

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

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894.4061/1-145 -- 12-3145 - 47-48-49

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

RMT-1422

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS
FEB 20 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PLAIN

Bern

Dated February 19, 1945

Rec'd 2:53 p.m.

FEB 22 1945

W.W.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1104, Nineteenth.

German press reports 82 of 224 Tokyo cinemas closed February one in order save electricity coal and make employees available war effort. Vacated premises will be used for offices and warehouses.

HARRISON

International Information
Division File
FEB 26 1945
U.S. Department of State

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
FEB 28 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MAR 5 1945

FILED

894.4061/2-1945 CS/EG

894.4061/2-1945

File WTD
BH
2/20/45
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motion picture
picture-play



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER

Tokyo, Japan, October 31, 1945.

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NO. 36

SUBJECT: Leftist Theater Movement in Japan.

DIVISION OF CULTURAL COOPERATION
NOV 15 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SECURITY

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

As of possible interest, especially to the Division of Cultural Cooperation, I have the honor to enclose a memorandum of conversation between a member of this office's staff and Mr. Yoshi HIJIKATA, a recently released political prisoner and former leader in the Left-wing theater movement.

Mr. Hijikata is leftist in his political opinions although he does not profess membership in the Communist Party. He was a member of the peerage but was divested of his titles by the Japanese Government because of his political activities.

Summary of enclosure: Mr. Hijikata is hopeful for the growth of a genuinely progressive intellectual movement in Japan. He believes there are opportunities for a new theater to develop but does not expect this development to come quickly. Time will be needed for writers, producers, and actors to test their skills in the atmosphere of new found freedom. Mr. Hijikata provides a list of persons who he believes will be active in the new proletarian theater movement in Japan. End of Summary.

Respectfully yours,

George Atcheson, Jr.
George Atcheson, Jr.

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC SECURITY CONTROLS
File - Ad.
DEC 27 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Enclosure: *atf*

Memorandum of conversation with
Yoshi Hijikata, October 23, 1945.

Original and duplicate, with reverse
carbon, to the Department.

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894.4061/10-3145 CS/LE

894.4061/10-3145

Enclosure to Despatch No. 36 of October 31, 1945 from the Acting United States Political Adviser to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Tokyo, on the subject "Leftist Theater Movement in Japan".

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

October 23, 1945.

Participants: Yoshi HIJIKATA;
Ryuji NISHIZAWA; and

J. K. Emmerson

SUBJECT: The Japanese Leftist Theater.

Mr. Hijikata has recently been released from prison as a result of the directive of October 4, 1945 from General MacArthur's Headquarters. He has long been active in proletarian theater movements and may be expected to play a prominent role in the reestablishment of a progressive theater in Japan. His long experience abroad and the fact that he comes from the nobility make him a rather colorful character in Japan. He has been referred to in the press as "The Red Count" although he does not profess to be a member of the Communist Party.

The following is a brief resume of his personal history. He was born in Tokyo in 1898. His grandfather was Count Hisemoto who played an active part in the Meiji restoration. Hijikata graduated from Tokyo Imperial University in literature and early became interested in the theater. In 1922 he went abroad for the first time to study theatrical production in Germany. In Japan he had already had experience as a stage electrician, stage designer and assistant producer. He had been associated with Sadanji ICHIKAWA, prominent Japanese actor and leader of a progressive theatrical group.

After the great earthquake in September 1923, Hijikata returned to Japan. With his own funds which he had intended to use for study abroad, he endowed Tsukiji Theater which became a center of Leftist and Liberal movements. This theater began to produce translation of foreign plays including Ibsen, Strindberg, Shakespeare and others.

In 1931 the International Laborers Theatrical Alliance was organized among groups in Germany, Czechoslovakia and the United States. It later became the International Revolutionary Dramatic Alliance with headquarters in Moscow, and was known by the initials of its Russian name, MORT. This organization planned to sponsor an International Congress of proletarian theater groups in Moscow in 1933.

