracted for in the war as she had intended. Thus, the Nippon Kisen acted fraudulently not only towards Britain but towards America. The British Company was entitled to claim damages from Mr. Kuhara in the circumstances, but it contented itself with claiming the return of the money paid in advance. The loss of the law case by Mr. Kuhara was, therefore, only natural and proper. His defeat put him under the obligation to pay back the money his company had received in advance, together with the interest thereon amounting to ¥1,050,000. These obligations he again failed to meet, and consequently in March 1923 a distraint order was issued and in the following month he was declared bankrupt. This greatly alarmed him, and in July of the same year, he managed to reach a compromise with his creditors on the promise

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that the debts should be paid in instalments by the Nippon Kisen Kaisha, the Kuhara Shoji Kaisha and the Kuhara Gomei Kaisha conjointly. Neither the principal nor the interest has, however, been paid since then, his excuse for non-payment being that the earthquake inflicted heavy damages on his interests."

Mr. Yokoyama added the Federal Steam Navigation Company, which was established by the British Government during the war, has already gone into liquidation and that all negotiations with Mr. Kuhara are left in the hands of the British Embassy. He also stated that when Mr. Kuhara was offered the portfolio of Foreign Affairs by General Baron Tanaka, the Premier, he tried to reach an understanding with various quarters with regard to this problem, but his attempts having failed, he could not secure the portfolio.

After discussion, it was agreed that appropriate steps should be taken to impeach Mr. Kuhara as it was impossible to tolerate, from the point of view of constitutional politics, that such a man should be in the Cabinet. As one means of discrediting the Minister of Communications with the public in connection with the case, a pamphlet will be compiled by the party setting forth the full circumstances.

The Japan Weekly Chronicle, June 14th, 1928.

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THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A MINISTER

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THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A MINISTER

Readers must have been somewhat astonished at all the controversy that rages round the question whether Mr. Kuhara Fusanosuke should or should not enter the Cabinet. At first it was rumoured that Mr. Kuhara was to be Foreign Minister - a post which General Baron Tanaka has held in addition to the Premiership since he took office a year ago. What qualifications for such a post Mr. Kuhara had did not appear. He had been one of those men of multi-farious activities, - shipbuilding, mining, import and export, &c. - who are not uncommon in Japan, and he had been tremendously inflated in wealth at the end of the war but partially deflated since. For no particular reason except that he was a friend of the Premier, he had been sent to Russia and England on a tour of economic investigation, and at the time of his return it seemed to be assumed that the experience of foreign countries and courts so obtained was to count as sufficient qualification for him to be given the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. There was considerable criticism of the project; it was remarked that, unless ordinary business knowledge qualifies a man for Cabinet rank, Mr. Kuhara had no qualifications except that of having contributed generously to the Seiyukai party funds, and that this last virtue was one which was susceptible of reward in some other form. For the time being the question of Mr. Kuhara's entry into the Cabinet was dropped, but with the resignation of Dr. Suzuki from the Ministry for Home Affairs, it came up again with renewed force. There was a good deal of opposition, and Mr. Koidzumi, one of the Seiyukai leaders, caused a good deal of a flutter in the party by declaring that he was unalterably opposed to such a man entering the Cabinet. Intercessions have been in vain, and it is stated that Mr. Koidzumi is not the only leading member that the Seiyukai will lose if Baron Tanaka insists upon thus rewarding his commercial friend. There has been opposition within the Cabinet also. When it was rumoured that Mr. Kuhara was to succeed Dr. Suzuki, Mr. Mitsuchi, the Minister of Finance, declared that he was strongly opposed to such a man entering the Cabinet at all. This attitude he firmly maintained until a fresh arrangement was put forward - that Mr. Mochidzuki, Minister of Communications, should take the Home portfolio, and Mr. Kuhara should succeed him as Minister of Communications. After that it was reported that Mr. Mitsuchi's attitude softened, and that he was gradually becoming reconciled to the idea, though as lately as Monday last he was reported as saying:

"Mr. Kuhara has received much relief money from the Government for his enterprises, and I disapprove of the idea of allowing a Government debtor to join the Cabinet as a Minister. The Seiyukai would lose too much in popular support if Kuhara were installed in the Cabinet. I understand that Mr. Koidzumi, one of the leaders of the Seiyukai, has threatened to quit the party unless Baron Tanaka drops his plan of appointing Mr. Kuhara Minister of Communications, but I do not think he has done it. I know that he and Mr. Takahashi, the former Premier, are

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opposed to the appointment. They oppose it because they fear that the selection of Mr. Kuhara may affect the reputation of the Seiyukai."

