GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)
Description of contents

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

(1) Box no. 2034

(2) Folder title/number : (5)

Agricultural Land Commissions Elections of August 1949

(3) Date : July 1949 - Oct. 1949

(4) Subject :

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(5) Item description and comment :

With a List of Papers

(6) Reproduction : (Yes) No

(7) Film no. Sheet no.

I N D E X

1. Reports Required for Agricultural Land Commissions Election . . . . . 7 Jul 49

2. August Summation of Agricultural and Land Commissions Elections . . . Aug 49

3. Survey Concerning Election for Prefectural Agricultural Land Commissioner . . . . . .

4. KYODO - Agriculture Ministry Corrects Interim Reports on Election Returns . . . . . .9 Sep 49

5. Prefectural Land Commission Elections . . . . . .9 Sep 49

6. Memorandum For Mr. Hauge - Candidates for Prefectural Land Commissions of Tokyo-To . . . . . 15 Sep 49

7. Run-Off Election to be Held in Hiroshima Prefecture ■ KYODO - . . . . 21 Sep 49

8. KYODO - Socialists Gain 80 Seats as of 11 A.M. Today . . . . . .21 Sep 49

9. KYODO - Roughly 110,000 Eligible Voters Elect Prefectural Farmland Bodies . . . . . 21 Sep 49

10. KYODO - Socialists Make Unexpected Advances in Farmland Committee Elections . . . . . 21 Sep 49

11. Result of the 2nd Election of the Local AgricultureLand Commission / .21 Sep 49

12. KYODO - Democrats Top in Percentage of Elected Candidates . . . . . 22 Sep 49

13. KYODO - Final Returns of Farmland Committee Members Election . . . . .22 Sep 49

14. Memorandum - Prefectural Land Commission Election . . . . . 22 Sep 49

15. Memorandum For Mr. Hauge - Percentage of Voter Participation in Local Land Commissioner Elections . . . . . 22 Sep 49

16. Letter Requesting Investigation into the Election of the Land Readjustment Committee . . . . . Oct 49

The Land Commission Election

Nishi-okubo, Shinjukuku, Tokyo.
October .1949.

Chief of Tokyo Civil
Government Team,

Sir,

We, the undersigned, residents in Nishi-okubo, Shinjukuku, Tokyo, Tokyo, beg earnestly for your investigation into the election of the Land Readjustment Committee (Tochi Kukakuseiri Iin) in the 40th District under the 3rd Reconstruction Land Readjustment Office of Tokyo City (Daisan Fukko Kukakuseiri Jimusho) which was recently conducted in accordance with the City Planning Act of Tokyo City (Tokyo-to Toshikeikakuho) , because the said election had such unfair respects in the procedure as follows;

(1) Despite the instructions of the Occupation Authorities to the Governor of Tokyo City which points out the defects of the election procedures provided by the current laws and regulations concerning land readjustment, those in charge of the election have sabotaged to make these known to the voters. While electing by procuration is permitted in such inevitable cases as of illiterate persons, invalids too ill to go outdoors, those on long-term jouney etc., the Governor merely posted up in the streets several copies of such an equivocal notice as follows (and that only two days before the election day);

"Re voting by procuration in the election of Land Readjustment Committee;

As we informed you previously by means of notices & etc. (When? Where /?), voting by procuration is limited only to the really inevitable cases. You will keep it in mind in order not to misunderstand/ing. when you vote/at the polls.

Sumio Motonari

October 1 .

Acting chief of Yodobashi Branch
of the Shinjuku Ward office

As the result, the votes by procuration amounted to 824, nearly two-thirds of the total votes of 1,256.

16,

(2) Complicated procedures diminished the eagerness of the voters for a democratic election. For instance, in addition to the reports on ownership or leasehold of land, we were ordered to submit reports of the same form on the right to vote.
(3) At the polls, the identification of the voters were conducted very loosely: age and sex were not even asked.
(4) The Register is so defective that a report on the right to vote were requested at a person who has been dead these 30 years. This means that a forged vote is possible.

In view of these facts, the present election appears tobe illegal, at least unfair, as one utilized completely by bosses conspiring with higher officials. This election utterly ignores democratic principles. Therefore, this election andthe newly born Land Readjustment Committee are to be made void, we presume. Accordingly, we hereby plead with you to consider the case and take necessary measures.

Respectfully yours.

Kiichi Kato.
M. Matsumura
Y. Araki.

Nishi-ekubo, Shinjukuku, Tokyo.
October ,1949 .

General Douglas MacArthur,
SCAP.

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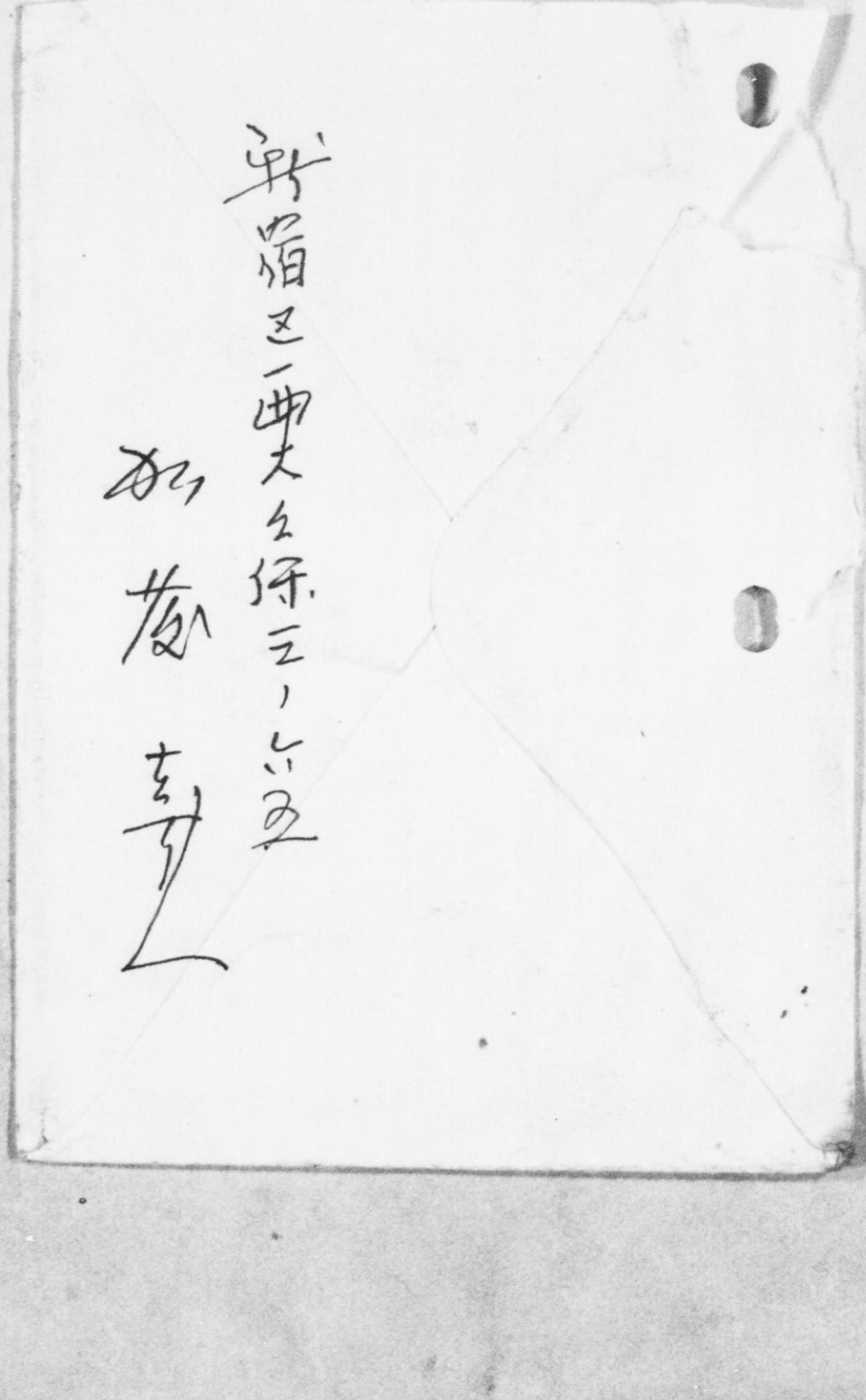
Kiichi Kato.
M. Matsumura
Y. Araki.

