

SAKAI, Tadamasu (2355)

11

(13)

SECRET

NAME: SAKAI, Tadamasa (Count).

PRESENT STATUS: Confined in Sugamo Prison.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

In 1923, member, House of Peers; 1939 Chairman of the Imperial Agricultural Association; 1939 Minister of Agriculture and Forestry; 1942 Director of IRAPS; 1944 Councilor IRAA; 1944 Director IRAA; 1944 Vice-President, House of Peers; long association with KINKEI GAKUIN (Institute of the Golden Pheasant) of which he was chief patron. This was an institute where Fascist minded intellectuals developed their theories on Japanese policies and it had important influence on senior bureaucrats, politicians and officers. SAKAI was the liaison between IRAPS and KENKYU KAI, an important political bloc within the House of Peers. Listed as having been a member of KOKUI KAU (National Prestige Society), KOKUMIN SO KEKKI UNDO RENRAKU HONBU (National General Inspiration Movement Liaison Headquarters.) No recommendations regarding the final disposition of SUBJECT have been received from CIS/G-2, FEC.

REMARKS:

The positions held by SUBJECT in the Japanese Government, his connections with political organizations and the nature of his activities in these, show that during the period involved he took an active part in the

"planning, preparation, initiation or waging of war of aggression or a war in violation of International Treaties, agreements and assurances, or participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of the foregoing"

within the meaning and intent of paragraph 1.a. of Reference A.

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
-1-

88
SAKAI, TADAMASA

National Spirit Mobilization
Control League

See:

G-2 KUZUU - TAB. M

Date: 8 May 1947

Report of Investigation Division, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP.

Inv. Div. No. 2355

CRD No.

Report by: Major B.R. Patterson

Title:

Tadamasa SAKAI

Synopsis of facts: SAKAI (Count) born 1893. Graduate from Kyoto Imperial University. Member House of Peers 1923. Minister of Agri. and Forestry, ABE Cabinet 1939-40. Chairman Imperial Agri. Assoc. 1940. Director Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society 1942-44. Vice Pres. House of Peers 1944. Director of IRAA 1943-1944. Councillor IRAA 1944-45. Apprehension requested per CIC memo 6 Dec. 1945. Interned Sugamo 16 Dec. 45 per DR dated 17 Dec. 45.

-P-

DETAILS:

At Tokyo:

This investigation is predicated upon the request of the Honorable Lord WRIGHT, President of the International War Crimes Commission.

Original apprehension request on the above named subject per CIC memorandum dated 6 December 1945. A review of the files reflect the following information:

*Evaluation of SAKAI, Tadamasa at time of arrest, December 1945: Born 1893. Member of the House of Peers (1923); Minister of Agriculture and Forestry - ABE Cabinet 1939-40; Chairman of the Imperial Agricultural Association 1940; Director of Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society 1942-44; Vice President of the House of Peers October 1944.

Count SAKAI has been long associated with the fascist organization KINKEI GAKUIN (Institute of the Golden Pheasant) of which he is the chief patron. It had important influence on senior bureaucrats, politicians and officers. This society, though not large in number, was an institute where fascist-minded intellectuals developed their theories on Japanese politics. Count SAKAI was the liaison between the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society and the KENKYU KAI, an important political bloc within the House of Peers.

Distribution:

1 Prosecution
1 CRD
1 Inv. Div. (File 2355)
1 Major Patterson

Do not write in this space.

As a fascist politician of high posts and long record, and as Director of the IRAPS, Count SAKAI should be arrested and detained.

Subject qualified under Paragraph 7b of Joint Staff Basic Directive for Post Surrender Military Government in Japan Proper of 3 Nov 1945."

The biographical history of SAKAI is as follows:

- 1893: Born in Tokyo, younger brother of Count ABE Masanao. SAKAI married Akiko, daughter of Count Tadaoki and was adopted into family.
- 1900-1915: Attended Peers School, Tokyo.
- 1915-1918: Attended Kyoto Imperial University (Law) and Tokyo Imperial University.
- 1920-1921: Private Secretary to Justice Minister (OKI, Enkichi) in the HARA Cabinet.
- 1921-1922: Private Secretary to Railway Minister (MOTODA, Hajime) in TAKAHASHI Cabinet.
- 1923-1945: Member of the House of Peers
- 1930: Delegate to World Parliamentary Trade Conference at Brussels, and International Parliamentary Alliance Conference at London. Visited France, Spain, Italy, Hungary, North Africa and the United States.
- 1934-1943: President of TEIKOKU NO KAI (Imperial Agricultural Assoc)
- 1935: Advisor to Industrial Bank of Japan.
- 1936.- 1943: President of CHUO MORIN KYOGI KAI (Central Agri. and Forestry Conference).
- 1939-1940: Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in ABE Cabinet.
- 1941-1943: President of CHUO NOGYO KYORYOKU KAI (Central Agricultural Cooperative Society).
- 1942 (Feb): Member of YOKUSAN SEIJI TAISEI KYOGI KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Political Structure Conference).
- (May): Member of YOKUSAN SEIJI RYOKU KESSHU JUMBI KAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Political Consolidation Preparation Committee).
- 1942-1944: JONIN SOMU (Standing Director) of Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society.
- 1943-1945: President of the CHUO NOGYO KAI (Central Agricultural Assoc).
- 1943-1944: SOMU (Director) of Imperial Rule Assistance Association.
- 1944-1945: SANYO (Councillor) of Imperial Rule Assistance Association.
- 1944-1945: Vice Speaker of House of Peers.