Nor, considering the reputation of the Seiyukai, its shameless corruption and political gangster methods, and its employment of hired bullies to intimidate its opponents, this is a pretty hard saying. Mr. Mitachi's remarks about the Government aid given to the enterprises of this generous contributor to party funds is also eloquent of the Seiyukai methods. It may be remembered in this connection that one of the first remedies adopted when the post-war slump came was the imposition of a high duty on the importation of copper, in the mining of which Mr. Kuhara is largely interested. It handicapped Japanese industry, but it undoubtedly made it easier to go on working the mines at a profit. The remark that the appointment of Mr. Kuhara would damage even the indurated reputation of the Seiyukai, however, recalls to mind a case which attracted some notice six years ago. This was a suit filed by the Federal Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., of London, against the Nippon Kisen Kabushiki Kaisha, of Kobe, for ¥2,800,000 which had been advanced for the building of four steamers. The order was placed in 1917, on the understanding that the four ships were already begun and would be delivered promptly. The time for delivery came, but there were no ships. There was not even the material to build them. By this time there was an embargo on the export of steel from the United States, but the agents of the Federal Steam Navigation Co. procured, through the Embassy, permission for the supply of materials for the ships. At that time steel commanded fancy prices in Japan, but the steel so procured was not used in the construction of the four ships, because when the armistice came there were still no ships, and, when the Federal Steam Navigation Co. cancelled the order and asked for the return of the ¥2,800,000 that had been paid in advance, the Nippon Kisen Kaisha refused to repay the money, on the grounds that, since the original date for the completion of the ships had been allowed to pass without the contract being cancelled, and the shipbuilders had been merely asked to deliver them as soon as they possibly could, therefore the contract had no time limit whatever. It was not even pretended that the money had been spent on an endeavour to fulfill the contract. Merely on the quibble that a contract one extended had no time limit, the firm fought the case in every tribunal up to the Court of Cassation. The Federal Steam Navigation Co. won in every court, only to be informed in the end that it would be useless to force a bankruptcy and that if it did not agree to such payments as the defendants chose to make, it would find the verdict useless. The point of this story is that the owner of the Nippon Kisen Kabushiki Kaisha was Mr. Kuhara Fusanosuke. It would be of interest to know whether any thought of this transaction passed through the minds of any of the gentlemen who have objected so strenuously to his appointment to Cabinet rank. Probably it was on other grounds that they objected, since this sort of thing, especially where Foreigners are concerned, makes very little impression in Japan, as we saw in the case of the late Mr. Imanishi, who became President of the

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Osaka Chamber of Commerce while the soda ash case was still being fought against him by Messrs. Strachan & Co. It has even been argued that the iron law of contract is not understood in Japan, and that the Japanese rightly ignore it; but as against this it might be mentioned that on May 20th, 1922, before the last had been heard of the Federal Steam Navigation case, Mr. Kuhara was suing for ¥960,000, which he was unable to recover from the purchasers of one of his ships - the Shimidzu Co.

Apparently he had a lively understanding of the sacredness of a contract when his own interests were concerned. General Baron Tanaka, however, appears to be determined to have him in his Cabinet. It is not long ago that his enemies were charging the Premier with having misapplied several million yen during the occupation of Siberia by the Japanese troops. The charge was scouted, but it might have been supposed that after such an attack had been made, its victim would have exercised extraordinary care that none of his doings should have put him into even the most distant association with any but the most rigid financial integrity. However, it appears that his loyalty to his friends is of too robust a character to allow him to pay any heed to public censoriousness.

Editorial, the Japan Weekly Chronicle, May 31st, 1928.

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KUHARA PAYS UP

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KUHARA PAYS UP
An Old Debt With A Certain Amount of Interest
Friend Lends ¥4,000,000
New Scandal Replaces Old One

According to the Kobe Yushin Nippo, Mr. Kuhara, the Minister of Communications, has repaid all the money, with interest, that he has been owing to the British Government for the past decade. This is regarded as a prelude to his appointment as Foreign Minister, a post to which General Tanaka has long desired to appoint him, but which is believed to have presented some difficulty owing to the British authorities not caring to have diplomatic dealings with a defaulting debtor.

The story is a curious one. Early in 1917 Messrs. Dodwell & Co., of Kobe, acting as agents of the Federal Steam Navigation Co. of London (a concern existing only on behalf of the British Government) placed with the Nippon Kisen Kaisha, a dockyard belonging to Mr. Kuhara, an order for four ships to be delivered later on in the year. Messrs. Dodwell & Co. (as agents) gave an advance of ¥2,800,000 and, as the United States put an embargo on the export of steel, the British Embassy entered into negotiations that enabled the yard to get enough steel for a dozen ships. The time for delivery came but there were no ships. The Asahi lately stated that the ships were built but were sold to other buyers at a higher price. The Nippon Kisen Kaisha was requested to hurry up and deliver the ships as soon as possible, and so things went on till the Armistice, when Messrs. Dodwell's cancelled the order and asked for the return of the money. So far as has ever been heard there was not so much as a keel laid down in preparation for building the ships at the time of the Armistice. The Nippon Kisen Kaisha, however, refused to return the money, its contention being that as the contract had been extended without a date being fixed, it was not terminable except by agreement. The case was taken into court, first in Kobe, then in Osaka, and finally to the Supreme Court in Tokyo. All gave the same verdict - that the money must be repaid. But it was not paid. A promise was given of payment by instalments as an alternative to bankruptcy proceedings which would be very unproductive, and, action not being taken, no further attempt was made to pay the money. Meanwhile Mr. Kuhara incurred much bigger debts to his own Government by taking advantage of the opportunity offered of getting emergent advances after the great earthquake. The British Government, however, did not allow the claim to lapse. It was in consequence of this, as the Asahi hinted at the time that though it was General Tanaka's wish to make Mr. Kuhara Foreign Minister last June, he could do nothing better than make him Minister of Communications, and the Yushin says that this act of bad faith was the subject of much criticism at home and abroad. There was some Minseito criticism, almost entirely concentrated on the earthquake bills. The Asahi told the story of the shipbuilding deal, but it hardly caused a

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ripple on the surface of politics. It did not seem to be considered even "news".