千代田区丸内第一ビル
連合軍総司令部
民政部
中部



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Government Section
Public Administration Division

22 September 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HAUGE

SUBJECT: Percentage of Voter Participation in Local Land Commissioner Elections

1. Forty-two percent or 4,625 of the 11,043 elections for Local Land Commissioners held during August, 1949, were "No-Poll" elections.

2. Of the remaining in which there was actual balloting, the percentage of qualified voters who cast ballots was 78%.

3. In 20 prefectures, the percentage of abstention was less than 20%. In only 6 prefectures was it over 30%.

J.D.M.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Government Section
Public Administration Division

22 September 1949

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Prefectural Land Commission Election

1. When filing their intention to run for Prefectural Land Commissioners, the candidates were not required to state their political affiliation. Representatives of newspapers on the spot guessed at the party connection of the candidate. Officials of the National Election Administration Commission have no other recourse so that even the official report will reflect "guesses".

2. Because each newspaper guessed the party affiliation of the successful candidates, various reports gave different totals of seats accorded political parties. Accounts in the leading Tokyo newspapers were:

Party	Yomiuri	Nihon Keizai	Asahi	Kyodo	Mainichi
Democratic Liberal	81	58	58	58	60
Democratic	25	21	22	21	23
Social Democratic	109	86	79	86	84
Communists	2		2	2	2
Labor Farmer	3				3
New Farmer					5
Japan Farmer's Union					19
All Japan Farmer's Union					3
Minor parties	1		10	25	4
Independent	234	264	285	264	250
Others		31			
Totals	455	460	456	456	453

3. Assuming that the reports of Kyodo are the average and perhaps most nearly accurate, the percentage of seats won by political parties is as follows:

Democratic Liberal	12.8
Democratic	4.7
Social Democratic	18.8
Communist	.5 → 0.5%
Minor parties	4.9
Independent	58.3

4. There were 110,723 persons elected to local land commissions in August 1949. That group formed the electorate for the prefectural elections. The average rate of voter participation was 95.6 per cent, according to a report in the Mainichi Shimbun of 22 September 1949.

5. The Mainichi Shimbun, 22 September 1949, reported that in each of four prefectures one candidate failed to garner a large enough percentage of the vote to qualify. There were a total of 460 seats but only 456 were filled. This necessitates another election in those prefectures within the next 60 days. The prefectures were: Hyogo, Hiroshima, Kagoshima and Miyagi.

J. D. M.

No. 6

FINAL RETURNS OF FARMLAND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS' ELECTION (Morning)

KYODO

TOKYO, September 22.---The Socialists won the first place in the election of the prefectural farmland committee members, according to the final returns.

The Socialists gained 86 members, followed by the Democratic Liberals with 58, Democrats with 21, Farmers with 4, Labor-Farmers with 3, Communists with 2 and People's Cooperatives with 1.

The elected "independents" totaled 264, minor parties 17, while the Social Renovationists gained none, bringing the total number of the successful candidates in the election to 450.

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Hattori/kk

13.

No. 7

(WITH FARM LAND COMMITTEE ELECTIONS)

DEMOCRATS TOP IN PERCENTAGE OF
ELECTED CANDIDATES

AYOBO

TOKYO, September 22.---The Democrats topped the list of percentages of elected candidates of the prefectural farmland committee members with 33.9%, followed by the Socialists with 32.0%, the Democratic Liberals with 28.7%.

Details follow:

Parties	No. of Candidates	No. Elected	Percentage
Independent	931	264	28.4
Demo-Liberal	202	58	28.7
Democrat	62	21	33.9
Socialist	294	80	32.0
Communist	110	2	1.8
Minors	64	25	39.1

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Hattori/kk

Result of the 2nd Election of the Local Agr. Land Commission (the first report)

第二回市町村農地委員会總選挙結果 (中間報告)

2/Sep.-49 Agr. L. Section, MAF

都道府縣名 Prefecture	農地委員会数 Number of Commissions (A)	全階層共投票を行わなかった地区數 Number of Commissions where no election is held as to all classes (B)	(B)/(A) %	再選挙を必要とする地区数 Number of Commissions incumbents re-election	投票を行った地区数 Number of Commissions voted	棄権率 renunciation ratio	当選人中新人が割合 rate of not old commissioner among newly elected	当選委員の党派別 Classification of Commissioners in accords political party: 民自 Minji D.L.	民主 Minshu Dem	社会 Shakai Soc.	共産 Kyosan C.	国協 Kokyō P.C.	労農 Rōnō L.Far.	社革 Shikaku S.Kar.	農民新 Nomin-shin New Fa.	農民 Nomin Far.	新自由 Shin-jiyū N.L.	その他 others	予所属 Free	合計 total 農民同盟
Hokkaido	273	100	37	31	171	27	55	8	7	15	–	–	–	–	63	3	–	–	2501 (35)	2597
Aomori	162	35	22	7	127	24	60	226	159	63	34	8	–	5	–	–	–	2	1112	1609
Iwate	231	84	36	21	147	25	54	24	–	15	4	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	2236	2280
Miyagi	204	26	13	1	178	20	54	7	–	13	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2063	2089
Akita	224	22	10	3	201	15	55	× 124.7		454	33	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	523 (136)	2257
Yamagata	230	32	14	6	197	16	55	139	13	123	25	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	1990	2292
Fukushima	390	74	19	5	316	16	59	× 1670		512	29	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1682	3893
Ibaraki	371	146	39	36	224	25	61	194	17	64	33	–	13	–	–	–	–	148	3161 (190)	3630
Tochigi	177	61	34	2	116	18	64	185	37	134	19	2	–	–	–	–	–	28	1362	1767
Gunma	208	80	38	2	128	18	63	169	406	235	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	1254	2093
Saitama	338	71	21	4	267	20	54	340	54	172	31	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	2826	3425
Chiba	313	149	48	12	164	31	67	× 588		122	40	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2380	3130
Tokyo	101	53	52	5	48		52	× 280		98	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	569	1055
Kanagawa	150	77	51	5	73	19	60	509	43	137	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	817	1514
Niigata	395	124	31	6	271	18	62	216	51	474	53	–	9	–	–	–	–	–	3420	4243
Toyama	257	170	66	19	86	15	61	619	313	207	11	650	–	–	–	–	–	–	716	2516
Ishikawa	204	134	66	6	70	20	63	369	319	68	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1238	2097
Fukui	174	33	19	1	141	12	[?]	× 36		44	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1630	1713
Yamanashi	206	97	47	24	109	15	62	85	36	254	43	–	–	38	–	–	–	–	1573	2029
Nagano	383	194	51	10	189	19	71	249	123	208	129	20	–	–	–	–	–	13	3103	3845

