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SUBJECT: Organized Activity on Behalf of War Criminals

GENERAL INFORMATION -- ORGANIZATIONS

1. In the Far East approximately 8,000 Japanese have been involved in war crimes trials, of which number some 4,500 have been convicted -- about 900 of the latter have been executed, leaving approximately 3,600 convicted war criminals. Of the latter number some 2,500 are now serving sentences, with about 1,600 in Sugamo and the other 900 at various places in the Far East.
2. Any movement which would enlist the support of so many war criminals, their families, relatives, and friends, could become a very powerful force for such purposes as its organizers and leaders might wish to use it. It might tend to undermine the entire war crimes program, as interested parties might claim that the war criminals only did their duty to their country in war time and were punished because Japan lost the war. Certain individuals might take advantage of organized activity and seek to idolize or martyrize the war criminals by claiming that they acted only for the good of their country, and that if there is any guilt, it is the collective guilt of all Japan and, therefore, the war criminals are suffering for the entire country.
3. The first indication that efforts might be made to use war criminals for any special purpose were efforts to secure a complete list of the inmates of Sugamo Prison.
4. In January or February, 1949, a Communist representative had attempted to secure a list of the inmates at Sugamo from a local demobilization bureau and from Central Liaison Office, but was refused.
5. SASAGAWA, Ryūichi, a Class A suspect, released on 24 December 1948, and a former organizer of nationalistic societies attempted in February, 1949, to secure a list of inmates at Sugamo. He was interrogated by LS and denied that he had any political motives or was interested in organizing the war criminals. He claims that he merely wanted to write friendly letters in an attempt to prevent them from becoming Communists. He stated that he was presently aiding some families of the prisoners in Sugamo. SASAGAWA is a man of substantial means and a resourceful organizer. He was warned against any attempt to organize war criminals.
6. Numerous petitions had been received by SCAP in behalf of various convicted war criminals and in one case alone petitions carried over 100,000 signatures. The first petitions indicating organized activities were received in May, 1949, when a number of petitions, signed by hundreds of persons were received in behalf of various war criminals from the Sendai, Japan, area.
7. The possibility that war criminals, their families and relatives, might be organized was noted, and LS began to compile all bits of information which might indicate such activity.
8. On August 19 a petition was forwarded by the Liaison Office which indicated that the families of war criminals from the Tohoku District were acting in concert in behalf of the war criminals detained abroad.



9. In October censorship detachment intercepted a letter which definitely established that organizations were being formed by the families of war criminals. The organization was called the Society of War Criminals Families (S.W.C.F.) (Homu Kankei Kozoku Ka.). The intercept pertained to the organization in Iwate Prefecture and inclosed a copy of draft regulations relative to the rules and activities of the Society. The same indicated that other prefectures were likewise organizing, and that the Japanese Red Cross was being utilized. It stressed that the Peace Conference was the target, but meanwhile they would strive for the release of war criminals in Japan proper and the release or transfer to Japan of war criminals imprisoned abroad.

10. At this time LS had sufficient information to desire censorship services on the communications of a number of individuals. However, general censorship service was discontinued in October, 1949, and the same could not be secured. Special censorship service was maintained over war criminal mail at Sugamo Prison and considerable information was thereafter secured. Such service revealed activity at local and district levels and though the same indicated a nation-wide organization, nothing definite could be learned re the latter.

11. Intercepts indicate that SWCF units now are established in most prefectures and that there is a national organization with headquarters in Tokyo. It held its initial convention at the HONGAJI Temple at TSUKIJI in Tokyo on 27 and 28 October 1949. Another national conference will be held in March or April, 1950. Although the aims of the Association are variously expressed, the primary object is the release of all war criminals at the earliest possible date. In the meantime, they are seeking commutation of sentences, clemency releases, improvements of conditions of criminals in custody and aid to their families. The general tenor of most communications tends to indicate that the promoters feel that the war criminals should have special consideration and assistance. It appears that they are using every possible organization in their efforts in behalf of war criminals. Information concerning S.W.C.F. is set out in Appendix "A".

12. Petitions received in June, July and August indicated that religious organizations were acting in concert in petitioning in behalf of war criminals. Their main plea was that death sentences should be commuted and prisoners serving abroad should be returned to their homeland. It was later learned that the religious organizations were being utilized by the active promoters of releases for war criminals. The activity of religious organizations is set out in Appendix "B".

13. In December an intercept of Sugamo mail disclosed that the Japanese Red Cross was publishing a monthly paper called "Ray of Love" (AI NO HIKARI), which was giving much space to war criminal matters. It appears that the Red Cross is actively engaged in assisting in the general aims of the SWCF. Information about Red Cross activities is set out in Appendix "C".

14. It appears that certain governmental units and officials are active in behalf of war criminals. The "relief sections" of prefectures and the Demobilization Bureau and its local units seem to exceed any possible normal duties they might have in the matter of war criminals. Naturally, officials and agencies are subject to "inquiry" and "pressure" but it appears certain ones are "active" in behalf of war criminals. For information re same, see Appendix "D".



15. Many other organizations appear to be utilized as "fronts" for the SWCF, such as the SOUTH LIGHT MUTUAL HELP SOCIETY (HANEKOGUJOTOKAI) at Tokyo, the UNITED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION of Fukuoka City, the WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE (HEIWA KENSETSU FUJIN DOMEI), the ONNA (Sweet and gentle) WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION of Gifu Prefecture, the YWCA, and the YWCA. (See Appendix "E"). The SOUTHERN FRIENDS ASSOCIATION has recognized the existence and merits of the SWCF and apparently collaborates with it.

16. It appears that organizations are being formed to assist or support the SWCF. One of such is known as the KOEN KAI or Supporters' Association. It has made some "relief payments" and offers to pay travelling expenses to relatives to visit war criminals in Sugamo and to attend meetings. For additional information see Appendix F.

### ACTIVITIES

17. Apparently the activity in behalf of war criminals will expand to the fullest extent possible for the ingenious and cunning oriental. The present movement is primarily that of the relatives of war criminals, but it appears that they are aided openly or covertly by many others, such as public officials, former military personnel and ex-war criminals.

18. Initially, the activities were primarily to arouse sympathy and were mainly in the form of letters, post cards, visits, and petitions signed by anywhere from one to thousands. They are directed to SCAP, the various Missions, the Allied Council and to almost anyone in Japan who might be of influence. Religious organizations were utilized fully in an effort to arouse sympathy and to "soften" the war crimes program.

19. With the organizing of many units the aims of the association gradually crystallized with the obvious main effort being the release of all war criminals as soon as possible, and in the interim to work for "home land service", better treatment of war criminals, and to furnish aid to their families, and clemency measures. It appears that the society is "strong" for an early peace treaty in the belief that it will increase the chances of the release of the criminals.

20. The units were very active, holding regular and special meetings, as well as meetings of various committees and special units.

21. In addition to the "Ray of Love" published by the Red Cross, there is another publication called "HOZOMI" (Hope) issued monthly by the Tottori Prefecture SWCF. It appears to be devoted exclusively to war crimes matters. In addition it is known that the KUMAMOTO prefecture SWCF sponsored a publication, limited as far as known, to a single issue.

22. There is an organized and systematic attempt to contact every person or agency of possible influence in behalf of war criminals. As one active worker in the Tokyo SWCF put it "Chairman IMAMURA and a branch society of each area never fail to get into contact with foreign diplomats visiting this country, foreign ambassadors or ministers stationed in this country, lawyers and missionaries, and are endeavoring to get results by inviting them or presenting them with souvenirs. When the Governor-General of Hong Kong were in Tokyo on 6 October 1949, four relatives of war criminals held at Hong Kong attempted to see them at the British Embassy, but had to leave their petition with the Second Secretary. When the High Commissioner, MacDonald of British South East Asia was in Tokyo in September 1949, a delegation of war criminal relatives called on him at the British Embassy in behalf of war criminals held in Malaya and Singapore. In December, 1949,



when Capt. Yenke, Chief Prosecutor of the Phillipine War Crimes Office was in Tokyo, he was a guest at a tea party attended by over thirty members of the Phillipine unit of the SWCF. The newspaper HOZOMI relates that he received a souvenir, and the society members were asked to contribute to meet expenditures for the occasion. The extent to which the movement will go is indicated by the following minor items: a visit by a delegation to the wife of the Dutch Ambassador; the presentation of a doll to a departing female employee of the Dutch Mission; dispatching of Christmas cards to the "French Ambassador" and the Commandant of the prison in French Indo China, as well as letters, petitions, and personal visits to thank missions, GHQ and pertinent personnel for "past favors".

23. On 27 January 1950 a dinner of appreciation was given in honor of Attorney Matsumoto and Prison Chaplain SATO by the Tokyo SWCF. Other invitations have been extended to section as well as division chiefs of the Foreign Office, Japan Red Cross Society, the First and Second Demobilization Bureau. On 28 January Attorney MATSUMOTO and prison Chaplain SATO spoke to the Tokyo SWCF (Netherlands Unit). On 31 January 1950 a party was held by the Red Cross Society apparently to permit the SWCF to "thank" Dr. Reiner (?) and Mr. Angrose (apparently of the International Red Cross Society) for their efforts for war criminals. Mrs. INAMURA and others of the Tokyo SWCF attended as well as the Chiefs of the 1st and 2d Demobilization Bureau of the Foreign Office and the Chief of the Young Men's Protective Bureau. They have consulted Premier Yoshida, Members of the Diet and Ministries and Bureaus. In addition, they have approached two Municipal Assemblies, one of which passed a resolution endorsing a petition for war criminals. There is some evidence to indicate that individuals in the Foreign Office might secretly be supporting the movement. The society apparently will become more active in an attempt to utilize Japanese Governmental Agencies and Officials.

24. The various nests are utilized for morale purposes, and to make plans to further the movement. Released war criminals have appeared to make reports and give speeches. Some of the meetings partake of the nature of a social gathering. It is known that some of them serve tea, and at another meeting presents were given by "outsiders", and at another a group photograph of the unit was taken. Usually copies of the "Ray of Love" are distributed and reports of informative and liaison nature are received from other units.

25. It is not known if the practice is nation-wide, but some of the units collect dues at the rate of 200 yen per member with an additional donation expected, and with special assessments as needed. There is ample evidence to indicate that the units are trying to raise a sizeable fund for their expenses. There is evidence that plans are under way to solicit funds from the general public. The "Supporter Society" is raising some funds and have made some relief payments "to families of war criminals, and in some instances, has offered to pay the expenses, such as train fare to families of war criminals who wish to attend SWCF meetings or to visit relatives in Sugamo. The "Supporter Association" appears to be the means by which funds will be secured from non-war criminals families enlisting their support on behalf of war criminals.