However, it now states that Mr. Kuhara has borrowed four million yen from a Kobe millionaire, Mr. Inui Shimbei, and has paid the debt with interest. In this connection, it may be mentioned that ¥2,800,000 at compound interest of 3 per cent for twelve years would come barely short of ¥4,000,000. So if Mr. Kuhara put the money on deposit when he got it (6 per cent. was the rate then and it is 4½ now) he would still be a million or so to the good, so the statement that the money has been paid "with interest" is not very impressive. However, the Yushin declares that a new scandal arises out of the old one, as Mr. Inui has been enabled by Government influence to purchase 8,500 acres of land in the Hokkaido at a very low rate and with the promise of its being improved under the Hokkaido colonisation scheme.

The Yushin even couples Mr. Kuhara's name with an opium scandal, with a Dairen land scandal and with the murder of Marshal Chang Tso-lin, alleging that on all these grounds the Minseito is strongly opposed to his appointment as Foreign Minister. All these last-mentioned are, perhaps only thrown in by way of good measure, but the Kobe paper states that the Minseito is to hold a special meeting and institute an inquiry into the Hokkaido business.

At the time of his appointment as Minister of Communications, a journalist asked Mr. Kuhara about the shipbuilding story, and he said that he could not discuss it as it involved foreign relations.

The question arises, however, as to what are the qualifications required for candidates for office in the Cabinet.

The Japan Weekly Chronicle, October 18th, 1928.

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HEADLINE: KUHARA SHOWS READINESS TO DISSOLVE PARTY

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KUHARA SHOWS READINESS TO DISSOLVE PARTY

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KUHARA SHOWS READINESS TO DISSOLVE PARTY

Would Establish New Powerful Political Party for Country's Sake if Need Arises

Fusanosuke Kuhara, president of the Seiyukai Kuhara Fraction, the third largest political party with more than 70 Diet members, declared Tuesday afternoon that he is ready to dissolve his party, ahead of others, to establish a new big powerful political party for the sake of the country in case of need.

His declaration was made at the extraordinary session of the same party held at the Sanyentei Restaurant, Shiba-ku.

Mr. Kuhara's speech in gist is as follows:

"The China Affair is for Japan a sacred campaign whereby to attain the national idea of the foundation of the Japanese Empire. The goal of the sacred campaign should be set at the development of East Asia through collaboration between the Japanese and Chinese.

Manifold Difficulties

"Manifold difficulties lie on the path leading to the realization of the ideal."

Pointing out the tense situation in Europe, Mr. Kuhara said that the current situation is such that a new development may occur at any moment in Far East and then urged the Government to complete a national structure to cope with any crisis that might arise.

Turning to internal conditions Mr. Kuhara said that influence of the China Affair has been broad and intense, and that in spite of this fact the upper classes of the political circles are lacking the conviction and spirit to devote their lives for the solution of the difficult situation with which the nation is faced. Mr. Kuhara went so far to declare that statesmen in Japan today are attempting to dodge their responsibilities. Mr. Kuhara further asserted that the Government has failed to guide the nation's industries in a proper manner, that the authorities have been enforcing control measures disregarding the economic principles, and that these control measures have restricted activities of the people, thereby causing shrinkage of industrial goods. With all this argument, however, Mr. Kuhara said that he believes the present situation can be overcome through completely unified efforts of the nation.

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Urges Sincerity

He said he believed the unification of the people can be attained if those who are in positions to guide the people will take the attitude of serving the country with sincerity.

With such belief, Mr. Kuhara declared he is ready to dissolve his party, ahead of others to establish a new big, powerful political party in case of need.

Before concluding his speech, Mr. Kuhara explained the reason why he has adopted the nomination system instead of election system in deciding on the presidency of the Seiyukai Party. He said that the election system is an imitation of American democracy and is not in accordance with the national polity of Japan.

The Japan Times and Mail, 1 May 1940.

KUHARA THINKS HITLER CAN TEACH JAPAN

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KUHARA THINKS HITLER CAN TEACH JAPAN

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is likewise called upon by the nation to take up such a task - well,
he would be glad to do so.

KUHARA THINKS HITLER CAN TEACH JAPAN

Nippon Should Think of Reich Solidarity When Facing
Current Issues

"If it is for the sake of our country and if I am desired to do so, I will go to Soviet Russia or China - to whatever place I am desired to go. The latest marvelous victories won by the Germans in the war in Europe in no small measure are fundamentally due to the efficiently strengthened national structure of the Reich. This is due to the able leadership of Chancellor Adolf Hitler. Japan must fully consider this point in order to save the current situation."

Fusanosuke Kuhara, president of the Reformist groups of the Seiyukai and leader in a movement to establish a new powerful political party formation movement so told the Tokyo Nichi Nichi in an interview.

"It is the current of the times that decides everything. All things will settle down to the points where they will. This is why I say clearly and definitely that what I have done has been done so as never to cause the overthrow of the Government", said Mr. Kuhara.

Won't Partake

Asked by the Nichi Nichi interviewer if he would join a strong new Government after formation of the proposed new political party, Mr. Kuhara replied he does not expect to sit at the table he himself has spread and partake of the dinner so prepared.

Mr. Kuhara was then asked if he thought Prince Konoye will come forth to head a new political party in response to the general demand of the nation. He was asked also as to what he thought about the possible intentions of Messrs. Machida and Nakajima, presidents respectively of the Minseito and the Nakajima faction of the Seiyukai.

Replying, Mr. Kuhara said: "We are all Japanese; we all have due recognition of the existing situation. Messrs. Machida and Nakajima each may have different views of their own according to their respective stands... But I believe confidently that Prince Konoye will be ready to stand up to take the leadership of a new political party."

Should Accept

"When the nation required the right man in the right place and if Prince Konoye is generally thought to be that right man, he will possibly accept the task publicly entrusted to him. Any other man who might be placed in a similar position as Prince Konoye is - and if he

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is likewise called upon by the nation to take up such a task - well, he would be rightly expected to accept it."