In the meantime however, Count Hijikata had been "detained" in 1932 for his activities in Leftist movements. A group of his friends in the peerage banded together to help him out. They advised him to leave the country, and through their efforts he was able to obtain a passport in spite of police objection. However, conditions were imposed that he must take his wife and two children with him and that he could neither go to Germany nor to the Soviet Union.

In 1933

- 2 -

In 1933 he and his family proceeded to Marseilles. He later made his way to Germany and finally arrived in Moscow the day before the International Congress was convened and was accepted as a delegate of the Japanese Revolutionary Cultural Federation. He remained in Moscow where he became assistant producer in the Theater of the Revolution. He continued his work in Russia until 1937 when the Russian Government withdrew permits for foreign technicians to remain in the country. As a result of this ruling only those Japanese directly connected with the Communist Internationale could remain in Moscow. Consequently, Hijikata went to Paris where he soon became associated with a group of anti-Fascist Germans. When war broke out in 1939 he moved to the Province of Haute-Savoie where he lived quietly as a farmer. The Vichy government made life difficult for foreigners, especially those engaged in farming. He therefore decided he would have to return to Japan.

In the meantime the Imperial Household had received information regarding his attendance at the 1933 Congress in Moscow and had deprived him of his titles and ordered his arrest upon return to Japan.

In March 1941 he left France and in July arrived in Yokohama where he was promptly arrested. He remained in Toyotama prison until June 27, 1945 when he was removed to Sendai. He was released from the Sendai prison pursuant to General MacArthur's directive.

Hijikata is optimistic about the future of the theater in Japan. For the first time there is freedom of expression, and writers and producers will be able to put their works before the public without fear of police suppression. However, no theatrical renaissance will occur quickly. Hijikata believes that at least a year's study and preparation will be necessary before any sound, progressive Japanese drama can be produced. He therefore looks forward to a revival of the theater in 1947. In the meantime he believes it will be necessary to train young actors and to give them opportunity for experience. He points out that the theater movement, if it is to succeed, must be given complete freedom to develop. There are now in Japan, directors, writers, producers and actors who, if given the proper conditions and encouragement, can develop a progressive theater which can make a valuable cultural contribution in a democratic Japan. Mr. Hijikata hopes for sympathetic encouragement from the Allied Headquarters but points out that the Americans must not expect too much immediately.

Mr. Hijikata has prepared the following lists of writers, actors and producers who he says offer some hope for the development of a new progressive theater in Japan.

Writers

Juro MIYOSHI

Sakae KUBO

Ryuichi YAGI

- 3 -

Ryuichi YAGI
 Yutaka MAFUNE
 Katsuichi WADA
 Eijiro HISAITA
 Tomoyoshi MURAYAMA
 Seika MAYAMA
 Ujaku AKITA

Actors

(Those marked * are women)

A) Those who were active in the former proletarian theatrical movement:

Koreya SENDA	Kenji SUSUKIDA	*Yasue YAMAMOTO
Osamu TAKIZAWA	Shin DATE	Sakae OZAWA
Sei NAGATA	Masaru MISHIMA	Takeo OIKAWA
Toyoko TAKAHASHI	Chikako HOSOKAWA	Izumi HARA
Eiji NAKAMURA	Kappei MATSUMOTO	Ranko AKAGI
Kinyo SHIN	MAKIMURA	Tokuemon TAKAYAMA
Eijiro OZAWA	Masano HARA	

B) Those not active in the former proletarian movement but with experience in modern plays:

*Akiko TAMURA	*Chieko HIGASHIYAMA	*Teruko KISHI
*Sachiko MURASE	Sugisaku AOYAMA	*Haruko SUGIMURA
Yo SHIOMI	MORI	

C) Independent Kabuki:

Chojuro KAWARAZAKI	Kanemon NAKAMURA	*Shizue YAMAGISHI
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D) New nationalist group (reactionary)

SHIMADA	TATSUMI
---------	---------

E) Independent

*Yaeko MIZUTANI	Masao INOUYE	Shotaro HANAYAGI
Rokuro KITAMURA	Kanya MORITA	MINOSUKE
Ennosuke ICHIKAWA		