26. Various intercepts indicate that the SWCF takes credit for all or a part of the "favorable actions" of recent months, such as the Christmas clemency, good time credit and parole system, and return of war criminals from Indonesia. These actions undoubtedly will be used in behalf of the movement and stressed at the forthcoming National Conference in the latter part of March or April of this year.



27. Various intercepts indicate that there are a number of persons who are devoting much of their time to the movement. Some rather influential persons have taken part in the movement including such military officers as ex-General SIBITA and ex-Major General Naaji KURIHARA. Ex-Major General Heichiro YAMAMOTO had been repatriated from Indonesia but was still in Sugamo when arrangements were made for his appearance at the forthcoming meeting of the Tokyo SWCF, in which his wife had been very active.

28. Various intercepts indicate that the promoters of the SWCF feared that the movement would be unlawful. As one active worker in the Tokyo SWCF wrote "ever since the end of hostilities we were called under the name of 'war criminals families' and were constantly cautioned to carry on activities in utmost secrecy."

29. The petitions and appeals to SCAP and Allied Agencies appear to be made in a contrite and penitent spirit and are calculate to play upon the mercy and generosity of the Allied Commands. However, the activity hereinabove noted, as well as certain intercepted communications, indicate there are many who, at least privately, are not of kindred spirit. Their attitude ranges from the public statement of Sadasaburo SEKIYA, Committee Chairman of the Japanese YMCA, to the initial National Conference of the SWCF in Tokyo in October 1945 that "War criminals are the victims of the whole nation" to the letter to a prisoner in Sugamo expressing sympathy and assuring him that no "mean opinion" was held of war criminals.

30. A few translations of miscellaneous intercepts are attached hereto to supplement the matter listed in the various appendices. ("E")

#### C O N C L U S I O N

31. Organized activity on behalf of war criminals is unnecessary. An official agency of the Japanese Government performs any service desired by GHR and such service for the war criminal or his family as is normally given in criminal matters. A war criminal and his relatives have access to GHR and Japanese governmental agencies and do not need a sponsoring or supporting organization. Furthermore, GHR will consider each case on its own merits and will not be influenced by pressure or pressure groups.

32. The organized activity in behalf of war criminals appears to be contrary to occupation policies. The Potsdam Declaration provided that "Stern justice shall be meted out to all war criminals", and the Japanese Government by the instrument of surrender accepted the provisions of said declaration and undertook " \* \* \* to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration in good faith \* \* \*." In addition SCAP has forbidden any pensions or benefits to ex-military personnel except the wounded to whom certain limited payments could be made. In addition, most ex-military personnel and all war criminals have been purged. The movement in behalf of war criminals partakes of the nature of political activity because of the pressure it is exerting on Japanese agencies and officials. It gives a preference to such of the military as are convicted war criminals. It further appears that continuation of the movement will tend to glorify and martyrize the war criminal. The crimes committed by these men were crimes according to the accepted international standards and organizations on their behalf should not be permitted. It is doubted that the Japanese Government would permit such organizations and activity on behalf of the felons held in Japanese jails.



RECOMMENDATION

3. It is recommended that Legal Section:

a. Forward a copy of this report to Government Section, the interested agency on purge matters and in the suppression of militaristic and ultra-nationalistic movements.

b. Cooperate with and supply Government Section with such further information as is secured.

c. Cooperate in any investigation Government Section desires.

d. Ascertain if the activities of the Japanese Red Cross and the use of the name of the Red Cross is known to International Red Cross authorities and approved by them.



APPENDIX "A"

ACTIVITY OF SOCIETY OF WAR CRIMINAL FAMILIES (SWCF)

1. Mail intercepts indicate that organizations in behalf of war criminals by their relatives are now established in many prefectures. The most common name is "Society of War Criminal Families" (HOMU KANKEI KAZOKU KAI). In a number of prefectures there are local organizations. In addition, there is a national organization, the exact nature of which is not known. It held its initial convention at the HONJAJI Temple, Tsukiji in Tokyo on 27 and 28 October, 1949. Another national convention will be held in March or April, 1950.

2. Within the framework of the SWCF there are also units which deal primarily with certain phases of war criminal activity. Some units specialize in matters pertaining to those war criminals serving in Japan and others specialize in matters pertaining to war criminals serving outside of Japan. The latter unit in turn is being divided into groups promoting activity in behalf of war criminals held by a certain country, i.e., Australia, Philippines, etc.

3. The IWATA Prefecture SWCF held its "inaugural ceremony" on 18 September 1949 at MIZUSAWA. Printed draft regulations, dated September, 1949, were available. A copy of the letter setting them forth is attached hereto. Tadao IWASAKI, 29 Azumacho, Mizusawa, Machi, Isawa-gun, Iwate Prefecture, apparently is an officer of the SWCF, and his home is its office. It is noted that the Society is composed of war criminal families and "interested persons". It is noted that committeemen were to be elected from each of the war crimes districts, i.e., American, Australian, Dutch, etc.

4. There appear to be SWCF organizations in the TOHOKU District. A group called NANKO AOBA-KAI was formed. It appears to be composed of representatives of the SWCF of the prefectures in that district. The representatives forming the group appear to have been:

SATO, Kichinosuke and KAMIYA, Kosaku, of Aomori-Ken;  
HONDA, Masao, of Fukushima-Ken;  
IWASAKI, Tadao, of Iwate-Ken;  
HISAMATSU, Sakae, of Yamagata-Ken  
SHINGMURA, Shoichi, of Akita-Ken

The district organization apparently sponsored a trip to Tokyo by KAMIYA, Kosaku and IWASAKI, Tadao, in August, 1949, and during said trip they presented a petition to SCAP on behalf of 114 war criminals from the six prefectures in the TOHOKU District detained abroad, MIYAGI Prefecture being the sixth. KAMIYA's address is given as 16 Hiro-cho KOMEGAHUKURO, Sendai. The petition indicates that at the end of 1948 a petition signed by 30,000 persons was presented by them to the YMCA and a similar petition in May, 1949. KAMIYA also serves on the committee for Australian held war criminals. 48 petitions dated from 27 July to 5 October 1949 were forwarded to SCAP urging that the war criminals from the six prefectures who are serving in foreign countries be repatriated. All had the same mimeographed cover sheets and were undoubtedly sponsored by the Association. Eight similar petitions from Akita-Ken bearing over 10,000 signatures, made a similar request for six war criminals. In this connection it is noted that only five of them were named, the sixth

APP  
"A"



apparently not having been listed by those promoting the petition.

5. The MIYAGI Prefecture SWCF held a meeting on 30 November 1949 at the HOKUZAN RINWOJI Temple in Sendai. The matter was sponsored by Sosaku KAMIYA whose residence was SUEGA BUKURO Hirocho, 16 Banchi, and was attended by over 40 people representing the 67 war criminals from this prefecture. The officers were:

Chairman: Mrs. Kiyo SAEKI  
Vice Chairman: Mr. Kozaku KAMIYA, and  
Secretaries: Mrs. Sadako MIURA and Mr. Fujitaro SUZUKI

Committee members for the various detention areas were:

Java Area - Ryoze, HOSHI;  
French-Indo HongKong Area - Tadao SUZUKI  
Malaya, Burma Area - Sugiko SUZUKI;  
Sugamo-China Area - Harune, TSUNEOKA and Tsukawo, KONNO;  
Rabaul, Manila Area - Jinshiro SHOJI.

6. A letter dated 26 December 1950 from Sadaji ITO, Akita-Ken, indicated that there had been organizational activity from the spring of 1949 in Eastern and Western Districts but that an organization had not been formed in Akita City until 29 November 1949. "5 of the families under the guidance of Mr. OHATA, Clerk of this section (Labor Section Osarizawa Mining Corporation) attended the initial opening meeting and vehemently solicited the officials of the organization for active expansion of its activities." He listed the primary objects as commutation of sentences, repatriation, improvement of treatment, and aiding the livelihood of those with families in prison.

7. Vol. #7 of the AI NO HIKARI, dated 1 January 1950 in describing the meeting relates that on 29 November 1949 relatives of the war criminals at the Akita Branch of the Red Cross met to establish the AKITA Prefectural SWCF. Approximately 30 members of war criminal families were present and the guest list included the Chief of the Civil Welfare Department of the Prefecture, Director of the Akita Branch of the Red Cross Society, the head of the Akita Branch of the Christian League and the Chief of OSARUZAWA Mine. Regulations were adopted, officers elected, and reports heard from war criminals recently released. Steps were discussed for petition movements for homeland service, improvement of treatment and commutation of sentences. The officers elected were:

Chairman	YAMAGAMI, Suekichi
Vice Chairman	FUJII, Seiji
" "	FUKUOKA, Kiichiro
Managing Director	NISHIMURA, Setsuke
" "	SATO, Kamejiro
" "	OWARI, Kiyoko
" "	SAKATA, Kaya
" "	TANAKA, Tomitaro

It is noted that no mention is made of the "aid" for the families.

8. On 16 December 1949 war criminal families held a meeting at the AOMORI Branch of the Red Cross and formed the AI NO HIKARI (Ray of Love) SWCF and elected the following officers: Chairman, IMA, Tsune; Vice Chairman, KIKUCHI, Toshiko; Manager, KUSHIBIKI, Takeshiro, ASAKA, Toshio, TAKANO, Hiroshi; Adviser, SAITO, Yakichi.



9. A letter dated 10 February 1950 relates that "Even in Yamagata Prefecture a Society of War Criminal Families had been finally organized." It has a membership of 25 and expects to carry on its activities through the NANKO AOBA KAI.

10. In a letter written in January 1950 Aiko KABUTO relates that a SWCF unit was organized in Hokkaido and held a conference at Sapporo. Another conference was scheduled for 6 February 1950. In connection with this unit there is an organization called the KOEN KAI or "Supporters" Association, which was organized on 10 December at the Hokkaido branch of the Sapporo Japan Red Cross. It is noted that this Supporters' Association pays the train expenses for visits to Sugamo. The writer adds that she had received a relief fund of ¥1500 from the KOEN KAI in the fall of 1949. According to Vol. 7 of the "Ray of Love" the Hokkaido Society was originated by the Red Cross Branch Office in Hokkaido and various religious groups on 10 December. KONDO, Chief of the Red Cross Branch was elected president and the units objective was to give spiritual and material support.

11. A Kinki block was formed by representatives from Nara, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Wakayama, Shiga, and Mie Prefectures. The movement was formed by FUKUDA, Kimie, SUGIHARA, Akiki, YAMAMAKA, Sadap, SHINYA, Shigeiko, YAMAGUCHI, Machie, SAKAGUCHI, Kazuo, KOBAYASHI, Matsuo, and NAKINISHI, Haruyoshi, all of Nara Prefecture. At this meeting prefectural SWCF's were formed but they agreed to work as a block.