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Gifu	330	174	53	2	156	24	65	83		4	45	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3181 (内 20)	3345
Shizuoka	310	196	63	26	114	19	65	208		10	71	18	27	1	1	4	-	-	2	2707 (21)	3049
Aichi	229	168	73	9	61	19	69	6		4	5	10	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	2582 (7)	2614
Mie	320	171	53	16	149	23	57	×	243		60	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2840	3174
Shiga	166	122	73	3	44	4	80	67		8	19	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1565	1656
Kyoto	224	127	57	6	97	32	66	10		-	13	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2222 [内 日農 4 全農 1]	2250
Osaka	215	149	69	9	65	22	55	19		5	23	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2047 [日農 15 全農 16]	2106
Hyogo	381	213	56	8	168	23	58	×	747		229	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2780	3821
Nara	143	92	64	3	51	20	60	16		-	11	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1398	1436
Wakayama	211	149	71	7	62	26	62	76		-	19	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1994	2094
Tottori	181	89	49	6	92	18	61	6		-	23	19	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1753 (内 日農 60%) ?	1805
Shimane	265	94	35	7	171	14	59	3		4	32	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2560	2627
Okayama	380	55	14	18	324	30	49	18		5	28	32	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	3738	3828
Hiroshima	354	149	42	26	204	25	53	22		6	27	12	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3480	3550
Yamaguchi	211	48	23	8	163	29	62	61		1	9	19	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2009	2100
Tokushima	139	50	36	1	82	30	60	15		-	67	9	15	-	-	-	-	-	4	1210	1320
Kagawa	172	84	49	11	87	21	57	2		-	15	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1657	1691
Ehime	263	144	55	7	119	25	54	28		-	18	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2648	2713
Kōchi	186	87	47	20	94	29	50	50		13	10	6	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1709 (2) 内	1792
Fukuoka	302	165	55	10	137	18	65	156		25	84	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	2813	3182
Saga	(1) 113	44	39	3	69	19	60	71		44	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	974	1095
Nagasaki	174	67	39	7	107	41 (?)	(?)	12		-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1662	1681
Kumamoto	320	129	40	7	186	18	60	×	1098		94	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1923	3126
Oita	246	74	30	4	172	12	(?)	×	486		95	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1834	2432
Miyazaki	95	10	11	1	85	27	55	×	244		39	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	673	959
Kagoshima	122	13	11	4	108	38	76	58		4	59	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1073	1203
Total	11,043	4,625	42	435	6,390	(2) 22	(2) 60	12,850			4,532	953	731			469				91,188	110,723

○ Note (1) exclusive OGI-Gun 小城郡を除く
(2) arithmetic means of the ratio of all prefectures 各縣比率の算術平均

( ) 内ハ日農一内數
Japan Farmers' Union

第二回市町村農地委員會總選挙結果（中間報告）

（補正第一報）　二四、八、三一　農林省、農地課

八月三十日迄に農林省に達した情報によれば概ね次の如くである。尚ニれは中間報告であって、今後の調査によって、若干の変動があると思はれる。

① 全委員会の四二%に当る四、大二五の委員会においては各階層共立候補者が定員を超えないために投票を行う必要がなかった。かく多数の無競爭当選地区を生じた主要な原因は、(一)村内の各部落から均等に代表をえらばうとして、部落相互間における立候補の協定が行なわれた場合の多いこと(二)農地委員会の委員が任務が極めて多忙であることがニれまでの経験から、よく知られているため委員に立候補することをしりごみする者が多いこと(三)農民運動が一般に低調で、特に、農地改革発足当時の如き組織的な活動を示さなかったことなどであらう。もっとも無競爭当選地区の比率は地方によって大差があり、最高は滋賀、愛知の七三%。最低は秋田の一〇%である。概して東北及び南九州地方のように比較的遅れた地方において無競爭地区の比率が低く競爭が激しかった。

② 投票の行なわれた大三九〇の委員会においての投票成績は良好である。即ち縣単位にみての棄权率は二〇%未満のもの、二〇縣二五%未満のもの一〇府縣三〇%未満のもの（各都道縣）三〇%以上のもの大府縣で平均二二%に止まった。

③ 立候補者が定数に達せず再選挙をしなければならない委員会は、四三五を数えたが、ニれは、今回の選挙に際しての階層区分が前回と異なり、農地改革の結果第一号、第二号層に属する有权者の数が極端に少数となった村のあることが主なる原因であろう。

④ 新委員会を構成する委員の中、六〇%は新人によって占められた。

⑤ 当選者の所属政党別は正確な調査が不可能である。何となれば、農地委員会選挙においては、一般の選挙と異なり、立候補届出書に所属政党を記入させないし、したがって、投票にあたって当選者の政党別の色分けをみようとしても、候補者自身が所属政党を明示して選挙運動を行ったような場合の外は外部からの推測の境をでないのである。ここに掲げた数字は、主として、各県の選挙管理委員会方面で、それぞれ自分の方法で観測したものであって必ずしも統一した規準によって調査されたものではない。このように不正確な調査ではあるが、選挙の結果政党的色彩の薄いものが圧倒的に多数であることは動かせないであろう。

Result of the 2nd Election of the Local Agr. Land Commission (the first report)