In addition SAKAI is listed as having been a member of the KOKUI KAI (National Prestige Society), KOKUMIN SEISHIN SODOIN UNDO (National Spirit Mobilization Movement), and KOKUMIN SO KEKKI UNDO RENRAKU HOMBU (National General Inspiration Movement Liaison Headquarters).

SAKAI's interest in agriculture and agrarian reform led him to the following positions in agricultural societies:

- 1934-1943 - President of the TEIKOKU NO KAI (Imper. Agri. Assoc.)
- 1936-1943 - President of the CHUO NORIN KYOGI KAI (Central Agri. and Forestry Conference).
- 1941-1943 - President of the CHUO NOGYO KYORYOKU KAI (Central Agricultural Cooperative Society).
- 1943-1945 - President of the CHUO NOGYO KAI (Central Agricultural Association).

The societies, no doubt played their part in the eventual "nationalization" of the industry in keeping with the inevitable trend of the nation's economy, but the fact that SAKAI held high office in them from

the mid-thirties serves to highlight his interest in agriculture, not his nationalism or ultranationalism.

An interrogation of SAKAI on 27 February 1946 revealed the following information:

"SAKAI is presently fifty-three years of age; graduated from the Imperial University of Kyoto in 1918, majoring in political and economic sciences; from 1920 to 1923 he was Secretary of the Minister of Justice; and from 1923 on a member of the House of Peers - having no special duties in connection therewith. In 1934 he became Chairman of the Imperial Agriculture Society, a semi-official organization interested in the development of agriculture in Japan and the problems in connection therewith, holding such position until 1945.

SAKAI was Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in the ABE Cabinet, serving in such position from October 1939 until January 1940, being concerned during such period of time, because of the acute food shortage in Japan, with plans for producing more food; that in such plans it was necessary to take into consideration the requirements of the Japanese armed forces in China and elsewhere. It is his estimate that during this period of time approximately 20% of the nation's food supply was allocated to the Army and Navy; and because of the acute shortage of food supply in 1939, it was impossible to build up any reserves for the future. Upon the fall of the ABE Cabinet these duties were discontinued and he had no further interest in them.

SAKAI was the patron and a member of the KENKAI-GAKUIN Society; that this society was not pro-Nazi, pro-Fascist, or political in any manner; that on the contrary it was a society made up of scholars whose interests were the study of ancient Chinese literature; that he was a patron of the same for the reason he had donated the use of one of his houses as the headquarters for the society; the president of the society being Mashiro YASUOKA, a noted scholar of Chinese literature.

SAKAI became a member of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association in 1943, attended some meetings, but was not active therein. During the war, as President of the Agriculture Society, he made every effort to increase food production. As an individual he was opposed to war and did not favor the Axis cause nor had he any sympathy with the Nazi or Fascist form of government."

It was recommended that this subject be interrogated again with the idea of developing possible evidence against the various defendants and if this is done, the subject be used as a witness in connection therewith.

The above interrogation was conducted by IPS. SAKAI claims little knowledge of any of the activities of the present war crimes defendants. His association with them was generally through the diet and the diet was usually completely in the dark as to what was happening in the cabinet and the Imperial Conferences.

Of all the defendants, his only close friend is KIDO. They mixed socially and often discussed government plans and policies in general, but never in detail.

There appears to be no reason, as far as IPS is concerned, for further detaining Count SAKAI at Sugamo Prison.