12. There is a unit of the SWCF in Osaka. The officers of the same are not known but according to an intercept the following attended a meeting held either in December or January: Aiko AZUMA (one of the sponsors), Yoshio UJIMOTO, Kuranosuke HONDA, Matsusaburo NEMOTO, Kentaro TANAKA, Tsutonori TAKE, Minoru EGAMI, Masayuki NAKATA, and, Takeo TSUJI. And intercept in August 1949 indicated that Yoshiko KIDA, c/o TODA Yoshitaro, 7, 3 chome, Minami Ikuno Machi, Ikuno-ku, Osaka, was active in the matter of petitioning, the writer asking him to forward seven of the petitions for circulation. A letter of Aiko AZUMA indicates that the urban Osaka SWCF held a meeting on 9 February.

13. The SWCF met at Kyoto in September 1949 and again on 15 January 1950. Approximately 45 attended the second meeting, which was held at Shimizu Hall. Members of the Relief Section at Kyoto were present. Mr. SUZUKI of Shimazu Manufacturing Plant and his friends, as well as the City of Kyoto contributed presents consisting of toilet soap, tooth paste, aspirin, santonin, oranges, bread and buns. It is not clear what the city donated and what the friends donated. At the September meeting the Society had a group picture taken.

14. In November, 1949, petitions containing over 4,000 signatures were received in behalf of war criminals from 13 prefectures, namely, GUMMA, SAITAMA, TOCHIGI, KANAGAWA, NIIGATA, KYOTO, OSAKA, NARA, GIFU, HYOGO, SAGA, MIYAZAKI, and KUMAMOTO.

15. A prefectural meeting was held at NIIGATA on 17 September 1949. That SWCF was represented at the initial National Conference by two families. Sōji ONISHI, Nishikoshi-Muta, Kogi Niigata, on 23 December, 1949, wrote that he had made several trips to see Miozo KATAYAMA of 2 Banchi Gakko cho, Niigata to consult him about the campaign concerning the prompt liberation of war criminals and the relief of all families. Mr. KATAYAMA was chairman of the Niigata SWCF and had been in Tokyo in November for the initial national conference, and at that time had personally visited Premier YOSHIDA, the Ministers concerned, and the staff of the two houses of the Diet. He also tried to see General MacArthur. Apparently both



ONISHI and KATAYAMA are very active. It appears that Reverend ANDO of Shoraku-Temple, Nishiheridori is actively assisting. One letter lists Sumio NAKAHARO as chairman of the Niigata SWCF. A letter from Kazuko KATAYAMA, dated 8 January 1950, indicates that the SWCF was active and engaged in a fund raising campaign and had requested aid in same from the Compatriot's Aid Society, the Niigata Buddhist Association and the local Red Cross.

16. On 7 December 1949 representatives of the war criminal families gathered at Yokayama Red Cross Branch Office to hold the initial meeting. Regulations were discussed and it was decided to have its office at the Red Cross Branch Office. Officers elected were: President, Toraji OKAMOTO, Tsubuemura, Kojima-Gun, and Vice President, Sugae OTAWARA and Jin KATAYAMA.

17. A meeting was held in Toyama City in which SWCF was organized. YAMAMOTO, Yasumasa of Toyama City of elected president, and Kimko NAKABAYASHI, of Nagaokamura, Nibu-gun was elected Vice President.

18. A branch of the KAMIYO SWCF was established at Takoda with Mr. Inobe of Nakabuki, Ominato-mura, Katazu elected to take charge of the organization.

19. A letter written 2 January 1950 indicates SWCF in Fukui Ken on 15 December 1949.

20. The Chairman of SWCF in Shimizu (Shizuoka) is Mr. NORITA.

21. The Hiroshima Prefecture of SWCF was organized in September, 1949. The officers of the SWCF are: Chairman, FURUTA, Yoshitaro, and Vice Chairman, NOMI, Teshiko. Staff were designated for various districts as follows: Hiroshima - 8, Kure - 3, Onomichi - 2, Fukuyama 2, and Hiwa - 2 (Yamawaki, Takamori and Zaema, Kanekichi).

22. The Ehime SWCF was organized on 11 October 1949 at Yuai-Kaikan #2 Matsuyama City. 18 of the 51 families were represented. Also attending the meeting were Riichi NISHIBORI, Chief of the Prefectural Relief Section and IKEUCHI of the same Section, Ikuo HISHIHARU, Chief of Zentsuji Branch of the Chiba Demobilization Bureau Mitsuru UTSUNOMOYO, President of the Christian Association and Kanichi KODAMO, Staff member of the Branch office of the Red Cross and several members of the Relief Section of TOKUSHIMA and KOCHI Prefectures. Officials elected were: President, Iwataro TOGANA, Vice President, Kiyoko SHIGEKAWA, Tsuruichi ISHIKI, Advisers, Mitsureo UTSIMIYA and Tamasu KUNIMASU.

23. In Fukuoka-ken Prefecture the SWCF was organized with Yoshie NAKAMURA, Chairman, and Shinjura YASUI, Okiko SAKAI, Jimpei ISHIKURA, Shichiroemon KUWANO and Mibuko KIMIJIMA, elected as central committee members. A local committee was set up in the District of Fukuoka Ogura, Naakata and Fukuoka City. They were supported by the United Women's Association of Fukuoka City. It also appears that units were organized at Kita Kyushu, Chikuho, Fukuoka and Chikugo. The Kitakyushu and Chikugo districts held a conference in Ogura City on 20 October 1949 and another on 21 October in Fukuoka at the Prefectural Women's Club at Mukojima. Approximately 50 members attended the latter meeting. At this meeting there were members of the Relief Section of the Prefecture and the West District Demobilization Office and the branch office of the Red Cross. Yoshie NAKAMURA personally presented a petition to the Australian Division on 20 October (Tokyo). The Fukuoka



SWCF held a committee meeting on 11 November 1949 in Fukuoka City, at which representatives were present from the Red Cross, YMCA, YWCA, Society of Love, Buddhist League, Religious League and the Women's Association. Mr. Yoshio NAKAMURA, Chairman, presided and the budget for the fiscal year was one of the subjects discussed.

23. Tadano SASAFU of 145 Banchi Uchi-Tsuboi-cho, Tsuboi Kyoku-Nai, Kumamoto, was named chairman of the Kumamoto SWCF in November 1949, and placed in charge of the organizational duties. On 13 January the SWCF of KUMAMOTO-Ken met at his home. The matter of raising funds was discussed and it appeared that every District and Prefecture was to aid in raising money and that the matter would be discussed at the National Conference. It appeared that they would call upon the general public for funds in order to increase the Society's activity. The other members of the Committee apparently are: Minoru NAGANO, Kiyoshi HARANO, Masahige NAKAYAMA, Otome MATSUMURA, Sumiyo KIKUYAKE, Hiro SAKAMOTO, Junko SHIRO, Zenichiro KIYOHARA, and Zuiko TORII. Kireyoshi HIRANO, Kuzami-cho, Yatashuragun, Kumamoto-ken writes that he attended a prefectural meeting in Kumamoto, which decided to send Shitsunao SASAFU, its chairman, as a delegate to Tokyo. He also stated that the Society was preparing reports and petitions for submission to the National Conference to be held at Tokyo in March. A letter from Tamoe KUWAMO of Kumamoto states that Mr. MORI is working for the SECF.

24. An SWCF was organized in Oita Ken in December 1949, according to an intercept written by Ke Geto, whose address is Shimo, Kamegawa-cho, Beppu-shi, Oita Ken, Kyushu.

25. A letter from Toya NOGUCHI of Mideri-Komichi Saga City, relates that the SWCF met on 28 January 1950.

26. A letter from Setsu YAMADA, Minami-Arima-Machi, Minami-Takaki-Gun, Nagasaki-Ken, dated 29 January 1950, relates that the "Families Society was organized in the Service Section of Isahaya to work for commutation campaigns and take care of families." It also related that the Service Section sent her a telegram relative to the matter and later a person from said Section called on the writer. Subsequently on 1 December 1949 the writer's father went to Isahaya to attend a meeting of the SECF. Isahaya probably is a village in Takaki-gun in Nagasaki. The Service Section was probably a unit of the Municipal Government.

27. An organization for the Relief of Families of War Criminals who were connected with the "Overseas Police" has been recently formed. Kanjo HDRICHI is President and Naokichi KITAZAWA is Vice President.

28. There is an active SWCF in Tokyo, which apparently has sub-units in various parts of the city, as well as detention area units. These units are apparently very active. Mrs. Hisako IMAMURA, wife of ex-General IMAMURA, a war criminal, is the president. Mrs. IMAMURA is living at 3 - 2091 Setagaya, Setagaya Ku. Her extensive activity is indicated by the attached translation of letter written by her to her husband, who is in Sugamo awaiting transfer to Australia to serve out a ten-year sentence. Another active member is Mitsuko YAMAMOTO, who lives at 899 2 chome, Daita, Setagaya-ku. She is the wife of ex-Major General Meichiro YAMAMOTO, who was released a few days ago after his return from Indonesia. Mrs. IMAMURA, Mrs. YAMAMOTO, Mrs. YANO and Mrs. KASAI appear to be the mainstays of the Tokyo SWCF. It appears probable that the Tokyo SWCF also functions as headquarters for the national organization. Mrs. YANO is in charge of records and petitions. Mrs. MIYAKI is listed as in charge of "Tokyo and National Society Accounts."



IWASAKI Tadao  
29, Azuma-cho, Mizusawa-machi  
(Isawa-gun), Iwate-ken, (Japan)

IMAMURA, Hisa  
2091. 3-chome Setagaya,  
Setagaya-ku, Tokyo-to,  
(Japan)

CIVIL CENSORSHIP DETACHMENT

Date: Unknown  
Passed: 29 Sep 49

ORGANIZATIONS: "SOCIETY OF WAR CRIMINALS' FAMILIES IN IWATE  
PREFECTURE" FORMED

Writer states:

"We hold the inaugural ceremony of the establishment of the prefectural branch of the HOMU KANKEI KAZOKU KAI ( ), Society of War Criminals' Families) on 18 Sep (49) at Mizusawa Town (Ex: Isawa-gun, Iwate Prefecture) and decided upon the enclosed regulations."

Writer encloses a printed copy of the draft regulations dated Sep 49 which read in part as follows:

"General Rules"

2. The office of the Society shall be located at the home of IWAZAKI Tadao ( ) (Ex: Writer), 29 Azuma-cho, Mizusawa-machi, Isawa-gun, Iwate Prefecture.
3. The Society shall be composed of war criminals' families in Iwate Prefecture and interested persons:

"Objective of the Society:

4. Through mutual help and cooperation, the families of war criminals in Iwate Prefecture shall strive to have their family members released at the earliest possible date.
5. We shall appeal to the authorities concerned in order to achieve our objective by maintaining liaison with the central organ and the war criminals' families societies in other prefectures.