第二回市町村農地委員会総選挙結果（中間報告）

21 Sep. -49 Agr. L. Section, MAF

都道府県名 Prefecture	農地委員会数 Number of Commissions (A)	全階層共投票を行わなかった地区数 Number of Commissions where no election is held as to all classes (B)	(B)/(A) %	再選挙を必要とする地区数 Number of Commissions's re-election	投票を行った地区数 Number of Commissions voted	棄権率 Renunciation ratio	当選人中新人の割合 Rate of not old commissioner among newly elected	当選委員の党派別 Classification of Commissioners in accords political party											
								民自 Minji	民主 Minshu	社会 Shakai	共産 Kyosan	国協 Kokkyo	労農 Rōnō	社革 Shakaku	農民新 Nominshin	農民 Nomin	新自由 Shin-jiyū	その他 others	予所属 Free	合計 total
Hokkaidoo	273	100	37	31	171	27	55	8	7	15	—	—	—	—	63	3	—	—	円(35) 2501	2597
Aomori	162	35	22	7	127	24	60	226	159	63	34	8	—	5	—	—	—	2	1112	1609
Iwate	231	84	36	21	147	25	54	24	—	15	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2236	2280
Miyagi	204	26	13	1	178	20	54	7	—	13	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2063	2089
Akita	224	22	10	3	201	15	55	× 1247		454	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	円(136) 523	2257
Yamagata	230	32	14	6	197	16	55	139	13	123	25	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1990	2292
Fukushima	390	74	19	5	316	16	59	× 1670		512	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1682	3893
Ibaraki	371	146	39	36	224	25	61	194	17	64	33	—	13	—	—	—	—	148	3161(円170)	3630
Tochigi	177	61	34	2	116	18	64	185	37	134	19	2	—	—	—	—	—	28	1362	1767
Gunma	208	80	38	2	128	18	63	169	406	235	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1254	2093
Saitama	338	71	21	4	267	20	54	340	54	172	31	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2826	3425
Chiba	313	149	48	12	164	31	67	× 588		122	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2380	3130
Tokyo	101	53	52	5	48	28	52	× 380		98	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	569	1055
Kanagawa	150	77	51	5	73	19	60	509	43	137	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	817	1514
Niigata	395	124	31	6	271	18	62	216	51	494	53	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	3420	4243
Toyama	257	170	66	19	86	15	61	619	313	207	11	650	—	—	—	—	—	—	716	2516
Ishikawa	204	134	66	6	70	20	63	369	319	68	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1238	2097
Fukui	174	33	19	1	141	12	[?]	× 36		44	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1630	1713
Yamanashi	206	97	47	24	109	15	62	85	36	254	43	—	—	38	—	—	—	—	1573	2029
Nagano	383	194	51	10	189	19	71	249	123	208	129	20	—	—	—	—	—	13	3103	3845

Gifu	330	174	53	2	156	24	65	83	4	45	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3181 (内 (20))	3345
Shizuoka	310	196	63	26	114	19	65	208	10	71	18	27	1	1	4	-	-	2	2707 (21)	3049
Aichi	229	168	73	9	61	19	69	6	4	5	10	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	2582 (7)	2614
Mie	320	171	53	16	149	23	57	× 243		60	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2840	3174
Shiga	166	122	73	3	44	4	80	67	8	19	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1565	1656
Kyoto	224	127	57	6	97	32	66	10	-	13	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2222 [内 日農 4 全農 1]	2250
Osaka	215	149	69	9	65	22	55	19	5	23	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2047 [日農 15 全農 16]	2106
Hyogo	381	213	56	8	168	23	58	× 747		229	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2780	3821
Nara	143	92	64	3	51	20	60	16	-	11	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1398	1436
Wakayama	211	149	71	7	62	26	62	76	-	19	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1994	2094
Tottori	181	89	49	6	92	18	61	6	-	23	19	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1753 (内 日農 60%) ?	1805
Shimane	265	94	35	7	171	14	59	3	4	32	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2560	2627
Okayama	380	55	14	18	324	30	49	18	5	28	32	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	3738	3828
Hiroshima	354	149	42	26	204	25	53	22	6	27	12	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3480	3550
Yamaguchi	211	48	23	8	163	29	62	61	1	9	19	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2009	2100
Tokushima	139	50	36	1	82	30	60	15	-	67	9	15	-	-	-	-	-	4	1210	1320
Kagawa	172	84	49	11	87	21	57	2	-	15	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1657	1691
Ehime	263	144	55	7	119	25	54	28	-	18	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2648	2713
Kōchi	186	87	47	20	94	29	50	50	13	10	6	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1709 (内 (2))	1792
Fukuoka	302	165	55	10	137	18	65	156	25	84	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	2813	3182
Saga	(1) 113	44	39	3	69	19	60	71	44	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	974	1095
Nagasaki	174	67	39	7	107	41 (?)	(?)	12	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1662	1681
Kumamoto	320	129	40	7	186	18	60	× 1098		94	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1923	3126
Oita	246	74	30	4	172	12	(?)	× 486		95	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1834	2432
Miyazaki	95	10	11	1	85	27	55	× 244		39	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	673	959
Kagoshima	122	13	11	4	108	38	76	58	4	59	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1073	1203
Total	11,043	4,625	42	435	6,390	(2) 22	(2) 60	12,850		4,532	953	731			469				91,188	110,723

○ Note (1) exclusive OGI-Gun 小城郡を除く
(2) arithmetic means of the ratio of all prefectures 各縣比率の算術平均

( ) 内ハ日農一内数
Japan Farmers' Union

ADD MORNING NO. 1

SOCIALISTS MAKE UNEXPECTED ADVANCES
IN FARMLAND COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Kyodo

TOKYO, September 21--The most outstanding characteristic of the prefectural Farmland Committee elections was the sharp advance chalked up by the Socialist Party candidates.

In general, however, the conservatives were overwhelming strong.

As of zero hour this morning, Kyodo News Service tabulations gave 49 Democratic Liberals, 78 Socialists, 20 Democrats, one Communist, (Kyodo) one Peoples Cooperative, one Labor Farmer, four Farmers, 11 minor factions and 217 independents, or a total of 382.

-more-

10.

Add Morning No.1-2

As the polls opened yesterday morning, Kyodo figures of candidates dropped to 1,640 running for a total of 460 seats, due to last minute dropping out of candidates.

The turn-out for the voting was the highest on record for any election, a national average of with 95.5 percent. (This figures does not include Tokyo, Iwate, Aichi and Kochi, from where reports are yet to come)

The prefecture with the highest turnout was Yamagata with 99.8 percent, followed by Miyagi with 99.3 percent and the lowest Okayama with 84 percent.

This turnout is regarded as miraculous, far outstripping the average of 92.8 percent chalked up during the first Farmland Committee election of February 1947.

-more-

Add Morning No.143

As of zero hour this morning, districts which had opened their ballots for counting included Hokkaido, two metropolitan prefectures and 35 prefectures.

Those already certain of getting seats numbered 38.2. The returns for Tokyo, Fukui, Okayama, Iwate, Yamagata, Chiba, Aichi, and a part of Kochi are expected to be in sometimes this morning.

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Higashi/so

The Prefectural Farmland Committee's election returns according to prefectures as of noon today are as follows:

Pref.--3	DLP	Soc.	Dem.	Com.	PC	SR	LF	New	Others	In.	Total
Hokkaido	1	2	1					3		6	
Aomori	6	2	1							1	
Iwate	no return									7	
Miyagi		2								5	
Akita		3	2							7	
Yamagata	no return									10	
Fukushima	2	2							2		
Ibaragi										2	
Tochigi	1	6	1							6	
Gumma		4	4							6	
Saitama	4									7	
Chiba	2	2								1	
Tokyo	2	1								4	
Kanagawa	7	2					1			7	
Niigata		5			1					3	
Toyama		1	1								
Ishikawa	1	1	5							4	
Fukui	no return									6	
Yamanashi	3	3								5	
Nagano		4								5	
Gifu	3	2									
Shizuoka	2	3								9	
Aichi	no return									4	
Mie		1								8	
Shiga	4	2			1					3	
Kyoto	1									4	
Osaka	1	5	1							10	
Hyogo		4	1							7	
Nara											
Wakayama		3							8	2	
Tottori											

	DLP	Soc.	Dem.	Com.	PC	SR	LF	New	Others	In.	Total
Shimane		3	2							5	
Okayama	no return										
Hiroshima		2								8	
Yamaguchi	1	3								6	
Tokushima		3								7	
Kagawa	1	3								6	
Ehime	1									9	
Kochi	no return										
Fukuoka	1	1								8	
Saga	1		1							8	
Nagasaki	1	3							1	5	
Kumamoto	4	1	1					1		3	
Oita										10	
Miyazaki		1								9	
Kagoshima	2	5								2	
Total	52	82	20	1	1	0	1	4	11	225	

(more)

Prefectural Farm. Com.--5

Reelections will have to be held for one person each in Miyagi, Hyogo and Kagoshima prefectures.