SUMMARY

SAKAI was the chief patron of the KINKEI GAKUIN (Golden Pheasant Academy). However, this society was not "fascist" (as described in the accusation) in the usual sense of the term; it was an ideological "revere-the-emperor" orientalist institution interested in oriental philosophy and agriculture, in which sense it may be called "nationalist" rather than "ultra-nationalist". The tone of the society was set by its master YASUOKA Masatsu, the theorist, who quarreled with such practical reactionaries as OKAWA Shumei in 1927 and remained aloof from them thereafter. Bureaucrats, politicians and senior army officers interested in oriental philosophy and the agrarian movement did patronize the institution, but it is a misrepresentation to describe the organization as a hotbed of politics "where fascist minded intellectuals developed their theories on Japanese politics", although the police show that some of the young army officers interested in YASUOKA's lectures imbued the young students of the KINKEI GAKUIN with their ideals of expansion and national reform. YASUOKA and his society avoided entanglement in the infamous coup d'etat intrigues of the 1930 decade and were never impugned in the trials which followed them.

The KENKYU KAI (Research Club founded in 1900) was one of ten discussion groups in the House of Peers which continued into the war years, despite the formation of the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society. These clubs were established more on the basis of rank and social position than upon political differences. The statement that "Count SAKAI was the liaison between the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society", presumably based on an OWI intercept to the effect that in November 1944 "the work as liaison person between IRAPS and the KENKYU KAI, of which Count SAKAI had been in charge, was given Vicount HACHIJO Takamasa", loses importance in consideration of the fact that practically all members of the KENKYU KAI were members of IRAPS and that many were officers of the Political Society.

SAKAI held various positions in the official rosters of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society. Validity of such activity as basis for war crimes charges depends upon the ultimate evaluation of the Imperial Rule Assistance organizations. In its study "War Politics in Japan" CIS has already given its opinion of these societies and of the men active in them.

These societies 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.

The societies no doubt played their part in the eventual "nationalization" of the industry in keeping with the trend of the nation's economy, but the fact that SAKAI held high office in them from the mid-thirties serves to highlight his interest in agriculture.

Membership in the KOKUI KAI (National Prestige Society) is proof only of SAKAI's pre-eminent social and political prestige.

Whether or not activity in these various societies is a basis for war crimes indictment depends on the ultimate evaluation of these organizations. Accusations against SAKAI appear to be ideological and political nature, exaggerated by wartime propaganda and unsubstantiated by any specific evidence.

There is nothing in the files relating to the above-named subject indicating that he was at any time active in promoting aggressive warfare, nor was anything developed at interrogations to indicate the probability that he had done so.

It is believed that all sources of information have been exhausted at this time.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

The Tokyo Office - At Tokyo - Will follow and report disposition of Subject.

P E N D I N G

SECRET

NAME: SAKAI, Tadasasa (Count)

PRESENT STATUS: Confined in Sugamo Prison.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

1923 Member, House of Peers; 1939 Chairman of the Imperial Agricultural Association; 1939, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry; 1942 Director of IRAPS; 1944 Councillor IRAA; 1944 Director IRAA; 1944 Vice President House of Peers; Long association with KINKEI GAKUIN (Institute of the Golden Pheasant) of which he was chief patron. This was an institute where Fascist minded intellectuals developed their theories on Japanese policies and it had important influence on senior bureaucrats, politicians and officers. SAKAI was the liaison between IRAPS and KENKYU KAI; an important political bloc within the House of Peers. Listed as having been a member of KOKUI KAU (National Prestige Society) KOKUMIN SO KENKI UNDO RENRAKU HONBU (National General Inspiration Movement Liaison Headquarters).

No recommendations regarding final disposition of SUBJECT have been received from CIS/C-2 APPAC.

REMARKS:

The positions held by SUBJECT in the Japanese Government, his connections with political organizations and the nature of his activities in these, show that during the period involved he took active part in the

"planning, preparation, initiation or waging of war of aggression or a war in violation of International Treaties, agreements and assurances, or participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of the foregoing."

within the meaning and intent of paragraph 1.a. of Reference A.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

1
SAKAI

1. 會見者、昭和十六年十二月七日 及 昭和十七年九月二日
一日、如何に職務を携り居たりや。
○昭和十六年十二月七日、 貴族院議員、帝国農会会長
農林省米穀局顧問、勸業銀行参事
昭和十七年九月二日 貴族院議員 貴族院副議長
日本穀類中央会長、農林省食料局顧問
2. 會見者氏名
酒井忠正 SAKAI TADAMASA
3. 會見者が本名、外使用する氏名及有るに氏名を記入せよ。
○ナシ
4. 生年月日。
○明治廿六年六月十日 (1893)
5. 出生地。
○東京市本郷区西片町十番地
6. 身長、 ○62½ 寸
7. 体重 ○125 ポンド
8. 傷痕目録 不具、有る。 ○ナシ
9. 現住所。
○東京都豊島区西巢鴨 柏屋所
10. 住居地。
○東京都新宿区戸塚町二、八八
11. 身分証明、標式番号。
○ナシ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