"Activities of the Society:

6. We shall encourage and help one another.
  - (b) As the war criminals are very anxious about their families livelihood, we shall request the proper authorities to grant government subsidies to their families who are in the depths of poverty.
  - (c) We shall exchange information with and accord facilities to one another.
  - (d) We shall circulate the AI NO HIKARI ( Light of Love) and other reports issued by the SEKIJUJI (NIPPON SEKIJUJISHA, Japan Red Cross Society.)
7. We shall strive to have the prisoners released as soon as possible.
  - (a) We shall appeal to foreign countries, to authorities concerned and auxiliary bodies by clarifying the general



circumstances during the war, thereby arousing public opinion. We shall also appeal to the foreign missions in Japan.

(c) Making the Peace Conference our target, we shall strive for the materialization of the following: Release of war criminals in Japan proper or commutation of their sentences. Release or transfer to Japan proper the war criminals who are imprisoned abroad or commutation of their sentences.

8. We shall keep close contact with the war criminals' families societies in other prefectures and strive to attain our objective in cooperation with each other.
13. The committeemen shall be elected from each of the war crime districts (America, Australia, the Dutch and British Indies, French Indo-China, the Philippines China and Burma.) The tenure of office shall be one year.
18. We shall publish an organ paper to clarify the conditions of war criminals' families in Iwate Prefecture."

Inclosures: "

- 1 Printed copy of the draft regulations of the  
IWATE-KEN HOMU KANKEI KAZOKU KAI
- 1 Petition form



APPENDIX "B"

Activity of Religious Organizations

1. The first petition indicating that religious organizations were acting in concert in behalf of war criminals was received by LS in June, 1949.
2. OKUTANI, Fumitomo, Gifu, Ken, GIFU SHI, KANO OKUDAIRA Machi, 126, wrote: "As the representative of the Tokaido Religious Federation (TOKAIDO SHUKYO RENMEI), the writer requests that General MacArthur mitigate the sentences of some war criminals from Gifu Prefecture who are serving their terms in Sugamo Prison. He declares that the sentences meted out to these men are unjust to both them and their families because, as members of the Japanese Army and representatives of the Japanese people, these men were forced to commit war crimes in the course of their duties." He listed the names and addresses of 23 war criminals.
3. On 19 July 1949 a petition was prepared by three officers of the Federation of International Religious Fellowship Societies as "Representatives of all the different religions in Japan." They requested that all death penalties be reduced to life imprisonment and that war criminals serving abroad be returned to Japan. The petition advised that a resolution to this effect was unanimously passed at the recently held national conference, in which some 200 representatives of all religions gathered in Tokyo. The address of the Federation is St. Paul's Building, 1-5 WAKABACHO SHINJUKU-KU, Tokyo, Japan. The names of the petitioners were:  

Toraji Makino, President;  
Keichoku Yoshida, Vice President;  
Tandanari Shono, Chief Director.
4. A petition dated 1 August 1949 was submitted by Eitetsu KANEYASU, as President of the YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURAL RELIGIOUS LEAGUE. It represented that 90 prisoners from YAMAGUCHI Prefecture were serving as war criminals, of whom approximately 50 were serving outside of Japan. It requested that all prisoners be returned to Japan, that death sentences be commuted and that long terms be reduced.
5. In September petitions were received signed by approximately 6,500 persons, requesting that death sentences be reduced to life imprisonment. It was apparent that various petitions have been circulated by Reverend Riri NAKAYAMA, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Buddhists Worshipers' Association in Japan. His address is Tokyo-To, Kitaku, Okabanecho, 3 Chome, 1115. Subsequently he obtained several hundred more signatures.
6. The initial national conference of the SWCF was held at Honganji Temple at Tsukiji in Tokyo. A "congratulatory address" was given by a representative of the White Lotus Society (BYAKUREN-SHA). This is a Buddhist relief organization, recently established. It was represented by such Buddhist temples as Senseji, Gokokuji, Tsukiji Honganji, Asakusa Honganji, and the Buddhist League. It was formed to promote the movement for peace, offer prayers for the repose of the souls of the dead, and to give guidance to the war criminals and their families. The organization is being promoted by the chiefs of the Buddhist Association in each prefecture. It is expected that all the temples in the country will take part in it.



7. Reverend TAJIMA, Ryujun, Chaplain of Sugamo Prison, and evidently Secretary of the White Lotus Society, apparently spoke at the first national SWCF conference on the matter of petitions on behalf of war criminals.

8. Seventy Protestant ministers of Kansai Fellowship Christian Missionaries, meeting in Kyoto in December, 1949, unanimously passed a resolution of SCAP for clemency toward war criminals sentenced to death. It also expressed appreciation for the clemency extended to B and C class criminals under the Christmas amnesty and asked for consideration of other criminals under sentence. There is nothing to indicate that this action had any connection with the activity of other religious organizations, although the writer believes it was prompted.

9. Michio KURIYAMA, a war criminal in Sugamo, styles himself a delegate of the Shinyu-kai (Christian Brotherhood Society) in writing Dr. Mayer to thank him and the Kansai missionaries for their resolutions.

10. After the first national conference, representatives of the same paid a visit and submitted a petition to the "Vicar", who represents the Vatican in Japan, who promised to forward their petition to Rome.

11. On 30 November 1949 MIYOGI SWCF met at Hokuizan Rinwo Temple in Sendai.

12. "Through the good offices of the Prefectural Religious League", a general meeting of the families of war criminals was held in TOYAMA City and an organization perfected.

13. In December, 1949, 26 petitions were received, bearing over 10,000 signatures. Mimeographed forms were used and it would appear that copies of the same had been submitted to a number of agents. Most of them had been dated in July, 1949, and appeared to have been a part of the "religious phase" of the campaign. All of them stressed religion and appeared to have a common sponsorship.

14. The Prefectural SWCF unit in the Kinki District plans to make appeals for war criminals through religious groups.

15. At the 11 November 1949 meeting of the Fukuoka unit of SWCF there were representatives of the Buddhist League and the Religious League.

16. Prison Chaplain SATO on 28 January 1950 spoke at a meeting of the Netherlands unit of the SWCF in Tokyo. On 27 January 1950 he was one of those for whom a dinner of appreciation was given by members of the Tokyo SWCF.

17. Soji ONISHI, Nishikoshi-mura, Kogi, Niigata-ken, in December talked to Rev. Ando of Shoradku Temple, Nishihorideri, Niigata City, then the chief of the Niigata Branch of the Red Cross, and induced him to assist in the campaign to communicate with war criminals' families for the purpose of gathering alms from all interested persons and to do the best to relieve the criminals' families, as well as to get prompt liberation of war criminals. ONISHI and KATAYAMA, Miozō, also from Niigata, apparently are very active in carrying on the movement with the aid of "religious societies" and the Red Cross and the prefectural organization. A letter dated 8 January 1950 from KAZUOKO Katayama, Niigata-ken, Gatsuko-cho, states that the "SWCF is doing its best and have requested aid in a fund raising campaign" from, among others, ANDO, Hisao, Niigata-Ken Shukyo, Rijikai Cho, Niigata-ken



Bukkyo Kai Cho, Chairman of Niigata Buddhist Association. It adds that the goal of the fund is ¥300,000, of which ¥20,000 will be forwarded to the National SWCF, and the balance used within the prefecture.

18. Tadonao SASAFU, Kumamoto, Km, Tsuboi-Nai, Uchi - Tsuboi-cho, 143 Bancho, in a letter dated 13 January 1950, states that the Kumamoto SWCF was organized in November last and he was selected Chairman and took charge of organizational duties. He states that the object of the organization is to communicate with SWCF in Tokyo and through "movements and petitions assisted by religious organizations plead for domestic servitude, leniency of sentences, improvements in treatment and release." He writes "Although organizations have been established in each prefecture, its movements are different from those carried on by non-repats' families and therefore cannot be made formal presenting no alternative other than through family petition."



Articles from  
"AI NO HIKARI", "Light of Love",  
1 August, 1949.

#-2

1. Circumstances of the Japanese  
in French-Indo-China Only Wish to  
Serve Their Time in Japan.

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The serious questions about the Japanese remaining in French-  
Indo-China now are the questions of deserters and of war criminals.

-----  
War Crimes Trials in French-Indo-China were opened in October,  
1946 and thirty-four cases were completed by April, 1949. Those who  
were detained for trial amounted to more than one hundred.  
Decisions were given to two hundred and six men. At the early period  
investigations and trials were often considered very severe. Since  
last spring, the atmosphere became better. Lately, trials are carried  
out fairly and favorably and it seems there is a tendency to give  
a lighter punishment than before. At present, -- May, there are  
twenty-four men in Saigon Camp, forty-seven are waiting for trial in  
Chi-Hon Prison, two men are waiting for trial in Central Prison and  
eighty-nine convicted prisoners in Pre Conder.

-----  
As stated above, there are many things requested by the prisoners  
in French-Indo-China, but serving their time in Japan is their  
earnest, unanimous desire. They are holding out only to meet that day.

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2. Condition of Progress of  
Trials in Each Country.

Regarding the war crimes tribunals held by each of the Allied  
Powers, some have already been finished. It seems that the ones  
going on now are mostly supposed to be completed by the end of this  
year. Though we cannot give a definite report owing to the fact that  
the progress of trials is not announced by some countries, we can give  
a general *survey* as follows.



International Military Tribunal for the Far East:  
finished at the end of last year, 1948.

United States: seems to finish all by fall this year.

Britain: finished all at the end of 1948.

France: said to finish this summer, but considering the present rate of progress, trials will probably be continued to fall.

China: finished all at the beginning of this year.

Trials in Australia, Hongkong and Rabaul:  
time of completion cannot be anticipated, as war crimes suspects have been charged after the trials so far were over.

Philippines: expects to finish at the end of this year.

Netherlands: expects to finish nearly all trials in June this year; will complete all by summer.

Besides the above, it is reported that there are about 11,000 war criminals held by the Soviet Union. Details of progress of trials are not known.

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### 3. Bitter cries of Families at Home Petition for Serving Time in Japan.

The families of the war criminals who had their husbands, fathers or sons, whom they had expected to come home after the end of the war, detained abroad and who have been struggling with hardships for living naturally brought about amidst the confusion in society accompanying the lost war, while, on the other hand, envying their friends who enjoy the reunited home life at the restoration of peace, began to entertain fear lest they should be gradually kept apart ideologically, as democratization is getting more and more thorough in this country, from their relatives who remain as the Japanese as they were at the time of the war. A cry, surpassing mere affection, for serving time in Japan was heard here and there since last year. This request grew more earnest as military trials were mostly over in most places and the decisions on the prisoners were made known. At this juncture, those who had been detained in China, were allowed to serve the rest of their time in Japan, in Sugamo Prison.