The Nichi Nichi representative then asked: "People talk of your going to Russia or to China when you have resigned the leadership of your party. What is your real intention?"

Mr. Kuhara: "That is so far only people's gossip. I myself have never divulged such a piece of 'news'. But if the nation thinks it imperative for me to do so, I will gladly go anywhere they may like me to. I once saw Josef Stalin at Moscow in my capacity as an economic envoy of the nation. Apart from his policy, Stalin as a statesman was found to be quite a capable man. I have had connections with China also since the time of its Republican Revolution."

Continuing the party leader sang the praises of the "Hitler philosophy," attributing the fundamental cause of the recent successive German victories in Europe to the efficiently strengthened national structure of the Reich. This point, Mr. Kuhara warned, the Japanese nation must learn from the Reich in order to save the current most difficult situation which they face.

The Japan Times & Mail, Tuesday, June 11, 1940.

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THE BASIS FOR A SINGLE PARTY
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THE BASIS FOR A SINGLE PARTY

By Fusanosuke KUHARA

For some time past I have been identified with a movement for a new strong political unit which should replace the existing political parties. Such a development would imply, of course, that the present parties be dissolved. This movement seems to have awakened an increasingly lively interest in other countries and has become the subject of some speculation as to the possible course Japanese politics will follow if this movement achieves its objective. For example, one American journal ventured the opinion that the present movement in Japan would after all only lead to an intenser form of Nazism. This is typical of the misunderstanding which seems to prevail among foreign observers. Quite the contrary, what I have held and the view which has been entertained by all associated with the present movement is the simple fact that a complete readjustment of internal politics is necessary for the development of a form of government in Japan that will be more fully consonant with the peculiar national polity of this country. In other words, we sincerely believe that the present party system as it exists and functions in Japan is neither satisfactory nor true to the national character.

It cannot be denied that the present system is essentially a foreign importation, and the new order of political life and thought which we hope to achieve should be free from all unworkable alien theories or influences. We are seeking something that will be more in keeping with the indigenous characteristics of the country, hoping that by co-ordinating our political system with our national traditions we will be able to achieve a more harmonious and effective type of government. And conversely, it should be borne in mind that such a new type of political organization, fully in keeping with the Japanese environment, is essentially not a product for export.

At the time of the Imperial Restoration of 1868 Japan shed the old shell of isolationism and adopted a progressive national policy. Since then we have been assiduous, and by no means inept, pupils in the schools of Europe and America, taking out of their books what we ourselves lacked. But at the same time, we never lost sight of the order of civilization which we had taken over as a heritage from the past, a heritage which we claim as an achievement quite our own, and which has intrinsic qualities better suited to our own interests, as they should be, than anything we could learn or take from abroad. In particular, we have come to appreciate the fact that the political philosophy that finds expression in the peculiar polity of the country is better suited to our requirements and purposes than anything that we have seen elsewhere at any time in our history. This deep conviction was attained, however, after arduous efforts were made to learn what was the best in

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many other countries. Each of the civilized nations of the world was surveyed and its achievements assessed for whatever lesson there was to be learned, and we approached each subject in the humblest spirit that it might not be seen in a false light. In the final analysis, these sustained studies over a long period of years led us to the conclusion that our own purposes and interests could be served no better than by that political philosophy which is the offspring of our own national mind.

It is from this same conviction that have sprung all those movements of thought and politics which have given such an exciting tone to the Japanese political scene in recent years. Though their methods have varied, all these movements have basically been directed toward the end of emphasizing and promoting the national spirit of the country. In the same way, the group with which I am associated aims at the establishment of a national polity that is best suited for the practical application of the political philosophy which we regard as our own. The thought that moves us, therefore, is different from anything known in other countries, and it would be quite appropriate to affirm that we give no countenance to those thoughts which are foreign to our minds and which are therefore irreconcilable with our lives. Instead, we are working to develop what is intrinsically our own, bringing it out in all its purity and refinement.

The innate characteristic of the Japanese polity is the unshaken conviction that the whole country is under the rule of the Imperial Family of unbroken lineage, and that the whole people of the country, as its subjects, offer it unquestioned allegiance and co-operations. While it is necessary to draw a clear distinction between the ruler and his subjects, they nevertheless form an entity, composite but complete in its fusion and unity, unquestioning in purpose and unshakable in faith. Although this kind of relationship, based upon absolute trust and loyalty, may be somewhat unintelligible to peoples of other days of our history. The country has unchangingly been ruled by the principle of "one ruler and all subjects," a principle that has always been held up as the ideal of the nation. Accordingly, the minds of the people are conceived and directed as a force concentrated in the ruling mind of the Emperor. This, of course, precludes any possibility of a government based upon despotism, while at the same time it does not assume the character of a democracy. It is far different from either the National Socialism of Germany or the Fascism of Italy, and it is also poles apart from the ideas of representative government prevailing in England and America.

In Germany or Italy the government is in the hands of a single political party. This party in each case is formed by elements chosen from the general community because of their proven ability as leaders. The supreme individual among them assumes the leadership of the government.

Such a form of government is by no means unknown to Japan, for it was practised during the period of feudalism. But what the country calls for today is a system of government based, not on a few elect, but on the whole of the people, which as such should function in support of an in co-operation with the Imperial rule.