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tanaka/yn

No.1

(WITH FARMLAND COMMITTEE)

ROUGHLY 110,000 ELIGIBLE VOTERS
ELECT PREFECTURAL FARMLAND BODIES (Noon)

Kyodo

TOKYO, September 21--Roughly 110,000 eligible voters (members of the city, town and village Farmland Committees) went to the polls yesterday to chose their 10-man profectural Farmland Committees, which are shouldered with the task of completing the important task of Japan's post-war agrarian reforms.

By yesterday evening the voting had been completed, with the exception of Kochi Profecture, where torrential rains prevented many of the voters from getting to the polls in time.

The turn-out was reported as 95.5 percent for the whole of Japan, (with the exception of four districts from where reports are as yet to be received) a remarkable figure compared with the 92.8 percent record set in the first prefectural farmland election of February/1947.

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9.

Farmland committee-2 (Noon)

All of the prefectures immediately began counting their votes yesterday evening, with the exception of Yamagata, Chiba, Aichi, Okayama and Kochi, which are due to open their ballots today.

With Yamagata's ballot count to begin from 8 p.m. today, the finalreturns were only expected around 4 p.m.

However, the general trend of the election was already apparent, with Independents in the overwhelming majority. The bulk of these independents were said to be of conservative coloring.

One of the main features of the election was the unexpected advance chalked up by the Socialist Party and the complete drop of Communist Party influence.

As of zero hour this morning, the Communists had only succeeded in getting one

-more-

man elected in Kyoto Prefecture, while the Socialists had obtained 78 seats against 49 for the Democratic Liberals.

Candidates for the election totalled 1,640 as the polls opened, with many dropping out at the last moment. However, this represented 3.5 times the number of seats, 460.

First category candidates totalled 367 (tenant farmers) running for 92 seats, or 3.9 times the number of seats. Second category candidates, landowners, reached 392 as against 92 seats or 4.2 times more than the number of positions.

Third category candidates totalled 881 for 276 seats, or 3.1 fold strong.

Because of the last-minute dropping out of candidates, uncontested districts arose. These

Farmland committee-4 (Noon)

included Number One category seats (tenant farmers) in Shimane and Kagawa, which only had one candidate apiece, Number Two category seats (landowners) in Fukuoka with only one candidate, and in Miyazaki's Number Three category (small-holders) with only three men running for six seats.

Reelections will have to be held for two seats in Kagoshima and one apiece in Miyagi and Hyogo, because votes fell below the legally required number.

Districts in which candidates obtained equal votes, requiring selection by lots were Hyogo with two such cases, and Osaka and Nara with one case each.

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Higashi/so

No.10

(WITH FARMLAND COMMITTEE)

SOCIALISTS GAIN 80 SEATS
AS OF 11 A.M. TODAY

(Noon)

Kyodo

TOKYO, September 21--The Socialist gained two more seats in the prefectural Farmland Committee elections boosting their total seats to 80, as against 50 seats for the Democratic Liberal Party, according to imcompletely returns compiled by the Kyodo News Service as of 11 a.m. today.

Returns were still to come in from the seven prefectures of Iwate, Yamagata, Chiba, Fukui, Aichi, Okayama and Kochi.

The independents were overwhelming in the lead with 218, followed by the Socialists with 80, Democratic Liberal 50 and Democrats 20.

-more-

Socialists -2 (Noon)

Minor factions counted 11 seats, while the New Farmers Party obtained four, followed by the Communists, the Labor Farmer and the Peoples Cooperative with one seat apiece.

According to prefectures, Ibaragi, Nara and Oita had all ten seats taken by independents, while Mie, Ehime, and Miyazaki saw the independents win nine seats.

Democratic Liberals took seven seats in Kanagawa, and six in Aomori, while the Democrats took five in Ishikawa, showing that strong conservative grounds were unchanged.

On the other hand, the Socialists obtained six seats in Tochigi, and five in Niigata, Osaka and Kagoshima.

In contrast to this, the poor showing of the radicals was completely unexpected, with the Labor Farmer getting one seat in Niigata, and the Communists only one seat in Kyoto out of a total of 110 candidates which it ran for the whole of Japan.

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Higashi/so

No. 14

RUN-OFF ELECTION TO BE
HELD IN HIROSHIMA PREF.

(Evening Ed.)

Kyodo

HIROSHIMA, September 21--Hiroshima Prefecture is scheduled to hold another election of the prefectural farmland committee at its second electoral district in 60 days.

The election of a Socialist candidate, Tadao Kuwabara, proved void today as the 58 votes he gained were short of the 79 votes legally required for a successful election.

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man/yn

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Government Section
Public Administration Division

15 September 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HAUGE

SUBJECT: Candidates for Prefectural Land Commissions of Tokyo-to

1. According to a telephone report of the National Election Administration Commission, the number of candidates who filed for the Prefectural Land Commission election in Tokyo-to prior to the 13 September deadline totalled 28. Names of the individual candidates were not available.

2. The number of candidates by parties was:

Democratic Liberal	5
Social Democratic	2
Independent	18
Japan Farmer Union	2
Communist	1

3. Candidates by category were:

Group a (2 seats) -	1 Democratic Liberal
	5 Independents
Group b (2 seats) -	1 Democratic Liberal
	6 Independents
Group c (6 seats) -	3 Democratic Liberals
	2 Social Democrats
	7 Independents
	2 Japan Farmer Unionists
	1 Communist

4. The number of candidates who filed in other prefectures is not available at this time.

J. D. M.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Government Section
Public Administration Division

9 September 1949

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Prefectural Land Commission Elections

1. The election of members of the Prefectural Land Commission will be held 20 September 1949. To be elected in each Commission are:

a. Tenant Farmer Group - 2 members

b. Landowners Group - 2 members

c. Owner-Cultivator Group - 6 members

2. In addition, the Prefectural Governor may appoint any three persons to the Commission. These three may be appointed on the day of the election or at any time within the two-year term.

3. Qualified voters include only the successful candidates of the Local Land Commission elections held during August 1949. Successful candidates of Group a in that election vote for the Group a Prefectural Land Commissioners in this poll, etc. However, any person who was qualified to vote in the former election is eligible to be a candidate for the Prefectural Commission. That is, anyone qualified to vote in Group a in the August election can file his candidacy as a Group a member of the Prefectural Commission.

4. Any Local Land Commissioner who files for the Prefectural Commission and is elected must resign from the Local Commission. A runner-up in the Local election may take the vacated seat provided he received at least 25 percent of the votes cast. By-elections may also be held to fill the vacancies. Apparently the decision is left up to the Prefectural Commission which is the administrative supervisor of the Local Commission.