Repatriation from the Soviet Union was resumed, too. When the disturbances in Burma and Indonesia were reported, the prayer for serving term in Japan came to a head and the movement to appeal for it was developed all over the country.



1. In Tohoku district, lead by SATO, Kichinosuke and KAMIYA, Kosaku of Sendai, HONDA, Masao of Fukushima Prefecture, IWASAKI, Tadao of Iwate Prefecture, HISAMATSU, Sakae of Yamagata Prefecture and SHINOMURA, Seichi of Akita Prefecture, a group called Hangocha-Kai was formed. It is working very hard according to the following principles:

(1) This is not a political movement. Our object will be attained by appealing to love of all people in the world and by religious prayer.

(2) This movement is carried out by the families left behind at home and also by the support of volunteers.

(3) Fascist-like speeches and behavior should be strictly avoided.

(4) It is most desirable to visit the families left behind, but care should be taken not to bore them mentally nor materially.

2. In Kinki district, the movement was promoted by FUKUDA, Kimie, SUGIHARA, Akiko and YAMANAKA, Sadao, SHINYA, Shigeko, YAMAGUCHI, Machie, SAKAGUCHI, Kazuo, KOBAYASHI, Matsuo and NAKANISHI, Haruyoshi of Nara Prefecture. The representatives of Nara, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Wakayama, Shiga and Mie Prefectures met and formed a group of the families left behind in each Prefecture. These groups of these Prefectures are organized into the Kinki bloc. They agreed to develop the movement for the war criminals to serve their time in Japan and to make an appeal through religious groups.

3. In Fukuoka Prefecture, a committee was formed for the petition for the war criminals to serve their time in Japan. NAKAMURA, Yoshio was made chairman. YASUI, Shinjuro, SAKAI, Akiko, ISHIKURA, Jimpei, KUWANO, Shichiroemon and KIMIJIMA, Mibuko were elected central committee members. A local committee was set up in each Fukuoka, Ogura, Naokata and Kurume district. Supported by the united Women's Association of Fukuoka City, they are so eager in their attempt that they intend to continue the movement till their prayer is answered.

4. The Nankogojokyokai /South Light Mutual Help Society/ in Tokyo is lead by AREMA, Hiroshi. Since June last year, he established contact with the families of those men who are kept in Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo and Burma. Having obtained over 20,000 signatures in December last year and over 30,000 in April this year, they submitted petitions for serving time in Japan.

In addition to the above, the Welfare Department of Y.M.C. in Japan and the Japan Red Cross Society, sympathizing with the sufferings of those who are detained abroad, are taking great pains in realizing the object reasonably and by moderate measures. Those who have returned from the actual spots touch this problem without exception and are quite eager for its realization.



TO : TENMA, Yoshinori  
4 B-23, Sugamo Prison,  
1 chome, Nishisugamo,  
Toshimaku, Tokyo.

FROM: TENMA, Takeko.  
c/o Mizuno, Shunkichi,  
27, Nishimachi, Ishida,  
Kujo, Shimokyo-ku,  
Kyoto City.

-----  
29 January 1950

Dear Brother!

How are you? I am all right and go to Osaka every day. I attended a conference of the Society of War Criminals Families on 15 January. Although the conference held in September was limited to the families with relations in Sugamo, this conference included the families with relations overseas. The war criminals families could hold a successful conference owing to the efforts of Mr. Suzuki from the Shimazu Manufacturing Plant. I hear that there are about eighty persons in Kyoto-fu who are under similar circumstances. About forty-fifty of them attended the meeting. Some of them were from inconvenient localities and had to take train and bus. Fortunately this conference was held at Shimazu Hall at the corner of Kiya-cho, Nijo, and I could reach there in thirty or forty minutes. The members of the Relief Section of Kyoto were present at the conference. They spoke kindly to us. When we were going home, we received lots of presents: a box of "Yatsuhashi" from the Kyoto-fu, toilet soap, tooth-paste, various drugs such as aspirin, cantonin etc, as well as sweet-oranges, bread and buns from the friends of Mr. Suzuki. I am determined not to open the box of Yatsuhashi till you come home.

What you referred to is a tin of salmon. I have kept it for you, out of several cans of ration delivered a long time ago, as at that time we could hardly buy fish or vegetables. I keep it in the cupboard, and I am looking forward to the time to open it for you.

Mother is in the best of health, but I am afraid it is rather hard for her to stay with other person especially when it is cold. I long for your return and for the day when mother and I can live together with you. Take good care of yourself. Good-by.

Takeko.

This picture was taken at the conference of War Criminals Families in September. I am in the second row, second from right, holding a baby in my arm. You can see his little face.



To : KOKUBO, Chihiro  
Sugamo Prison,  
Toshima-ku, Tokyo-to.

From : KOKUBO, Aiko  
c/o MATSUKI, Tadashi,  
Karifuto-mura, Abuta-gun,  
Hokkaido.

According to today's newspaper, 14 war criminals from Java were sent to Sugamo Prison. Out of the 14 prisoners, 13 of them are members of our Society of War Criminals Families. Membership in this Family Society is a term which applies to the organization called the HONU KANKEI NI FUKUIN KAZOKU KAI (THE UNREPATS SOCIETY OF WAR CRIMINALS FAMILIES) which has been recently established. An organization which is a component of the above Society called KOKEN KAI (SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION) was organized and established on 10th of December in the Hokkaido Branch of the Sapporo Japan Red Cross, and I received a relief fund of ¥ 1500. from the association last fall. For the first time we received such blessings, and I am gratified beyond words for their kindness. I feel as if I am being led into a brighter future like the future repatriates in general. The family Society was organized and a conference was held in Sapporo during my absence. I was then in Tokyo on a visit. A Second Meeting will again be held at Sapporo on the 6th of February and I am intending to attend this meeting without fail. Train expenses for persons living in outlying areas will be borne by the Supporters Association. I was informed through an invitation card sent by the Associations Committee that since travelling expenses to Sugamo for visits will be borne by them, I should submit the desired visiting date to them. Since I knew that I could not come to Tokyo this year, if it is permissible to visit again regardless of my former visits. I am planning to submit an application upon my attendance at the conference. Prior to the organization of the Supporters' Association, I was informed by an interested member that plans are in the process of formulation whereby travelling expenses for those families who were unable to visit their relatives due to financial difficulties will be borne by the Family Society.



To : Mr. SUGIURA, Akiichi,  
Meiji-mura, Nishihata-Araya,  
Nekikai-gun, Aichi-Ken.

From: TANAKA, Teshimoto,  
Sugamo Prison, Nishisugamo,  
Toshima-ku, Tokyo.

December 7

The autumn is advancing. I think you are in good health and devoting yourself to your business. Thanks to God, I also am in good health. I am now busily engaged in allotting the work as I am appointed to a labor-clerk.

I think you have already heard of it. An association of war criminals' families was being organized in each prefecture and its general assembly was held last day in Tokyo. This association is said to have its aim at the suspension of execution, withdrawal of Japanese war criminals from foreign countries and their liberation. I think the fact that such an association was not constituted until today is a proof that the Japanese democratization is a lip-principle and not of conviction. Thoughtful Americans are naturally observing thus. I think Japan under the control of USA, if she wishes to adopt the better elements in the American constitution which is proud of the freedom in speech and petition, taking the individual human rights, etc. as its fundamental principles, each Japanese shall have to entreat as for war criminals the allied nations, without leaving the matter to their own families. There are some prefectures which support this movement with their "Sewa-bu: Service Section" and under the patronage of the Government section/?. I invite you to obtain an information about it when you have a chance to go to Nagoya. In short, this matter will be solved when the Japanese adopt the true democracy and take up the war crime as a public opinion by recognizing it properly. I will be happy if you can unite in it your efforts. The men came from Yaruto /?/ are all in good health. Please tell to Mr. FUKAZAWA about the above movement and ask his efforts. Kindly address all your news to me directly. I am yours truly.



Letter dated 4 Feb., '50.

To : ASAKAWA, Asato,  
Sugamo Prison, Tokyo.  
a war criminal in reference to China.

From: KOHASE, Ryosaku,  
Shizuoka-Shi, Zaimoku-Cho, No. 21.

I am sorry for having neglected to write you since my release (from Sugamo). The condition of my family which I rejoined was more wretched than I had ever thought. I was especially surprised at seeing and hearing about the changed state of affairs of the world. Since my release, I have been kept busy in visiting the families of Sugamo prisoners living in the vicinity of my home as I thought it my duty to do so having been released earlier than these people. On 20 January I went up to Tokyo and investigated my relationship to my former job and possibility of my future employment, but on 3 February I returned home empty-handed. Such being the case, I have had no time to write a letter to anyone. Please excuse me.

Concerning the matter of non-payment of salaries for your overseas service, which matter you have requested me to look after at the time of my release, the Ministry (Foreign Ministry?) to which I made inquiries replied as follows:

"In case of non-payment, if any, of salaries for overseas service, such salaries are regarded as paid because they should be appropriated to the living cost and because no overseas savings are allowed to be carried or resitted home except for 1,000 yen for each repatriate. The Ministry thus regards all overseas salaries of war criminals as paid".

I insisted vigorously but they would not hear me at all. They sympathize with war criminals but never materially. I tried to get some temporary job but it was in vain. As far as the matter of overseas police is concerned, it has already been closed out and no information can be obtained concerning the former relationship. I regret I have taken it too easy. I am a free man now but the depression is almost incredible. I am now worried what to live on but still I have not lost all my confidence. I hope that you too believe in yourself, not thinking of reliance on the Ministry etc.. I have not decided what job to take, but in two or three days I shall leave here for the western area in order to visit families of Sugamo prisoners including the condemned. After returning home from the trip, I expect to find some job.



Movement for the relief of families of war criminals in reference to overseas police has been started, with Mr. HORIUCHI, Kanjo as President and Mr. KITAZAWA, Naokichi as Vice-President. Appeal is widely being made to former overseas police personnel. I firmly believe that this movement will bear fruit. I hope you will have more patience and self-care, relying upon our sympathy. If you are released to-day you will only have depression. It will be more favorable for you to be released some time later when the economic situation becomes better. Be patient!

My best wishes to Excellency ARINO, HIRIDA, TOMOGANE, SHIMA, SAFO, and BOKKETSU.

According to informations from the Ministry all your families are fine. Please make yourself easy about it. Goodbye, I shall write you again.



Date of letter: February 10, 1950.

To : KISARA, Naoji,  
U.S. Army Hospital No. 361,  
Sugamo Prison.