The unification of the whole people as a complete unity co-operating with the Imperial rule, true to the principle of "one ruler and all subjects," means complete fusion and harmony of the total will of the people and the government based on that national unity. The total will of the people, however, does not mean a collection of individual wills, and much less the idea of a decision by majority. For instance, all minds may be found in agreement and yet they may fail to represent a total will, for a total will is a will that rises above thought of the self and attains a level of common factors of justice and fairness. In Oriental philosophy this unique manifestation is termed "the way of nature." In Japan, we call it "the way of the Gods."

Now it may be asked, how will it be possible to determine or adopt the total will of the people? This would not be possible but for a definite form of government. We know, for instance, from experiment in physics or chemistry that if conditions are provided to secure a certain degree of temperature and stability, some substances precipitate; and when they precipitate they do so in their purest form. Precipitation takes place only when conditions are appropriate for the removal of impurities. Likewise in politics a unity of views is difficult to achieve as long as individual minds are free to assert themselves. But when individual minds are brought together to counsel under a system organized rationally, individual differences are gradually composed until they precipitate to some form of conclusion. There then will be a total will in its true sense. In other words, what I mean by a total will is a precipitate, or a crystallization if you wish, of pure thoughts, which is produced in the same way as in chemistry pure substances are precipitated from a confused or cloudy solution.

A total will is common in character and universal in fairness, and because it is so, government based thereon should function true to the way of nature, without the necessity for compulsion or coercion. This will be true in external politics as well as in internal affairs. An important instance of a total will should be seen in the Konoye statement concerning the conclusion of the current Sino-Japanese hostilities. It is my sincere opinion that this statement was based upon the total will of our nation, for it sets forth no terms that might be construed as dictation on the part of Japan as a victor, but proposes a basis upon which a new order may be constructed from a spirit of universal fairness. The idea embodies, therefore, not only the will of Japan but a total will of East Asia. But the real spirit of the Konoye statement, like many other points, cannot be intelligible to those who fail to appreciate

the true significance of the national polity of our country.

Government in Japan means a union of religion and politics. The Emperor is at once the highest among those who follow the way of divine truth and the supreme ruler whose sceptre embodies the spirit of universal fairness. It should be the duty of those who owe him allegiance to achieve and offer their total will in co-operation that should shape their conduct at all times. Thus alone will it be possible to see the attainment of the great end for government that always has been ours.

On the contrary, the existing political parties in Japan bear unmistakable stamps of European liberalism. Basically, they have been conceived and directed by minds unable to rise above mere imitation, and they have been following lines which are utterly divergent from the end which should be the achievement of our true and characteristic government. This situation persists in spite of the growing national consciousness that the country would not be able to surmount its wartime emergency but for a return to that political philosophy which always has been the guiding principle of our people. But this consciousness has been awakened as the result of the fact that the people have rediscovered their true characteristics. And from this great awakening has sprung the demand for a return to the true way of nature, the traditional mode of our national life, and for the construction thereon of a new political body and system really suitable for the people and the peculiar conditions of the country. In this sense, my political movement, in the last analysis, means the movement of a large political force under the slogan "Return to your own selves." The first step that must be undertaken, however, is to reorganize the present political system by dissolving the existing political parties and creating a new single political entity which will be a true embodiment of the total will. Needless to add, such a movement is not the mere copying of the present German or Italian system, but a return to the basic principles which have governed Japanese political philosophy and conduct from the earliest days of our history.

In organizing the political structure of the country upon a single party basis, one of the first steps necessary will be the creation of the Kokumin Kyogikai, or National Council. This was made public in August last year as the basic platform of the new party. The Kokumin Kyogikai will be composed of two houses, one made up of representative groups, divided according to locality, occupation, and representatives not represented in either of the above two categories. In this way it will be possible to eliminate friction among various classes of people and to coordinate and harmonize interests among them. In addition, there will also be another house composed of officials of importance, both civil and military, and other members chosen from organizations of political importance. These two houses will dispose of all business of the State by consultation, undertaking the enactment of laws and the planning of important national undertakings, both domestic and foreign. In consonance

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with the above, the more important industries will be joint-concerns, fifty per cent. governmental and fifty per cent. private, though the actual management will be left in the hands of the latter. All profits will be divided equally between the Government and the private operators.

The development of the military situation in China and the military situation in Europe makes it absolutely necessary for Japan to effect a far-reaching reorganization of its political structure in order to proceed with the construction of a new order in East Asia. At present three important problems are faced. First, it is necessary to establish a new foreign policy, and abandon the present subservience to Britain and America. Second, in order to effect a settlement of the China affair, Japan should invoke belligerent rights by declaring war on the Chungking government and cause the European belligerents to withdraw their troops from China. And finally, Japan faces the necessity to undertake a large-scale programme of national defence, improve and replenish armaments, and reorganize the industrial structure to enable the immediate construction of as large a number of airplanes, tanks and submarines as possible.

Under the present political organization of the country, it is exceedingly doubtful if such a comprehensive programme can be carried out, and it is for this reason that I am convinced of the necessity to reorganize completely the present political structure through the establishment of a single political party.

