

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 45.
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 output 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.