From : KISARA, Sumiko (wife),  
Miyagi-ken, Shida-gun,  
Fuchihana, 15.

Every month special number of AI NO HIKAPI are published in order to support the activities of Families Society. Recently 693 war criminals were transferred to Japan from the southern area to the big delight of their families and some felons held at Sugamo Prison were released or given commutation. How much their families rejoiced at this happy news!

Even after your transfer to Sugamo, we have been and are still striving for commutation and release by submitting petitions under the support of Society of War Criminals Families.

I understand 67 persons who went from Miyagi-Ken are now serving sentences as war criminals at Sugamo Prison. You recently wrote in a letter to your mother that 4 years reduction had been made in your sentence. Is it true?

In view of the fact that commodity prices are considerably going down, I will try to save money as much as possible, and it is my desire to get a overcoat for you in case you are released.

Some person committed suicide because he could not pay tax, but I myself are strongly determined to overcome any difficulties to enjoy our home life with you again. I am now writing down a petition so, that you shall be released as soon as possible.

Mr. TAKAHASHI of Sanuma (who went to Burma) is now serving at the Foreign Office as an administrative official. He recently called on me during his trip for visiting war criminals families and gave me money of sympathy which he had been requested by the Division of Personnel to hand over to me. I heard his family reside in Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo.



Date: January 31, 1950.  
To : MAMIYA, Teugie, Sugamo prison, No. 5-38, Tokyo.  
From: MAMIYA, Kuniaki,  
Naruyama-Hoberuche, Akita-shi.

I received your letter dated 30. Now I waited for you since I have heard through radio of your departure. I suppose that you are in tears, a thousand emotions crowing on you before all sceneries in the homeland, and this is also a gift of sympathy of the part of the Allied countries and I am thanking from the bottom of my heart.

Recently on 25, Mrs. IMAMURA, Hisako, president of the Tokyo /war criminals/ families society, gave me a report in detail on the treatment, recreation and visiting schedule.

Accordingly, as for visit, Shiro will go to see you on or about February 20, Hachioji /relation living at Hachioji/ will be the next and my father desires to go to see you at the end of April or beginning of May, and at that time Mr. KATO's mother will perhaps be accompanied by him.

I sent to-day a letter to Hachioji asking him for the second visit.

I announced your arrival to all my relations, friends and acquaintances. I believe they all will be very glad.

I wished to send Shiro to see you right now, but owing to his official service, it was fixed to 20 which please bear. Furthermore as Hachioji does not know our family's things, I decided to send Shiro as the first visitor.

It is scheduled that the following calls be placed for the monthly visit:

20, February: Shiro  
3rd decade of March: Hachioji  
3rd decade of April: My father

Take good care for yourself and complete your daily labor, I am praying in God that you can return home as early as possible.

January 31

for Father; Kuniaki

To Teugie /MAMIYA/

I put syllabaries to Chinese characters as my father asked to do so. How do you think?

Details by next mail.



To : YAMADA, Nagaharu /or Choji/,  
Sugamo Prison, Tokyo.

From: YAMADA, Setsu /wife/,  
Minami-Arima-Machi,  
Minami-Takaki-Gun, Nagasaki-Ken.

Date: 29 January, 1950

It is cold every day. It says that it snowed in Tokyo, but here we had no snow.

I received on 23 morning your letter of January 10, and in the afternoon yours of 17. As I had not received your news since the end of September, I was quite anxious about you.

Lately when the Families Society was organized in the Service Section of Isahaya to work for commutation campaign and take care of families, I was asked for informations and for this purpose, the Service Section sent to me a telegram, I was astonished and was anxious. It was November 24 in the evening and as my father was absent to Ōmura I could not move and until a personnel of Isahaya Service Section called on me on 25, I could not even eat in the anxiety that something had not happened on you. On December 1, my father went to Isahaya to attend the meeting. Others were talking about no news from October, so my mother said that "it was useless to have been anxious" and as a post-card of Masakazu /cousin?/ have arrived soon after, we set our mind at rest. Our daily life is that Masakazu had told to you.

As the result of commutation of this time, you are commuted for 3 years and 4 months. Yet as it remains to you still 3 years and a half, I am considering about how I can pass that long time.

Don't forget to thank to Masakazu when you come out from there, otherwise I am inexcusable to my aunt.

Please write to me frequently and take good care as the influenza is now prevailing.



COMMENT SHEET

JP/SUG/ \_\_\_\_\_

From: YAMADA, Setsuko

To: YAMADA, Choji

Address: Minami-Arima-machi,  
Minami-Takaki-Gun, Nagasaki.

Address: Suzano Prison

Examiner: SFC H. Taniguchi

Date Ex'd: 6 February, 1950.

Post Dated: 29 January, 1950.

SCAP Legal Section.

Title: Society of War Criminals Families Activities.

Writer states that:

In the near future, a Domestic Society of War Criminals Families will be organized by the ISAHAYA Service Section, and it is said that movements for commutation and various other services will be rendered.

Examiners note:

ISAHAYA may probably be a village within the town of MINAMI-ARIMA, MINAMI-TAKAKI-GUN, NAGASAKI-PREFECTURE.



Date: February 4, 1950

To : YAMAMOTO, Meichiro, Sugamo Prison, Tokyo.

From: YAMAMOTO, Mitsuko, 899, 2-Chome, Daita, Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo.

I congratulate you upon your guiltlessness and safe return to Japan. I am all happy these days but when can you return home? About which I am inquiring at every side. I received your letter yesterday evening and I am glad to have learned you are in good health.

I met frequently with Mr. MATSUMOTO and heard about you. I am waiting impatiently for the day of your returning home.

Since I have heard for the first time about your return to Japan from Mr. KIMURA by air mail on Jan. 3, I was at home only three days and spent the rest of my time preparing for those who would return, paying courtesy calls on behalf of the family association as well as performing liaison contracts and making arrangements for a conference to deliver thanks to attorneys. The latter gathering was successfully held thanks to the efforts of Mr. FURUKAWA in the afternoon of January 27. Everyone was very pleased with the meeting. On January 31, a party was held at the Red Cross Society around Dr. REINER // and Mr. AEGROOSE of the Japan Red Cross Society and had an unexpected good meeting. Attendants were IMAMURA, KASAI, YANO, MIYAKE, IINO, MARUYAMA, SHIGEMATSU, YAMAMOTO, of the family association especially WATARU of the Singapore areas, chiefs of 1st and 2nd Demobilization bureaus of the Foreign Office, chief of the young men protection bureau //, members of the Japan Red Cross Society, Madame president SHIMAZU, and it was a very cheerful meeting. On the occasion, the association presented to Dr. REINER a doll in appreciation.

All members of family took cold. But no one is so serious as to anxious about it.

On Jan. 2, I went to pay a courtesy call to the General MacArthur's Hq. and Netherlands mission on behalf of the Japan Red Cross Society. However due to unfavorable circumstances, I was unable to have an audience, so I revisited them again on January 3 with Mrs. IMAMURA. On the way home, I dropped in at the Foreign Office and talked with Mr. SAITO through telephone as he was absent and waited the return of Mr. HONDA who came to my house to bring your belongings. Mr. HONDA coming back to his office told me that he would come to my house in company with you when you could be released and to trust him your overcoat that you had required to be handed over at the liaison and coordination branch office. I will send your overcoat to him on the 6th.



According to yesterday's hearsay, the liberation will be held at the end of 3 weeks. I cannot assert it but it may be so. I asked yesterday when I went to the G.H.Q. to be good enough to liberate sooner possible.

I heard your story from Mrs. WAKAMATSU on Jan. 3. She was indeed kind and I owed her very much since the surrender.

As the Foreign Office relations, I and all Indonesian relations owed to Mr. SAITO and Mr. HONDA.

On next Monday, we 3 persons who had gathered at the Japan Red Cross Society will gather in the afternoon at my house to hold a monthly gathering.

As for our children, Rinkyō is going to take test at the Tokyo University. Kichihiko is preparing for his term examinations on 15 and 16, Atsuko for March.

On 23, all our children were on the wharf /or at Yokohama, Yokosuka/ to see you. Could you see them?

I hope you would take good care of yourself and return home in good health.

/s/ Mitsuko.



8 0

Date: February 7, 1950.  
To : Mr. KASAI, Heijuro, Sugame Prison, 5-A-6.  
From: Mrs. KASAI, Chiyo, 461, Taishido-cho,  
Setagay-ku, Tokyo.

I am very glad to have learned by your letter than you are enjoying good health. Mrs. IINO's family and Mrs. NIYAKE's family are anxious about their masters who would return home after 8 years' absence. Since it was previously decided that our gathering will take each month on the first Sunday in the afternoon, our February gathering which had been designated as to be held at Maj-gen. YAMAMOTO's house was opened to-day with the attendance of us the sponsors, and discussed over various matters. We decided over the allocation of members to pay courtesy calls and over the selection of Saturday 25 at 1 p.m. to have stories of Mr. YAMAMOTO at my house by opening a Netherlands Indies Meeting, as it seems that he will be released on 13 or 14. In the future, the Families Association would collaborate with the Southern Friends Association.

As mentioned in my previous letter, courtesy calls to return thanks for the repatriation to Japan were paid by Mrs. IMAMURA, Mrs. YAMAMOTO and myself, while Mrs. IINO and Mrs. MARUYAMA visited YACA and YWCA and the HAKUREN-Society (White Lotus Society, Bouddhist Society) and the Japan Vatican was visited by Mrs. KASAMATSU and Mrs. MIYAKE.

Mrs. YAMAMOTO and Mrs. MARUYAMA who went to Foreign Office yesterday with overcoat to be delivered to you, dropped in to see the Chairmans of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors.

On 9, around 9 a.m. Mrs. IMAMURA, Mrs. YAMAMOTO and myself will visit the Prime Minister, Chief Secretary MASUDA and the Tokyo Headquarters of Welfare commissicners ( as shibuya ). We will look in on our return way at the store "NANFU" at Ginza which is kept by YAMAMOTO, Takayuki to discuss and decide on a souvenir to present to 17 or 18 attorneys and interpretors who had take hitherto good care of us. (Mr. YAMAMOTO, Takayuki is the manager of NANFU, a store which deals mainly in cloth and other dry goods aside from this it handles various matters, and Mr. YAMAMOTO called on me the day before your arrival in Japan and told me that he will be able to obtain the articles at cost price if I can decide on article of souvenir. That is why I am going to consult with him. He is also thinking about your future on your release.) Thus I can terminate our courtesy visit to those concerned with our petitions for repatriation of war criminals.