CONTEMPORARY JAPAN, Vol. IX, No. 7, July 1940

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KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI

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KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI
(National Spirit Mobilization Central League)

KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN IIN KAI
(National Spirit Mobilization Central Committee)

KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN HONBU
(National Spirit Mobilization Headquarters)

After the outbreak of the China Incident on 12 October 1937, the ideological nationalists and various labor interests unofficially promoted the KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN UNDO (National Spirit Mobilization Movement) to consolidate the country politically and spiritually behind the new advance. To implement the movement, the group formed the KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI (National Spirit Mobilization Central League), which included the:

KOKUTAI YOGO REMMEI (National Prestige Upkeep League) of IRIE Tanenori
JIKYOKU KYOGI KAI (Current Affairs Council) of KOBAYASHI Junichiro
JUNSEI NIPPON SHUGI SEINEN UNDO ZENKOKU KYOGI KAI (Pure Japanism Youth Movement Council of All Japan) of NAKAGAWA Yutaka
AIKOKU RODO NOMIN DOMEI KAI (Patriotic Labor Farmers' League) of MATSUMOTO Yuhei
ZENKOKU NOMIN KUMIAI (All Japan Farmers' League) of SUGIYAMA Motojiro

and some 60 other subsidiary societies and ideological and agricultural schools. The League had no sooner been formed than the more ardently nationalist component groups raised objections to the inclusion of such "unpatriotic societies" as the labor and farmers' leagues which were colored by "socialistic thought". Officials of the league at inauguration were:

Chairman: ARIMA Ryokitsu

Directors: FUJIWARA Ginjiro
IDA Iwakusu
IMAI Takehiko
IIO Enkichi
KAZAMI Akira
KOSAKA Masayasu
KOIZUMI Rokuichi
MATSUMURA Kenzo
MATSUI Shigeru
NAKAGAWA Nozumu
OBARA Naoshi
SAKAI Tadamasa
TSUKIDA Tozaburo

In February 1939, during the HIRANUMA Cabinet, it was deemed advisable to strengthen the status of the KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI by incorporating a so-called KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN IIN KAI (National Spirit Mobilization Committee) as a liaison body with the

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KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO REMMEI

cabinet:

1. The Minister of Education became chairman of the Mobilization Committee.
2. A small number of JONIN RIJI (Standing Directors) were appointed by the Cabinet to assist the Chairman. These men were of the rank of CHOKUNIN KAN (Government officials appointed by the Emperor).
3. A small number of JONIN KANJI (Standing Secretaries) were appointed to assist the Directorate. These men were of the rank of KOTO KAN (Senior government officials).

In 1940 another reorganization had occurred whereby the organization became the KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN HONBU (National Spirit Mobilization Headquarters) with the following officers:

President (KAICHO): The Premier (YONAI Mitsumasa)

Vice President (FUKU KAICHO): The Home Minister (KODAMA Hideo)

Chairman of Directorate: HORIKIRI Tenjiro

Advisors (KOMON): ARAKI Sadao
ARIMA Ryokitsu
ARIMA Yoriyasu
HATTA Yoshiaki
HIRAGA Yuzuru
IMAIZUMI Teisuke
INOUE Ikutaro
KOIZUMI Shinzo
KUHARA Fusanosuke
MACHIDA Chuji
MATSUI Shigeru
NAKAJIMA Chikuhei
NAKAMURA Ryoza
OGURA Masatsune
OKABE Nagakage
TANAKA Hozumi
TOKOTOMI Iichiro
TSUKUSHI Kumashichi
YUKI Toyotaro

Standing Director (JONIN RIJI): KOIZUMI Goro

Directors (RIJI): FURUNO Inosuke
KATO Taiichi
KOIZUMI Rokuichi
KURIHARA Minoru
NAKAI Kazuo
NISHIKATA Toshima

KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO RENMEI

Directors (RIJI): SENGOKU Kotaro
TSUTSUMI Yasujiro
ZEN Keinosuke

The League was formally dissolved on 23 October 1940 after formation of the TAISEI YOKUSAN KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Association).

In other words the KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN UNDO may be said to have been a KONOYE movement, a precursor of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, which was dissolved as soon as the Imperial Rule Assistance Association had absorbed its functions.

KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN CHUO RENMEI

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THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Area of the Pacific Islands League

Headquarters: January 1948

On 27 October 1947 a New Asia Anti-Communist War Meeting was held in Manila with the purpose of raising public opinion against Communism. The League of the South Pacific Islands and the International Anti-Communist League were organized for the purpose of the League of the South Pacific (New Asia Anti-Communist War).

In 1948, when the preparatory committee was organized and the International Anti-Communist League was organized, the name was changed to the SOUTH PACIFIC (New Asia Anti-Communist League).

On 4 July 1948 when the 1st SOUTH PACIFIC AREA CONFERENCE was held in Manila, the organization was established as a League of the South Pacific (New Asia Anti-Communist War) for the purpose of raising public opinion against Communism. The SOUTH PACIFIC (New Asia Anti-Communist War) was represented in the League of the South Pacific.

KOA MEKKYO REMMEI

Japan. The organization was named KOA MEKKYO (League of the South Pacific) and its headquarters was established in Manila. The purpose of the organization was to raise public opinion against Communism. The SOUTH PACIFIC (New Asia Anti-Communist War) was represented in the League of the South Pacific. The purpose of the organization was to raise public opinion against Communism. The SOUTH PACIFIC (New Asia Anti-Communist War) was represented in the League of the South Pacific.

Therefore, the purpose of this League is to raise public opinion against Communism. The purpose of this League is to raise public opinion against Communism. The purpose of this League is to raise public opinion against Communism. The purpose of this League is to raise public opinion against Communism.

Headquarters: Manila, Philippines

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KOA MEKKYO REMMEI

(Rise Asia Anti-Communist League)

Establishment: January 1940

Background: On 7 December 1939 a Rise Asia Anti-Communist Mass Meeting was held in Hibiya Hall to establish a basic national policy against Communism. IDA Iwaku, IWATA Ainosuke and INOUE Kiyosumi established headquarters at the KOKUSAI HANKYO REMMEI (International Anti-Communist League) and prepared for the formation of the KOA MEKKYO KURABU (Rise Asia Anti-Communist Club).