F) Comedy

Kenichi ENOMOTO	Roppa FURUKAWA
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Producers

- 4 -

Producers

A) Formerly associated in proletarian theatrical movements:

Koreya SENDA Sakae KUBO Tomoyoshi MURAYAMA

Shiro OKAKURA Motoi HATTA Yoshi HIJIKATA

Ryokichi SUGIMOTO Seki SANO Takamaru SASAKI

B) Not associated with former proletarian movement:

Kihachi KITAMURA Sugisaku AOYAMA Mantaro KUBOTA

Shingo ENDO Ton SATOMI

To Department and GHQ, SCAP

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER

Tokyo, Japan, October 31, 1945.

NO. 36

SUBJECT: Leftist Theater Movement in Japan.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
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SHIMADA	TATSUMI
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Rokuro KITAMURA	Kanya MORITA	MINOSUKE
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F) Comedy

Kenichi ENOMOTO	Roppa FURUKAWA
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B) Not associated with former proletarian movement:

Kinachi KITAMURA	Sugisaku AOYAMA	Mantaro KUBOTA
Shingo ENDO	Ton SATOMI	

To Department and GHQ, SCAP

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JKEmmerson:anl

Okinawa, Ryukyus Isls.
March 21st 1947

AA

U.S. Department of State
Division of Far Eastern Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Approved
4/11/47
[Signature]

894.4061/3-2147

Gentlemen :-

In the enclosed printed matter, we are bringing to your attention a project sponsored and undertaken by the Okinawa District Engineer of the Corps of Engineers for the purpose of promoting better relations and a better understanding between the native population of Okinawa and the Americans stationed at this strategically important post.

The military authorities, the civilian personnel and the native Administration are co-operating to make this a significant goodwill and morale builder on an island-wide basis.

It occurs to us that it might be a good gesture for the Far Eastern Division of the State Department to participate in the official ceremonies by assigning a representative stationed in the Far East to come to Okinawa on May 30th and be present at this affair. May we have a reaction to this suggestion by receiving a notification of your intentions?

Sincerely,

APR 11 1947

[Signature]

Joseph Hefter
H&N Hut 34, Okinawa Eng. Dist.
APO 1050, c/o PM, San Francisco

CS/V

Encls.

*Forwarded to
Tokohama*

Stamp area with handwritten notations: *24* and *CS*

894.4061/3-2147

~~NA~~

APR 11 1947

894.4061/3-2147

In reply refer to
NA

My dear Mr. Hefter:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 21, 1947, together with a copy of a program for a native carnival sponsored by the Okinawa District Engineer of the Corps of Engineers to be held May 30 and 31, 1947. You suggest that the Department might assign an officer to participate in the ceremonies incidental to this carnival.

A copy of your letter, together with the program you enclosed, is being transmitted to the Yokohama Branch of the Office of the Political Adviser to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Tokyo. A member of the staff in Yokohama visits Okinawa from time to time and it is possible that one of his visits might coincide with the ceremonies you mention.

Your thoughtfulness in informing the Department of this occasion is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