Now, apart from our gathering of the 25-afternoon, I will tell you about imminent matters:



8 3

I will go tomorrow to the Foreign Office to receive your belongings the same are already forwarded to Mrs. YAMAMOTO, Mrs. IMAMURA and Mrs. MARUYAMA and I think yours are the same with those for them about which I learned at today's gathering, but I look forward them with pleasure as your had left Japan with nothing.

The gathering sponsored by the Japan Red Cross on 31 last month was intended for our purpose. We thanked Dr. Renaer and Presented him with a doll for souvenir. He was very pleased and when we shook hand, I told him "Bon Voyage!", and he replied to me "Merci, beaucoup". I learned he left Japan by plane the next morning. This gathering which was held under the auspices of President and Mrs. SHIMAZU of the Japan Red Cross was attended by ANGROOSE, American International Red Cross Representative in Japan, members of the Japan Foreign Office, YMCA, Chief of Relief Board SAITO, members of 1st and 2nd demobilization bureaus as guests. Ever since the end of hostilities, we were called under the name of War criminals families and we constantly cautioned to carry on our activities in utmost secrecy. And as for myself, I did not consider the necessity for secrecy, since nothing of violation was being done nor have I accused anybody, the Red Cross Party reminds me of my happiness for being treated as grown up after long interval and we were very pleased. The next day I told the above mentioned to President SHIMAZU when I went to return thanks with Mrs. IMAMURA and Mrs. YAMAMOTO, he was surprised and pleased that the gathering had frightened our heart so much.

At the GHQ, after tendering our thanks I told about the unbearableness of cold with 4 pieces of blanket, they kindly replied to us that they will investigate the matter to take proper measures.

According to your address-book, I informed everybody of your arrival to Japan, Mr. KAWAKAMI, Kaichi of Hamamatsu sent to you 2 books. I will send them to you as first books.



Date: February 13, 1950  
To : Mr. KASAI, Heijuro, Sugamo Prison 5A-6.  
From: Mrs. KASAI, Chiyo, 461, Taishidocho,  
Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo.

This is my 5th letter that I wrote to you in Sugamo. I have received yesterday 11, your letters of Jan. 31 (No. 2) and Feb. 6 (No. 3) at the same time, and I am glad to have learned you are getting well. As for the "Caution against" swindlers mentioned in your letter, I would take care so that I shall not be swindled, but so far as I am concerned no swindler has appeared to my house until today, and I find myself happy.

It is a very pleasant fact that the existence and merits of our Families Society was recognized by the members of the Southern Friends Society. Our society has been debuted when Mr. HAMAMOTO had written by air (dated Aug. 8, 1949 and arrived on 20) to his wife with message for me. I will do all my best even hereafter for the society, please look for.

We will hold on 18 our gathering including Mrs. YAMAMOTO. I am expecting with pleasure how all members would be pleased.

The writer tells commodities prices are descending, solitary cell in which her husband find himself now would bore him waiting for the imminent transfer to a mixed cell, the razor would be kept following instructions, the books are in preparation to send to Sugamo, and asks whether her husband met with poor UCHIDA and KANDA.

As for your belongings, I went to the Foreign Office to take out on 8 in the afternoon. The drawers, vest of wool, suit of clothes, short drawers, sport shoes were there without loss and I am deeply moved when I thought that they had travelled with you so long and so far.

I will send to you immediately writing papers.  
/ The writer continues her letter describing in detail about the state of every room of her house and garden/.

We old man and woman must change greatly our way of thinking. It is indeed embarrassing that the prevailing "après-guerre" has created "abnormal persons." But what is the use of getting angry for it? We should find a mode of living proper to the aged to enjoy it, and that will make others happy.

Our house has the drawing-room accomodated as before, and even though 30 some odd people gather for the Families Society, I have



sufficient amount of bowls, candy platters and mattresses. There we collected several times joint signatures, since there is no other suitable place, to hear stories from repatriated, to hold district representatives meeting of the Tokyo Families Society, and conferences all attended by well over 30 people.

The Netherlands Indies Society which carried out vigorous activities and of which I am an initial grain was also debuted from our drawing-room and at which I am pleased. Please pardon me since I believe that our home will be from now on also utilized for planning of coming activities. Now the Netherlands Indies Society included 700 people of CHIPINAN, became the nucleus of the Tokyo Families Society, to which joined all rural families societies and Tokyo is working as center.

Chairman IMAMURA is truly a credit to her title, while Mrs. YAMAMOTO is a good partner of me. Mrs. YANO is in charge of records as well as petitions and its composition. The four of us is primarily responsible for the function of the Society. We are progressing smoothly with Mrs. YAMAMOTO in charge of the Netherlands Indies Society accountant and Mrs. MIYAKE of Tokyo and National Society accountant.

For the purpose of discussing monthly Netherlands Indies Society problems, we the eight sponsors have decided to meet in the afternoon, the first Sunday of each month. The meeting place will be alternate and since this month's meeting is to be held at the YAMAMOTO's, we will meet at the home of Mrs. MARUYAMA next month. Our meetings differ from those of ordinary meetings, due to the fact that we have a definite objective, and they are carried on in earnest. Those who will be released on account of guiltlessness have decided to cooperate with us in the future as soon as they are freed.

Mrs. YAMAMOTO as she arranged with her husband on board of ship, that her husband will call on his release on Mrs. IMAI and me, I am waiting his release with pleasure.

I will stop here my chattering.



APPENDIX "C"

ACTIVITY OF RED CROSS

1. The Japan Red Cross in July or August, 1949, began publication of a monthly paper called AI NO HIKARI (Ray of Love). This paper has given much space to war criminal matters. It is edited by Tokuo IDE, and is published in Minato Ward, Shiba Park, Tokyo. Telephone: 43-1101. Vols. 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 have passed through censorship and translated portions are attached hereto.

2. Vol. 2 is dated 1 August 1949, and was the first copy of the publication received by LS. A copy of the same is attached hereto. In addition to listing information as to the formation of new SWCF organizations it states:

"\* \* \* Japan Red Cross Society, \* \* \* are taking great pains in realizing the object reasonably and by moderate measures."

3. Vol. 5 of the "Ray of Love" was dated 1 November 1949. It is noted therein that the Red Cross POW Relief Committee had supplied newspapers and other articles to war criminals at the Rangoon prison. Also that the Japan Red Cross had asked the International Red Cross Committee to inspect the conditions of Japanese war criminals in the New Bilibid Prison in the Philippines. It had an article about a visit to the war criminals held at Rangoon and an inspection of the war criminals held at New Bilibid. It is noted that the article refers to their place of detention as "prisoner of war" camps. It has an article about the National Conference which was held on 27 October 1949 in Tokyo and one of the matters discussed pertained to the "Ray of Love" newspaper. The circular has a number of articles on SWCF activities. Among those present at the meeting to form an organization in Ehime-ken was Kanichi KODAMA, Staff Member of the branch office of the Red Cross. Copies of the "Ray of Love" were distributed. Members of the branch office of the Red Cross of Fukuoka were present at a round table conference of the SWCF organizations of the Fukuoka and Chikugo District. It appears from the newspaper that the various local Red Cross offices report such meetings to the Tokyo office of the Red Cross. It appears that one ITO, Vice President of the Red Cross and concurrently chief of the POW Relief Committee have been contacted several times by the Secretary of the Women's League for Establishing Peace. (TOYAMA Prefectural Unit).

4. Vol #6 of the "Ray of Love" dated 1 December 1949, has an article on the activities prompted by the First National Conference of the SWCF. In addition, it reports on the visit of the International Committee of the Red Cross to war criminals (called prisoners of war) held in HongKong and also a report by the National Committee of the Red Cross (Japan agency) as to the proceedings to have war criminals prosecuted by Britain, France and the Netherlands transferred to Japan.



5. Vol. 7 of the "Ray of Love" is dated January 1, 1950. It contains articles relative to organization of war criminals' relatives. On 10 December 1949 the SWCF Unit for Hokkaido was established and sponsored by the Red Cross branch office in Hokkaido with HONDO, Chief of the Red Cross Branch office as president. The AKITA Prefectural SWCF was organized on 29 November 1949 at the Akita Branch of the Japan Red Cross. The director of the Akita Branch of the Red Cross was present at the meeting. On 7 December 1949 the OKAYAMA-SWCF was organized at the OKAYAMA branch of the Japan Red Cross Society. On 16 December 1949 an SWCF unit was organized at the AOMORI branch of the Red Cross. Officers of the Red Cross attended. This unit was named the AI NO HIKARI (Ray of Love) SWCF. At the Fukuoka Prefectural meeting on 11 November 1949 a representative of the Red Cross was present.

6. Vol. 8 of the Ray of Love, dated 1 February 1950 contains articles on the war criminal suspects held for the Australian Government and articles about two meetings of the Philippine Unit of the Tokyo SWCF.

7. A letter from Tadao IWASAKI, 29, Azuma-cho, Mizusawa-machi, (Isawa-gun), Iwata-ken, (Japan), discloses that the Iwata-ken SWCF lists as one of its activities the circulation of the "Ray of Love" and other reports of the Japan Red Cross.

8. A letter from Chiyo KASAI, dated 20 January 1950, reveals that the International Red Cross on 6 January had certain information as to the number of war criminals to be released upon their arrival from Indonesia.

9. By letter of 23 December 1949 Soji ONISHI of Niigata-ken related that he talked with the Chief of the Niigata branch of the Red Cross, relative to a campaign to gather alms and other activities in behalf of war criminals.

10. A letter from Kazuko KATAYAMA, from Niigata, reveals that the SWCF has requested aid in a fund raising campaign from, among others, Takesaburo OTAKE, Chairman of the Niigata chapter of the Red Cross and from Haruko MURATA, a committee member of the Red Cross and the wife of the mayor.

11. On 31 January 1950 a party was sponsored by and held at the Red Cross Society in Tokyo for Dr. Reiner and Mr. Angrosse of the Japan Red Cross Society. At least nine of the persons present were active representatives of war criminals and although the exact nature of the meeting is not known, it appears that it was to permit relatives of war criminals to express appreciation for the work of the two men in behalf of war criminals. The president of the Red Cross, Mr. SHIMAZU, his wife, and others, including government officials, were present.

12. In the light of the above a serious question arises as to whether the activities of the Japanese Red Cross on behalf of these criminals, even though they be ex-prisoners of war, is in conformity with the principles laid down at the International Red Cross Conferences.



Articles from  
"AI NO HIKARI", 1 November, 1949.

# 5

1. U. S. Army Completed  
All War Crimes Trials.

(Announced by Public  
Information Office G.H.Q.)

The Military Tribunal Commission in Yokohama delivered a sentence to SATANO, Osamu, former Probational Officer, on 19, October. This was the last case of war crimes trials scheduled in Japan.

After the delivery of the decision, Mr. Carpenter, Chief of Legal Section, G.H.Q. announced that "there is no more war crimes suspect detained by the U.S. Army in the Far East."