5. The deadline for the filing of candidacy is 13 September 1949. At present, no list of candidates is available.

6. Rumor has it, however, that filing is heavy in Kanagawa Prefecture where two thirds of the successful Local Commissioners elected in August have filed for the Prefectural posts. Rumor also has it that filing in other prefectures has been restricted by political parties so as to capitalize on the possible vote and not split it uselessly. Certain political parties, including the Communist, are believed to be strongly backing their members on the theory that publicity gained here will carry over in part to the House of Councillors elections next year. They are taking advantage of the lack of restrictions in these elections and are using this race as an unofficial "straw vote" or sample to determine their actual strength. The National Election Administration Commission, who furnished the above information, had no actual reports, however, of the kind and intensity of the parties' campaigns.

5.

J. D. M.

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SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Government Section
Public Administration Division

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J. D. M.

No.62

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY CORRECTS INTERIM REPORTS ON ELECTION RETURNS EVENING

Kyodo

TOKYO, September 9---The Agriculture Forestry Ministry today announced correction of the recently announced interim reports on the election returns of the agricultural committees.

The election was carried out throughout the country on August 18.

According to the correction, both the Democratic Liberal and the Democratic members, totaling 1,2850, were unified due to difficulty of classification and placed on a single category of conservatives.

The number of the Socialist members was increased to 4,532 (previously announced as 953). The Communists came to the third with 953 (previously announced as 731), followed

by the People's Cooperatives with 731 (previously announced as none- and the minor party members with 469 and independents numbering 91,186, bringing the total number of the newly elected agricultural committee members to 110,723.

The correction revealed a marked expansion of the Socialist members in contrast to the previous announcement.

It was pointed out that a considerable number of the independents, who formerly were believed to belong to the conservative camp, are backed by farmers organizations.

The corrected tabulation follows:

Democratic Liberals	
Democrats	12,850
Socialists	4,532
Communists	953
People's Cooperatives.....	731
Minor parties	469
Independents	91,188
Total	110,723

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hattori/vk

Survey Concerning Election for Prefectural Agricultural Land Commissioner

National Election Administration Commission

Prefecture	Percentage of Votes	D.L.	D.	S.D.	C.	L.F.	J.F.	Minor	Ind.	Total
Hokkaido	87.2%	2 (1)		1	4			3 (3)	15 (6)	25 (10)
Aomori	94.0	6 (3)	3	5 (1)	4			1	32 (6)	51 (10)
Iwate	94.0	16 (2)		6 (2)	2			1	23 (6)	48 (10)
Miyage	95.1		2	4 (2)	2				29 (7)	37 (9)
Akita	99.3	4	5 (2)	9 (3)	4				21 (5)	43 (10)
Yamagata	99.8	2 (2)	1	7 (2)	1		1		24 (6)	36 (10)
Fukushima	97.2	6 (2)		6 (1)	4			1	22 (7)	39 (10)
Ibaragi	96.6	2		3	1	2	1		32 (10)	41 (10)
Tochigi	97.5	4	1 (1)	8 (6)					16 (3)	29 (10)
Gunma	99.0	3	7 (4)	4 (2)	3				11 (4)	28 (10)
Saitama	98.0	8 (5)		5	2				21 (5)	36 (10)
Chiba	97.4	10 (2)		3	1		3 (2)		14 (6)	31 (10)
Tokyo	95.5	3 (2)		2 (1)	1	1			22 (7)	29 (10)

Kanagawa	98.6	11 (7)		3 (2)	2				7 (1)	23 (10)
Niigata	94.0	2	1	11 (6)	3	1 (1)			15 (3)	33 (10)
Toyama	95.1	1 (1)		4 (1)	2			1 (1)	15 (7)	23 (10)
Ishikawa	96.2	7 (1)	5 (5)	3 (1)	2				11 (3)	28 (10)
Fukui	97.7			5 (1)					28 (9)	33 (10)
Yamanashi	95.5	7 (3)		9 (3)	6			3	12 (4)	37 (10)
Nagano	97.8	1	3	8 (4)	7				17 (6)	36 (10)
Gifu	94.0	6 (3)		5 (2)					20 (5)	38 (10)
Shizuoka	97.7	4 (2)		10 (3)	3	1			20 (5)	38 (10)
Aichi	99.1	1		2				5 (3)	19 (7)	27 (10)
Mie	97.8		1	2 (1)	3				33 (9)	39 (10)
Shiga	97.4	7 (3)	5	6 (1)	1		1		17 (6)	37 (10)
Kyoto	93.9	4 (1)	1	3	2 (1)		2		23 (8)	35 (10)
Osaka	96.6	2 (1)	1 (1)	4 (3)	3		1	1	14 (5)	26 (10)
Hyogo	92.8	7 (1)	1	11 (3)	4	1			17 (5)	41 (9)
Nara	97.5	4 (3)	3	3 (1)	1				12 (6)	23 (10)
Wakayama	97.0	4		5 (3)	1				25 (7)	35 (10)
Tottori	97.0	1			2				17 (10)	20 (10)

Shimane	94.0%	2	5 (2)	10 (3)	4			1	15 (5)	37 (10)
Okayama	84.0			5 (1)	5 (1)	2 (1)			25 (7)	37 (10)
Hiroshima	95.3	1		6 (2)	2	2			37 (8)	48 (10)
Yamaguchi	96.4	2 (1)		6 (3)	4	1			28 (6)	41 (10)
Tokushima	95.5	1		4 (3)	2	1			26 (7)	34 (10)
Kagawa	93.8	1 (1)		5 (3)	1			1	12 (6)	20 (10)
Ehime	94.3	2 (1)		2	1				30 (9)	35 (10)
Kochi	99.2	5 (1)	2	1	4	2 (1)			29 (8)	43 (10)
Fukuoka	97.3		2	4 (1)	1		1	1	13 (9)	22 (10)
Saga	97.5	2 (1)	1 (1)		1			1	24 (8)	29 (10)
Nagasaki	90.3	1							27 (10)	28 (10)
Kumamoto	93.6	10 (4)	2 (1)	11 (1)	1		1 (1)		12 (3)	37 (10)
Oita	96.0	2			5				29 (10)	36 (10)
Miyazaki	98.0			3 (1)					20 (9)	23 (10)
Kagoshima	98.7			8 (2)					37 (7)	45 (9)
Total		164 (54)	52 (17)	222 (75)	102 (2)	14 (3)	11 (3)	20 (7)	968 (296)	1,553 (457)

Remarks: Number in branket show elected candidates.

1st draft

Summation - August 1949

Agricultural Land Commissions Elections

Elections of Members of Local Land Commissions of each village, town, and city were held throughout Japan on 18 August 1949. In general, each Commission consisted of ten members, divided into 3 groups:

Group A - Tenant Farmers - 2 members

Group B - Landlords - 2 members

Group C - Owner-Cultivator - 6 members

All tenant farmers were eligible to run for office and to vote for the candidates in Group A. Landlords were eligible to run for office and vote for candidates in Group B. Owner-Cultivators were qualified to run for office and vote for candidates in Group C. In all, there were 11,043 Commissions to be staffed.