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CS/V

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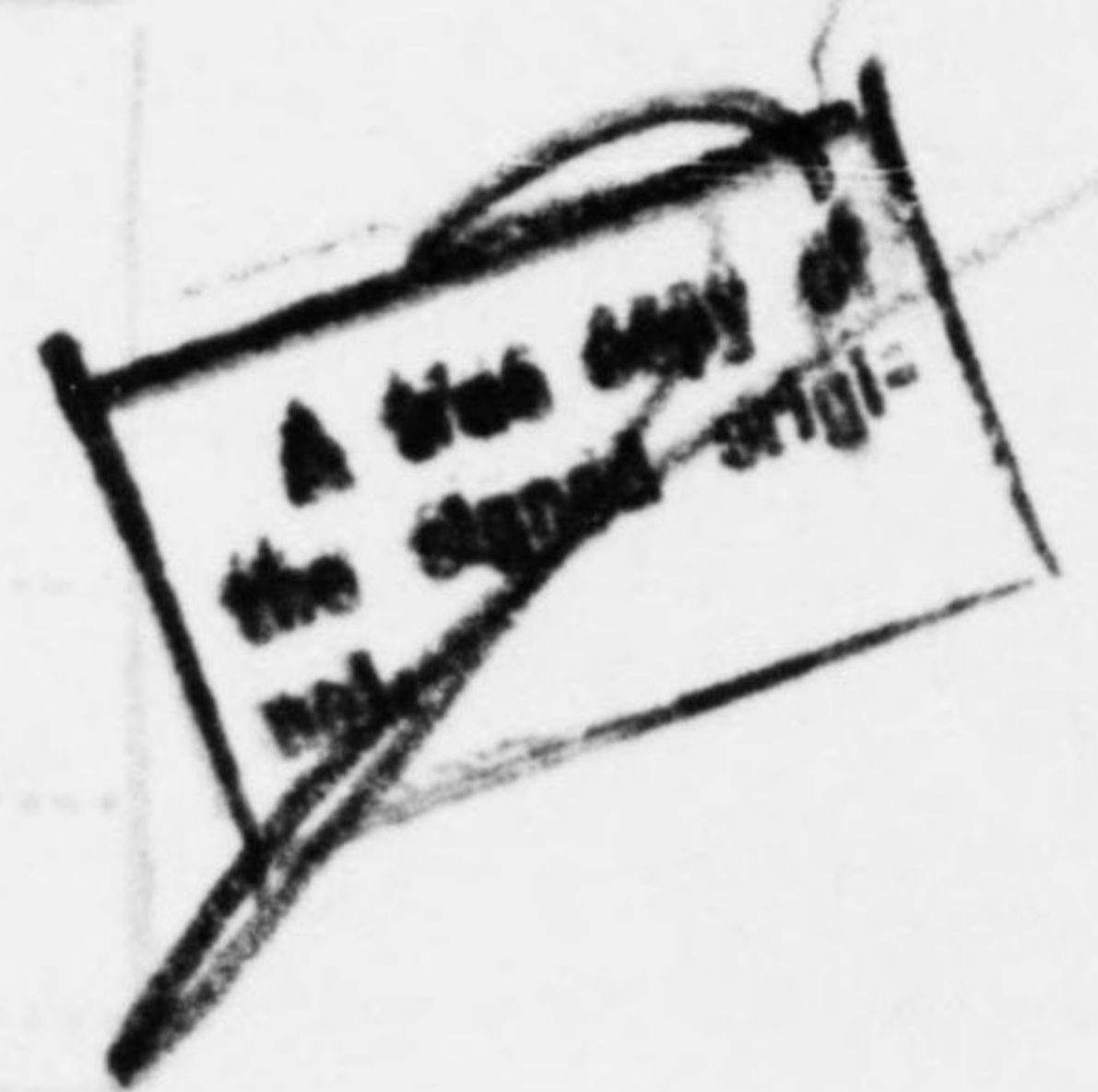
John M. Allison
Acting Chief
Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

Mr. Joseph Hefter,
H&N Hut 34,
Okinawa Engineer District,
APO 1050, c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco, California.

APR 9 1947

NA:HLory/pm
4/8/47

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Cat	<i>CP</i>
Dist	



894.4061/3-2147

FEB 13 1948

In reply refer to
CP

My dear Mr. Carlisle:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 28 relative to your interest in undertaking the production in Japan of a series of short motion picture films.

The Department is giving this matter its active attention and will seek the cooperation of the other Government agencies with a view toward facilitating the project, in the event that there would be no objection to your producing at this time the films in question. You may therefore expect a definitive reply to your letter immediately a determination has been reached.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

R. Horton Henry
Adviser
Division of Commercial Policy

Mr. Robert Carlisle,
Robert Carlisle Productions,
1611 Cosmo Street,
Hollywood 28, California.

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FEB 12 1948

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