12. 會見者が捕ハレタル時、例 ソルト同時ニ其理由 犯罪ヲ犯シタルアリヤ。

○ ナシ

13. 會見者ノ現在マデ、最高階級。

○ 農林大臣

14. 會見者ノ業務、年代記録

會見者が昭和六年一月一ヨリ現在マデ、職務ヲ記入セヨ。

前記記入、時政府ノ軍閥、役目ヲ記入、時ハ會見者ノ地位ヲ忘レズニ記入セヨ。

- 昭和六年一月、 貴族院議員
- 昭和七年七月、 貴族院伯爵議員改選ニテ再選、
- 昭和九年十月、 帝國農會會長就任、
- 昭和十年、 農林省米穀局顧問就任、日本勸業銀行參與理事(就任)
- 昭和十四年七月、 貴族院伯爵議員改選ニテ再選
- 昭和十四年十月、 農林大臣就任
- 昭和十四年十月、 帝國農會會長辭任、勸業銀行理事接任、
- 昭和十五年一月、 農林大臣辭任
- 昭和十五年十月、 帝國農會會長再任
- 昭和十八年九月、 農業協同會合同ニテ中央農會會結成會長就任
- 昭和十九年十月、 貴族院副議長就任

昭和廿年五月 日本蠶絲中央會長 = 就任
昭和廿年六月 戰時農業團 結成 = 77 農業會長 退任
昭和廿年十二月 貴族院議員 並 = 副議長 辭任
尚且乃 政府、委員會委員 = 任セラル 多ク、農林省軍律 =
汗大就者 酒稅委員會、委員モ勤ム、年次委員會名一
記憶セズ、

15 大政翼賛會、中央及地方會、東京支部會、及大日本政治
會、會員及創立者組織者ヲアツタラバ記入セヨ。

其他各團體支部組合及特別、事務、編輯ヲシコトヲ記入セヨ。

○ 大政翼賛會 = 昭和十八年夏 總務 = 就任

翼賛政治會 = 昭和十七年四月 21 總務、十九年十月 辭任
特別事務、編輯セシコトナシ。

16 黨、組合、協會、兄弟商會、會、學會、協會學會、政治學會、
軍學會、愛國學會、博士學會、教養學會、名譽學會、運動學會
等、會員ヲアツカ記入セヨ。

何事モ前記、事ハ秘密ヲモル記セヨ。

○ 貴族院研究會、農業會、金融學院、大東文化協會

日本米穀會、中央蠶絲會、農業保險協會、肥料協會

東亞文化協議會、芝麻協會、放送協會、日本藝能會

日本教育會、體育會、華族會館

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

4
SAKAI

17. 会见者、家族中前記、處及之、軍連セシ職務ニ
携リ又其地位及直接権利者又、軍接権利者カ
居ルハ、イラ氏名現住所、続柄、勤務先、名、役名
ヲ記入セヨ。

○ナシ

18. 會費、外寄附(土地、金銭)ヲ自発的ニカ又ハ内證ニ有
關係組合ニ渡シテカヲ記入セヨ。

其外國民カラカ上長カ自発的又ハ強制的ニ寄附シカ。

○ナシ

19. 会见者ハ前記關係組合カラ階級、位、勲章、賞状又ハ
名ヲ与ヘラレタコトガアルカ若シアルハ名ヲ与ヘラレ
理由年月日ヲ詳細ニ記入セヨ。

○ナシ

20. 会见者ハB(14)C(15)ト、答テ例外トシテ会见者カ昭
和六年一月一日カラ軍關係、警察、治安、公安、刑事會
ニ關係シコトアリヤ、前記年月日關係會、名又ハ關係
中、最高階級、ソレヲ受テ年月日役目。

○ナシ

21. 昭和六年一月一日カラ会见者カ編輯(題名ト編輯者名)
演説(聴取者人員)關係會カラ頼マレテ演説及編輯ヲ
シテ其會名ヲ記入セヨモシ演説及編輯ヲセ又場合ハ
其趣ヲ記入セヨ。

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

5-
SAKAI

○ 昭和十年ヨリ十八年ニ及ブ毎年四月十日 農會記念日ニ帝國
農會長トシテ農業者ニ対シテラヂオ放送ヲナス。

他ニ演説編輯等ノコトヲナサズ

22. 會見者ハE(2)ノ答ヲ例外トシテ昭和六年一月一日ヨリ
職務トシテソレガ日本国内又ハ国外テ國法監理及支配
人組合名、役目、年月日。

○ナシ