Too few candidates filed to make the campaign an active one. In 4,625 or 42 percent of the Commissions, only as many candidates filed as there were seats to be filled and so were awarded the posts without the necessity of a vote. In 435 Commissions there were more seats to be filled than there were candidates who filed. In Shiga Prefecture an observer stated 3 reasons for this dearth of candidates. They were:

1. Few people felt themselves qualified to handle the difficult local problems.

2. Many people were disinclined to place themselves in a position to be a target of Communist attacks.

3. In some cases, candidates were pre-selected by local bosses or influential groups. Persons not so selected realized it was futile to enter the campaign.

Similar reasons were said to be the cause of similar conditions in other prefectures.

Political activities of the candidates themselves were negligible in most cases. There was a marked absence of debates and canvassing. However, in some areas, farmer associations and related organizations actively supported certain candidates and in some areas political parties backed their men. But the campaign was not essentially a political one insofar as candidates were not required to state their political affiliations when they filed.

The mechanics of the election were handled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in coopemation with the National and Local Election Administration Commissions.

Publicity was given the polls through newspaper editorials, articles, and advertisements; through radio spot announcements and speeches by members of the Election Commissions; through pamphlets, posters, public address system announcements in railroad stations and public squares, signs and bulletin boards prepared by both the Ministry and the Commissions.

Only the Communist Party participated in a large-scale campaign. Their platform included the following planks:

1. Release of Government owned forest and mountain areas to the people for farming.
2. Control of land by farmers.
3. Insure voluntary food collection system.
4. Curtail land owners' powers.
5. Curtail conservatives' powers.
6. Demand a third land reform.
7. Overthrow of the Yoshida Cabinet.
8. Impartial exchange and distribution of farm land.
9. Opposition to unlawful confiscation of farm land.
10. Opposition to witholding tax on price of delivered crops.
11. Opposition to high farm land rent.

The percentage of voter turnout averaged high throughout the country, even though individual electorates varied from a known low of 39 percent to a known high of 97.9 percent. In 20 prefectures the rate of voter participation was above 80 percent, and in only 6 prefectures did it average less than 70. The overall average throughout all elections was 78 percent.

Insofar as many candidates did not announce their political affiliations, the results as announced by the Local Election Administration Commissions were not strictly accurate. According to the best available information, however, political parties won the following number of seats:

Democratic Liberals and Democrats	12,850
Social Democrats	4,532
Communist	953

People's Cooperative	731
Minor Parties	469
Independents	91,188

According to the National Election Administration Commission, less than 10 percent of former members who ran for re-election were rejected; but 60 percent of the successful candidtes were men who were holding office for the first time.

Summation - August 1949

Agricultural Land Commissions Elections

Elections of members of Local Land Commissions of each village, town, and city were held throughout Japan on 18 August 1949. In general, each Commission consisted of ten members, divided into 3 groups:

Group A - Tenant Farmers - 2 Members

Group B - Landlords - 2 Members

Group C - Owner-Cultivator - 6 Members

All tenant farmers were eligible to run for office and to vote for the candidates in Group A. Landlords were eligible to run for office and vote for candidates in Group B. Owner-Cultivators were qualified to run for office and vote for candidates in Group C. In all, there were 11,043 Commissions to be staffed.

Too few candidates filed to make the campaign an active one. In 4,625, or 42 percent, of the Commissions, only as many candidates filed as there were seats to be filled. These posts were awarded to the candidates who had filed without a vote. In 435 Commissions there were more seats to be filled than there were candidates who filed, thus causing vacancies within the Commissions. In Shiga Prefecture an observer gave 3 reasons for this dearth of candidates, and similar reasons were said to be the cause of similar conditions in other prefectures. The reasons were:

1. Few people felt themselves qualified to handle the difficult local problems.

2. Many people were disinclined to place themselves in a position to be a target of Communist attacks.

3. In some cases, candidates were pre-selected by local bosses or influential groups. Persons not so selected realized it was futile to enter the campaign.

The mechanics of the election were handled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with the National and Local Election Administration Commissions.

Publicity was given the polls through newspaper editorials, articles, and advertisements; through radio spot announcements and speeches by members

of the Election Commissions; and through pamphlets, posters, public address system announcements in railroad stations and public squares, and signs and bulletin boards prepared by both the Ministry and the Commissions.

Political activities of the candidates were negligible in most cases. There was a marked absence of debates and canvassing. However, in some areas, farmer associations and related organizations actively supported certain candidates and in some areas political parties backed their men. But the campaign was not essentially a political one insofar as candidates were not required to state their political affiliations when they filed.

Only the Communist Party participated in a large-scale campaign. Its platform included the following planks:

1. Advocation for the release of Government owned forest and mountain areas tothe people for farming.
2. Advocation for control of land by farmers.
3. Advocation of measures to insure voluntary food collection system.
4. Advocation of the curtailment of powers of the land owners.
5. Advocation of the curtailment of the powers of the conservatives.
6. Demand for a third land reform.
7. Demand for the overthrow of the Yoshida Cabinet.
8. Demand for an impartial exchange and distribution of farm land.
9. Opposition to unlawful confiscation of farm land.
10. Opposition to withholding tax on price of delivered crops.
11. Opposition to high farm land rent.

The percentage of voter turnout averaged high throughout the country. In 20 prefectures, more than 80 percent of the qualified voters participated. In only 6 prefectures, did less than 70 percent cast ballots. The overall average throughout all elections was 78 percent.

Insofar as many candidates did not declare their political affiliations, the results as announced by the Local Election Administration Commissions were not strictly accurate. However, according to the National Election Administration Commission, political parties won the following number of seats:

Democratic Liberals and Democrats	12,850
Social Democrats	4,532

Communist	953
People's Cooperatives	731
Minor Parties	469
Independents	91,188

Sixty percent of the successful candidates were men who were holding office for the first time while 40 percent were former incumbents. Less than 10 percent of the former members who ran for re-election were rejected.

31 Aug.

Subject: Report on the Result of Second General Election of Members on City, Town or Village Agricultural Land Commission.

From : Agricultural Land Section, M.A.F.

Reporting date: Aug. 31, 1949

The result of the Second General Election reported to the Ministry by 30th, Aug. is as follows. The result, however, is the interim one, subject to some alteration in case the result of future investigations calls for it.

(1) With regard to 4,625 or 42% of all the commissions there was no need to hold the election for the reason that the number of candidates representing each of the categories did not exceed the fixed number of members of each category. Chief reasons wherefor members have been returned dispensing with the election, in so many localities, are as follows: -

1. In may localities the agreement on candidacy has been arrived at among rural divisions for the purpose of sending from each division of the village the equal number of members to the commission;

2. Not a few persons have dared to assume the candidacy to membership for the reason that the experience gained hitherto taught them that the members on the commission have much to do to tackle their duties;

3. The farmers' agitation for reform is now at a low ebb, and does not display the systematic activity as it did in the past, particularly at the commencement of Agricultural Land Reform.

To speak in detail, however, the percentage held in the total localities by those localities where no election was held, considerably varies in prefectures, the highest percentage being 73% in Shiga and Aichi Prefectures, and the lowest 10% in

Akita Prefecture. Speaking generally, in the less advanced districts, such as Tohoku and South Kyushu, the percentage under consideration was low, that is the competition among candidates was pretty hot.

(2) As regards the remaining 639 commissions wherefor the election of members was held the result thereof was pretty good. That is, in 20 prefectures the percentage of abstention was less than 20%, in 10 prefectures the percentage was less than 30%, in the other prefectures the percentage was more than 30%, while the average of the percentage represents 22%.

