

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

INTERROGATION NO. 41  
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: TOKYO  
DATE: 13 Oct. 1945  
TIME: 1000

Division of Origin: Manpower, Food and Civilian Supplies.

SUBJECT: Production, Sales and Stock Figures on Consumers' Goods, as prepared by the Bureau of Consumers' Commodities, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. KONDO, Chief of the Bureau of Consumers' Commodities.

Where interviewed (office): Mr. KONDO's office.

Interrogator: Lts. SCHMIDT and FASSBERG.

Interpreter: Lt. DEANE.

Allied Officers Present: Lts. SCHMIDT, FASSBERG, VASS and DEANE.

Summary:

1. Non-existence of emergency stocks for the relief of air raid victims.
2. Diversion of labor and raw material to civilian goods production.
3. Standardization of consumer goods.

1. Emergency Relief Stocks: The Japanese government did not establish its own reserve stocks of clothing, household utensils and furnishings, etc., for the relief of air raid victims. In the case of textile materials, the Control Associations were directed to allocate a certain portion of their product to an emergency reserve, and upon order from the government these reserve materials were subsequently released through designated retail channels to persons whose personal possessions were destroyed by the raids. However, because of the magnitude of destruction, such reserves always proved inadequate and the Control Associations were obliged to draw upon their regular stocks.

The above procedure was not followed in the case of other consumers' goods such as household furnishings, paper products, etc., consequently the full burden of replenishment was thrown upon the regular stocks available through customary retail channels and the local relief organization which collected unneeded items of clothing, household furnishings, etc., from residents in the neighborhood.

2. Diversion of Labor & Raw Material to Civilian Goods Production: In spite of the air attacks there was no diversion of labor or raw materials to the production of consumers' goods for the simple reason that none could be spared from war production.

The production of luxury items was banned and the out-put of regular consumer goods strictly controlled from 1940 - 41 on. Planning of production and allocation of raw materials was done on a quarterly basis, the plan for the ensuing quarter being drawn up during the last month of the current quarter.

3. Standardization of Consumer Goods: Steps were taken by the government through the Control Association to rationalize the production of consumer commodities. Specification and prices for the standardized articles were set, and any manufacturer who produced a non-standard article was compelled to sell it at a price substantially lower than that set for the standard article.

HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(Pacific)

ANNEX B

INTERROGATION NO. 41  
(Obtain from G-2)

Place: Tokyo

Date: 13 Oct. Time: 1000

*to mission of origin:*  
SUBJECT: Production, Sales and Stock Figures on Consumers' Goods,  
as prepared by the Bureau of Consumers' Commodities,  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Personnel interrogated and background of each: Mr. Kondo,  
Chief of the Bureau of Consumers' Commodities

Where interviewed (office): Mr. Kondo's office

Interrogator: Lts. Schmidt and Fassberg

Interpreter: Lt. Deane

Allied Officers Present: Lts. Schmidt, Fassberg, ~~and~~ Vass and Deane

Summary: (No more than two paragraphs. This is the gist of  
the interview and should indicate topics discussed,  
periods covered, and outstanding facts and conclu-  
sions. Should serve as a guide for detailed read-  
ing of interrogation.)

- ~~1. List of the statistical series requested from Mr. Kondo~~
1. Non-existence of emergency stocks for the relief of air-  
raid victims.
2. Diversion of labor and raw material to civilian goods pro-  
duction.
3. Standardization of consumer goods.

NOTE: ~~See reverse side for comments on use of this form.~~

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COMMENTS

- a. It is advisable that interpreter, as well as interrogator, proof-read all reports. This is to insure that no confusion has resulted from language difficulties, but since interpreters' absence may frequently delay the report, necessary revisions by interpreter will go forward later to distribution list.
- b. Summarize the interrogation. If a transcript is made, the summary may be brief. If the interrogation is not suitable for a transcript, the summary must be a clear and accurate resume of the information obtained.
- c. A transcript should always be made of the particularly significant portions of any interview. This is essential to provide maximum authenticity and to avoid misunderstanding of statements in the summary.

U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
APO 234, c/o Postmaster  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
MANPOWER, FOOD & CIVILIAN SUPPLIES

~~13 October 1945.~~

Interview with Mr. KONDO of the Bureau of Consumers' Commodities,  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

1. Mr. KONDO agreed to provide me with the following statistical series relating to the products controlled by his bureau, on Friday, 19 October 1945:
  - a. Planned and actual production figures (value and quantity) for every major item of civilian goods, Annual 1930-39, Quarterly 1940-42, Monthly 1943-45.
  - b. Sales figures (value and quantity) for each of the major items.
  - c. Wholesale and retail stock figures (value and quantity) for each of the major items.
  - d. Figures on stocks of clothing and household furnishings held in reserve by the government for purposes of emergency relief to air raid victims.
  - e. Clothing and household furnishing ration allowances.
  - f. Exports and Imports of civilian goods.
  - g. Employment in civilian goods industries.
  - h. Planned and actual allocation of raw materials for the manufacture of civilian goods.
  - i. Allocation of machinery for repair, replacement and expansion of civilian good industries.
  - j. Cost of living indices.

k. Analyses of consumer expenditures.

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Charles H. Schmidt and wife