In April 1940, when the preparatory activities were completed and the ceremonial preparations established, the name was changed to KOA MEKKYO REMMEI (Rise Asia Anti-Communist League).

On 6 July 1941 when the DAI NIPPON KOA DOMEI (Great Japan Rise Asia League) was established as a league of 61 societies interested in one way or another in overseas affairs, the KOA MEKKYO REMMEI was represented in the League by IDA Iwaku.

Purpose: "In response to the slogan 'WAHEI MEKKYO' (Peace Through Extermination of Communism) of the Nanking Government, our group aimed at carrying out a peace movement between Japan and China under the principle of extermination of Communism. The KOKUSAI HANKYO REMMEI (International Anti-Communist League) would have been sufficient had our purpose been merely to create an anti-Communist movement. The reason for establishing the KOA MEKKYO REMMEI, which seems at first glance to be the same as the KOKUSAI HANKYO REMMEI, was the decision to carry out a peace movement.

"Furthermore, the thoughts which led to this decision were that peace and prosperity of Asia could be brought about only by the extermination of Communism and that the extermination of Communism would naturally bring peace to the various nations of the world, since it was the very policy which would expel the world menace from this earth."

Officers: Chairman: ICHIJO Sanetake (Prince)

Vice-Chairmen: KIKUCHI Takeo
MATSUOKA Kimpei

Chief Director: IDA Iwaku

Directors: IKEDA Hiroshi
INOUE Toshiteru
INOUE Kiyosumi
IWATA Ainosuke (Also Secretary)
MINAGAWA Haruhiro

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KOA MEKKYO REMMEI

Directors: MITSUNAGA Hoshio
(contd) MORIGUCHI Shigeji
OTA Kozo
SHIODEN Nobutaka

Advisors: HIRANUMA Kiichiro
KONOYE Fumimaro

Councillors: ABO Kiyotane
ADACHI Kenzo
AKASHI Teruo
ARAKI Sadao
ARITA Hachiro
GO Seinosuke
HAYASHI Daisaburo
HAYASHI Senjuro
HIRAGA Yuzuru
HISHIKARI Takashi
HONJO Shigeru
ISHIZUKA Eizo
IZAWA Takio
KAETSU Takako
KAWAMURA Takeji
KAWASHIMA Yoshiyuki
KIDO Koichi
KIHIRA Masami
KOISO Kunihiko
KOIZUMI Shinzo
KONO Shozo
KOYAMA Matsukichi
KUHARA Fusanosuke
MACHIDA Chuji
MASAKI Jinzaburo
MIYATA Mitsuo
MIZUNO Rentaro
MORIOKA Tsunezo
NAGAO Kinya
NAGATA Hidejiro
NAKAJIMA Chikuhei
NAKAMURA Ryoza
NISHIMURA Fusataro
OGASAWARA Chosei
OGAWA Heikichi
OGURI Kozaburo
OI Seigen
SAKATANI Yoshio

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KOA MEKKYO REMMEI

Councillors: SHIBA Goro
(contd) SHIONO Suehiko
SUGIYAMA Gen
TAKASU Junjiro
TAKESHITA Isamu
TANABE Harunichi
TANAKA Hozumi
TANAKA Kunishige
TANAKADATE Aikitsu
TATEBE Tongo
TAWARE Magoichi
UEDA Teijiro
UNO Tetsundo
YAMAOKA Mannosuke
YANAGAWA Heisuke
YOSHIZAWA Kenkichi
ZEN Keinosuke

A KANASA STORY

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A KUHARA STORY

Illustrated by a Shanghai Daily

Shanghai Daily

This news related to Mr. Kuhara since it is almost exclusively the... The article has been translated by the Shanghai Daily... Mr. Kuhara was arrested by the Shanghai Daily... on a charge of... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one...

A KUHARA STORY

The name of the story... was... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one...

In May, 1934, with his usual... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one...

In order to show this... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one...

The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one... The article is a very interesting one...

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A KUHARA STORY

Blackmailed by a Shanghai Gang

Smuggling Opium

Fate seems unkind to Mr. Kuhara since it is always associating him with some scandal. The latest has been unearthed by the Metropolitan Police Board, who have arrested Yokoyama Isuke, aged 42, and Komai Kijiro, aged 44 of Tsunohazu Shimmachi, Tokyo-fu, on a charge of blackmailing. The story, as told in the vernacular papers is a very confused one. The men are members of the Daitokai, of Society of Great Swords, which has its base of operations at Shanghai. They are alleged to have blackmailed Mr. Nakayama Setsutaro, on the staff of the Kuhara Mining Company, to the tune of ¥10,000 on the threat of laying bare an opium smuggling affair, which, they say was perpetrated by Mr. Kuhara Fusanosuke, now the Minister of Communications.

The hero of the story is Omura Kiyoshi, aged 43, of Kawajiri, Nishinomiya. Till 1920 he was on the staff of the Kuhara Mining Company. Subsequently he opened at his own risk, a transport company, but in the depression following the war he failed in business. In order to recoup himself he turned to smuggling.

In May, 1923, with his plan mapped out, he called on Mr. Nakayama and got him to finance him to the extent of ¥300,000. With this fund Omura entered into business relations with the Manage (?) Trading Company of Persia, to smuggle opium, and shipped a large quantity of opium aboard the Persian firm's steamer for Shanghai, however, he succeeded in disposing of the opium for ¥250,000, the money to be paid at a Chinese exchange shop in Shanghai.