As divided by sex the percentage of abstention of females is higher than that of males by 15% - 20%.

(Remarks) Prefectures wherefor the percentage of abstention by sex is available, are as follows:

	Male	Female
Miyagi	13%	28%
Ibaragi.....	13%	36%
Nagano	12%	26%
Kyoto	21%	42%
Miyazaki.....	16%	35%

(3) Those commissions which had to hold re-election owing to the insufficient number of candidates, numbered 435. The evident reason for this, is that, as the new categories have been adopted for the Second Election in view of the new situation ushered in the Agricultural Land Reform, the number of persons who hold the vote and who belong to the First and Second Categories, has become few.

(4) Of the members who compose the new commission, 60% represents the persons occupying the membership for the first time. To speak otherwise, it may be assumed that 40% of former members represents those who voluntarily resigned the membership or those who failed in the election for want of the support of electors. However, the number of those former members who are unsuccessful in the election, is very few, that is, a little short of 10% of all the former members. This may be illustrated by the following result obtained in Akita Prefecture.

	Candidate	Successful candidates	Percentage of successful candidates	Unsuccessful candidates
	persons	persons	%	persons
New	2,237	1,247 (55%)	55%	990
Old	1,232	1,010 (45%)	85%	222
Total	3,469	2,257 (100%)	65%	1,212

Remarks. The percentage of former candidates who failed in the election, against the full number of members of 2,270, is little short of 10%.

(5) Political parties whereto belong successful candidates cannot be ascertained accurately. For, as the candidates do not state the political parties whereto they belong in their report on candidacy, unlike in the case ordinary elections the outsiders must rely upon a mere guess in trying to classify candidates according to political parties, provided the candidates announced the political party they belong to in their campaign.

The figures indicated in this report are those ascertained and classified per political party by the election administration committee of the prefecture concerned by means of the method of its own and not in accordance with the uniform standard. Inaccurate as it is the report discloses the indisputable fact that the persons belonging to no political party or remotely connected with any political party, occupy the preponderant percentage of the new membership.

1st draft

Summation - September 1949

Prefectural Land Commissions Elections

More than 100,000 eligible voters went to the polls on 20 September 1949 to choose their 10-men prefectural land commissions. These commissions are shouldered with the responsibility of completing the important task of Japan's post-war agrarian reforms. As in the local commissions, members of these prefectural commissions are divided into 3 gruups:

A. Tenant farmer group - 2 members

B. Landowner group - 2 members

C. Owner-cultivator group - 6 members

In addition to the 10 elected members, the prefectural governor may appoint three persons. The three may be appointed at any time within the two-year term.

Certain political parties, including the Communists, were believed to have backed their candidates strongly. They were said to have taken advantage of the lack of restrictions in the land election on the theory that publicity gained here would carry over in part to the House of Councillors' election scheduled for the spring of 1950. And some observers described the race as an unofficial "straw vote" or sample to determine the relative strength of each party. This despite the fact that the election was not a "popular" one in which the people themselves participated.

Qualified voters included only the successful candidates of the Local Land Commissions elections held during August 1949. Successful candidates of Group A in that election were eligible to vote for Group A prefectural land commissioners in this poll. Successful candidates of Groups B and C of that election were eligible to vote respectively for Groups B and C prefectural land commissioners in this poll. In all, there were 110,723 persons qualified to vote. According to reports of the National Election Administration Commission, the strength of the electorate by political parties was:

Democratic Liberal and Democratic	12,850
Social Democratic	4,532
Communist	953
People's Cooperative	731
Minor Parties	469
Independents	91,188

Candidates were not restricted to the electorate, however. Any person who was qualified to vote in the former election was eligible to be a candidate for the prefectural commission. Any person qualified to vote in Group A, B or C in the August poll could file his candidacy in his respective group for the September race.

Candidates for the election totalled 1,640 as the polls opened, but many dropped out at the last moment. As there were 460 seats to be filled, this number of candidates averaged 3.5 candidates for each position.

The tenant farmer group ran 367 candidates for 92 seats. The land owner group put up 392 candidates for 92 positions. And the owner-cultivator group totalled 881 candidates for the 276 seats. Eighty-seven candidates withdrew from the 3 groups before the close of the polls. The number of candidates by political party was:

Democratic Liberal	164
Democrat	52
Social Democrat	222
Communist	102
Labor Farmer	14
Japan Farmer	11
Minor Parties	20
Independents	968
Total	1,553

The turnout for the voting was the highest on record for any election, according to Kyodo. The prefecture with the highest percentage of voter participation was Yamagata with 99.8 percent, followed by Akita with 99.3 percent, and the lowest was Okayama with 84.0 percent. The average throughout Japan was 95.6 percent, which was a great increase over the 92.8 percent record set in the first prefectural farm land election of February 1947.

The most outstanding characteristic as shown by the results of the voting was the sharp advance made by the Social Democratic Party candidates and the complete drop of the Communist Party influence. The Social Democrats won nearly as many of the posts as all other parties combined, while only 2 out of the 102 Communist candidates were successful. Seats won by political parties, as reported by the National Election Administration Commission were

Democratic Liberal	54
Democrat	17
Social Democrat	75
Communist	2
Labor Farmer	3
Japan Farmer	3
Minor Parties	7
Independents	296
Total	457

Districts in which candidates obtained equal votes were Hyogo with two cases, and Osaka and Nara with one each. The winning candidate in each instance was selected by lot.

Because of the last minute dropping out by candidates, there were uncontested or no poll districts. These included seats in the tenant farmer group in Shimane and Kagawa, and in the landlord group in Fukuoka where only one candidate filed for the two seats to be filled in each group, as well as in the owner-cultivator group in Miyazaki where only three men ran for the six seats.

Although there were a total of 460 seats in the elections, only 457 were filled. Re-elections will have to be held in Miyagi, Hyogo, and Kagoshima as one candidate in each of those prefectures failed to garner the legally required number of votes.

Wm. Haigé

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH ARMY
United States Army
Office of the Commanding General
APO 343

AGMGL 091

7 July 1949

SUBJECT: Reports Required for Agricultural Land Commissions Election

TO: See Distribution

1. Reference: Paragraph 7, Operational Directive 19, 2 April 1949, as amended by Operational Directive 19/1, 15 June 1949, this headquarters.

2. Reports called for by referenced directive will not be required by this headquarters for the coming general election of members of Agricultural Land Commissions to be held on 18 August 1949 except those reports which are required by paragraphs 7a (2), 7c (3), and 7c (4) of the above reference.

3. One narrative report from the Civil Affairs Team of each prefecture, will be submitted in triplicate, (Reports Control Symbol MG 22 R1) direct to this headquarters, with information copies to intermediate headquarters. Reports will be dispatched within ten days after the election day and will contain the following information:

a. The name, location of committee to which elected, and name of supporting political party, if any, of each successful candidate. No report of independent candidates elected will be required.

b. A general account of the election with emphasis on voting interest of the electorate, publicity given the election, prominent campaign issues and significant political strategy.

c. Any serious violation of election laws.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

J. A. O'Brien

J. A. O'BRIEN
CWO USA
Asst Adj Gen

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