In order to draw this money Omura arrived at Shanghai on December 13th, 1923, in company with Tamai Zenpei, whom he had employed especially for this trade. He got the money and the next night went with Tamai to attend a dinner given by the Japanese Residents' Society at a Japanese restaurant called the Niizuki Kwadan. While they were motoring to the restaurant, however, the car was held up and Omura was seized and taken to a private house, where he was robbed of ¥50,000 part of the proceeds of the sale of the opium. Omura, it is also alleged, was forced to sign a paper stating that Mr. Kuhara was his principal confederate in the smuggling business.

The man who captured Omura and robbed him are said to be member of the Daitokai, and Tamai, who was employed by Omura to assist him, was really a member of the gang and betrayed Omura to them. He appears to be the same man as Komai, now arrested.

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A KUHARA STORY

Omura managed to get back to Japan with ¥200,000 and nothing was heard of the affair till one of the Daitokai got drunk and revealed it to a girl in a Shanghai restaurant who happened to be a police spy. Arrests followed but nothing could be proved against the gang and they were released.

Probably nothing more would have been heard of it if the Daitokai had not started to blackmail Mr. Kuhara and Mr. Nakayama with the document above mentioned. This was at the time of the election in February and before Mr. Kuhara's entry to the Tanaka Cabinet. With a view to ascertaining if Tamai is Komai, the ringleader, the Tokyo authorities are summoning Omura to Tokyo.

THE JAPAN WEEKLY CHRONICLE, November 1st, 1928.

KUHARA REPORTED PLANNING POLITICAL CONSPIRACY
and
KUHARA WARNED AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY

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KUHARA REPORTED PLANNING POLITICAL COMEBACK

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**KUHARA REPORTED PLANNING POLITICAL COMEBACK
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Article from JIJI PRESS, Morning Edition

KUHARA REPORTED PLANNING POLITICAL COME BACK

TOKYO, Mar. 4. - Fusanosuke Kuhara, one time president of the now-defunct Seiyu-kai Party, is planning to stage a come-back to the nation's political scene, according to the Yomiuri Shimbun this morning.

The 78-year-old politician and owner of the big Kuhara mining interests, according to the paper, has made up his mind to resume political activity following discontinuance of investigations into his war crimes charges last April.

Mr. Kuhara has retired from the nation's political front since 1940 when ex-Premier Hideki Tojo's regime launched a movement to abolish all political parties to pave the way for the totalitarian Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association.

The daily revealed that he had decided to run for the House of Representatives from his home prefecture, Yamaguchi and submitted an application for screening his qualifications for public office yesterday.

The aged politician started his career as business man, which led up to the establishment of the powerful Kuhara Mining Company in 1915, and entered politics shortly afterward through his association with the late General Giichi Tanaka, then president of the Seiyu-kai Party.

Elected to the House of Representatives from Yamaguchi Prefecture for four times on the Seiyu-kai ticket, he was appointed Communications Minister under the Tanaka Cabinet.

He was nominated president of the Seiyu-Kai party in 1939.

He was also appointed member of the Cabinet advisory Council by the Konoye Cabinet in 1940.

It is believed that Mr. Kuhara still has some following in both the Liberal and the Progressive Parties.

Article from JIJI Press, Evening Edition

KUHARA WARNED AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY

TOKYO, Mar. 6. - Home Minister Etsujiro Uehara today issued a formal warning to Fusanosuke Kuhara "retired" politician and one time president of the now defunct Seiyukai Party, to refrain from leaving his home and from engaging in political activity, it was learned today.

In serving the formal notice of warning, it was further learned, the Home Minister reminded Mr. Kuhara of his present status being under House detention as a war crimes suspect.

It is understood that the official warning was issued following Mr. Kuhara's recent announcement that he seeks to stage a comeback to the nation's political scene by running for the House of Representatives from his home prefecture, Yamaguchi.

The 78-year-old politician and owner of the big Kuhara mining interest was recently reported to have made up his mind to take part in the coming general election due to the fact that investigation of his war crimes suspicion was suspended last April.

He has recently submitted an application for examination of his qualifications for public office in the light of the political purge decree.

His sudden announcement of a plan to stage a political come back has created widespread repercussion in political circles in view of the vast influence he once wielded in Japanese politics.

Article from NIPPON TIMES, March 8, 1947

KUHARA WITHDRAWS CANDIDACY

Fusanosuke Kuhara, former President of the Seiyukai Party, now defunct, Friday withdrew his application to the Tokyo Metropolitan screening committee for House of Representatives candidacy since it was confirmed that he lacked qualification under Clause G of the purge directive.

(2538) KUHARA IPS-107
Fusanosuke

SECRET

NAME: KUHARA, Fusanosuke.

PRESENT STATUS: Detained under House Arrest.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Communications Minister, 1928 to 1929; Cabinet Advisory Councilor, 1939 to 1940; President of Kuhara and Company Kyoho Life Insurance Company and Secretary of Seiyukai Party.

REMARKS:

SUBJECT was a millionaire industrialist and personal friend of Premier TANAKA. He was suspected of participation in Tokyo Military Revolt and reported very active behind the scenes. He was an influential expansionist, a bosom friend of General ARAKI, and very closely connected with the Army and its policies, and was an early advocate of aggression. As early as 1928, SUBJECT expressed a desire to become Consul-General of Manchuria. Available information indicates that his financial interests and enterprises were closely related to the exploitation of stolen territory. No recommendations regarding the final disposition of SUBJECT have been received from CIS/G-2, FEC.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that SUBJECT be retained in custody as a Class A war criminal suspect and tried before an International Military Tribunal in Tokyo.

SECRET