The synthetic result of the war crimes trials are as follows: The number of the Japanese prosecuted as war criminals in the Orient reached about 4,200. More than 700 of these men were executed. Those who were sentenced to imprisonment for life or penal servitude for a term amounted to 2,500.

Hundreds of the above men with a short term have already served time and been released. War crimes trials were held individually or by group at the respective military court of the United States, Britain, Philippines, Netherlands, China and France. The number of the cases reached 2,000.

The Regulations for War Crimes Trials were established by General MacArthur, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, shortly after the end of the war. The Far Eastern Commission in Washington, set up according to the regulations of the Potsdam Declaration, decided to prosecute the war crimes suspects on either one of the following three charges:

- A class: One who planned or carried out the war.
- B class: One who murdered or ill treated prisoners of war; also one who violated laws or customs of war.
- C class: One who murdered, overdrove, or acted inhumanly against the general inhabitants, or illtreated them from political, racial or religious point of view.

All the trials in the Far East, other than the case against the twenty-four A class war criminals, including TOJO, were of B or C class.



The number of these who were tried by the Military Commission of the U.S. 8th Army was about 1,000. As to the decisions, 124 were sentenced to death by hanging, 62 imprisonment for life, 650 penal servitude for a term, and 200 men were found innocent.

More than 100,000 men were examined by the investigators of G.H.Q., in connection with war crimes. U.S. officers and soldiers, including General Wainwright, who had been held prisoners of war, were examined, too. The depositions made in Tokyo only amounted to more than 50,000.

The Australian Army held trials in Rabaul, Hongkong, Borneo, etc; British in Singapore, Hongkong, Rangoon, etc; Chinese mainly in Nanking and Shanghai; Netherlands in Java, Borneo and other places in Netherlands Indies; Philippines in Manila; French in Saigon; and the U.S. Army carried out trials in Yokohama and Manila also until the independence of the Philippines.

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## 2. Crew of Hikawamaru Visited POW Camp in Rangoon

Mr. OKITA, Minokichi, purser of the Hikawa-maru which arrived at Rangoon on 19 September to transport Rangoon rice and was anchored there until 27, paid a visit to the Japanese detained in the Rangoon P.O.W. Camp. Together with Mr. KODAMA, Administrative official of Control Bureau, Foreign Office, Mr. OKITA attended the editorial conference of the "AI NO HIKARI" held at the Red Cross on 21 October, and told the details of his visit as follows.

On 25 September, Mr. OKITA went ashore with IWASAKI, Muneo, doctor of the ship and MITSUI, Yoshimatsu, Chief steward. They visited the Central Prison to see and comfort the Japanese war criminals detained there. It was Sunday, but as these three men had come all the way from Japan, they were especially allowed to see the prisoners in the chief jailer's room. In the prison forty-three detainees were put in four rooms. Ventilation was good and they all looked well, wearing shirts with short sleeves and shorts. Their daily routine is to get up at six and begin to work at once; take breakfast at eight; work until ten o'clock; then have lunch and rest till one; work from one to three; work or put their personal belongings in order from three to five; then they go back to their own rooms and rest. Their meals were not so bad.

The prisoners expressed gratitude for receiving newspapers and other articles from Red Cross P.O.W. Relief Committee, Y.M. C.A., and from the Association for Relief of Japanese abroad.



The prisoners say Mr. MIZANI /phonetic/, a Burmese millionaire, visits them at prison two or three times a month. Every time he takes in articles of daily use, tobacco, etc., articles of clothing and medicine for fifty persons to be given to the prisoners. The Burmese is admired as if he was a Buddah by every one. Mr. NEZAM lately has made a present of a short-wave radio set which enables the prisoners to listen to the broadcast from Japan. Soon one hour and a half allowed for the interview was over, and the three Japanese had to leave the prison.

On returning to Japan, Mr. OKITA and the other men wrote to the families of these prisoners regarding the particulars of their visit. It seems a number of Japanese ships have gone to Burma after he went to Rangoon, so more visits must have been paid to these Japanese internees, says Mr. OKITA.



3. Report on Visit to New Bilibid P.O.W. Camp.

By delegate of International Red Cross Committee.

As was reported in No. 1 of our paper, the Japan Red Cross Society asked the International Red Cross Committee through its delegate, Mr. Angst /phonetic/ in Japan to inspect the condition of the Japanese in the New Bilibid P.O.W. Camp, Philippines. Complying with this request, Mr. Joseph Bethmer /phonetic/, delegate of the Committee in Manila inspected the above mentioned camp on 16 August. The following report was forwarded to the Japan Red Cross Society at the end of September. This report differs from the information obtained by the Japanese which says the treatment of the prisoners is not good. However, we cannot hope to get a better information from the delegate of the Committee than this report. We appreciate that the Committee consented to our request. At the same time we expect the treatment has been more or less improved by this visit.

New Bilibid P.O.W. Camp Muntenlupa, Rizal, Philippines.

Japanese representative: Former Lt-General KURODA.

Number of internees: 166 (death sentence, 66; imprisonment, 23; penal servitude for a term, 24; 9 released; 24, on trial; 14 waiting for trial; 3 are men, each having duty of his own.)

Quarters and sanitary conditions: The prison is about 31 miles away from Manila and 500 metres from the street. It is situated on a hill, in a most healthy place with a fine view. It has two-stories and is made of concrete. Convicted prisoners live downstairs. Three men live in one room. Besides three beds there are a shower and a latrine in the room. Those who are on trial or under investigation are put in a large room upstairs where there are several rows of army beds. Lack of water is seen sometimes but sanitary condition is good there.

Food: Good. Prisoners are allowed to cook for themselves. No complaint was made about food.

Canteen: There is a canteen, but as the prisoners do not have money, they cannot buy anything. Cigarettes are given, but very seldom. The prisoners want cigarettes very badly.

Medical condition: The internees are mostly healthy. Medical arrangements are not well furnished. The Japanese representative complained that there was nobody in attendance in the



hospital, which, he said, was quite distressing.

**Labor:** Most men work at the factory, do carpenter's work, gardening or cooking. There are several things to be done in their own rooms, too.

**Money:** According to the regulation, they should receive pay, but for the present they are not paid. Lt-General said the internees could not buy daily necessities as they had no money.

**Religion:** They are allowed to have religious services of Buddhism or Christianity. The protestant service is given by Doctor Nelson who has been in Japan and good at Japanese. He comes to the Prison to preach every Saturday.

**Recreation:** There were books and newspaper sent from Japan and also some English books given by Dr. Nelson. The prisoners are allowed to have out-door sports for one hour every-day. Some play baseball; some tennies. Sometimes there is a picture show, too.

**Correspondence:** The number of letters allowed for the prisoners to send home differs according to their classification. They are allowed to write home once, twice or four times.

**Request made by the internees:** When they were under control of the U.S.Army, several internees had their-teeth pulled out. They have not had false teeth put in. Nor they cannot buy them, as they have no money. They are suffering much from it and are anxious to get false teeth somehow.

**Returning home.** Those who are released are returned home by the good offices of the Legal Section, U.S.Army.

**Conversation with the Japanese representative:** The Red Cross delegate could exchange views with former Lt-General KURODA on the above mentioned matter without being attended by any one.

**Conclusion:** Atmosphere was good; the internees were in good spirits; all seem satisfactory.

#### 4. Appeal to Governor of Hongkong.

The visit of the Governor of Hongkong and his wife was greeted with great joy by the families of the detainees abroad who had long been wished to realize the criminals serving time in Japan, making most of every opportunity. Representing the families of the prisoners held in Hongkong, NAKAI, Midori, YAJIMA, Sayaka, TAMAKI, Yuki and YAMAZAKI, Taketoshi went to the British Embassy



at 2:30 p.m. on 6 October and made an appeal for the realization of serving term in Japan.

Unfortunately, the Governor and his wife were away on a trip on that day and the representatives could not see them. However, they saw Mr. Quine /phonetic/ Second Secretary of the British Embassy to whom they conveyed the earnest wish of all the families of the war criminals. The Secretary replied he understood well what they came for and he would tell the Governor all about it. Then the representatives handed the petition which they had prepared to Mr. Quine.

5. Family Groups of Absentees  
Former All Over Japan  
Earnest Prayer Answered

Four years after the end of the war, a light for hope is dawned upon the families who have been struggling with the hardships brought about by the lost war, pressing down their sorrow for having no one to rely upon. The representatives from each Prefecture gathered at Honganji (Temple) at Tsukiji in Tokyo on 27 and 28 October to consult about their activities in the future.

The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on 27 October. Mr. HIRANOTO, Yasaburo, who has shown much concern with this problem, was chosen as a chairman of the conference while Mr. RIKUJI, Miyoro was made the sponsor. Congratulatory addresses were given by the representatives of Y M C A, YWCA and Byakuren-sho, etc.. After the representatives explained the conditions of each Local Group of the Familie of Men Away From Home, they discussed how to work the Groups in the future. The items submitted for discussion are as follows:

1. Petition for serving time in Japan and for amnesty for those who are sentenced to death.
2. Correspondence among Family Groups of Absentees.
3. Correspondence with internees.
4. Funds.
5. Power of attorney enabling central activities of the Family Group in Tokyo.
6. Sending out of relief goods
7. Relief for the absentees' families.
8. Matters regarding "AI NO HIKARI" (T.N. Ray of Love, Name of newspaper published by Japan Red Cross.)



9. Several other matters.

These being the questions much concerned with the absentees' families, hot discussions were continued. The representatives could not finish to deliberate on scheduled items within the fixed hour, so they kept on discussions in another room intended for them to spend the night. They resumed conference from early next morning, 28th. Sometime past noon they agreed in opinion on all the items, under a fine chairmanship of Mr. HIRAMOTO.

Then the representatives left Honganji in several groups to submit petitions to all the Foreign Missions, and various government and civil organs or groups.

Mr. HIRAMOTO, Yasaburo, INABA, Yoshinobu and others who, realizing that all the Japanese people should be interested in the realization of the wish of the absentees' families, had kept on this movement availing themselves of every chance, happened to be present at the meeting. They decided to submit an appeal to the Diet now in session from the standpoint of the third person. They visited the President of the House of Councillors and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 28 October and presented a petition to each of them.

(Editor --more details will be given in the next issue)

6.

Absentees' Family Group  
Organized in Each prefecture

TOYAMA

Through the good offices of the Prefectural Religious League, a general meeting of the families of war criminals was held at Nishibetsu-in in Toyama City. Approved by all who were present, Family Groups were organized in order to help one another in spiritual suffering. A movement will be started to appeal for amnesty and to comfort the war criminals, appealing to the sympathy of all the nation. YAMAMOTO, Yasumasa of Toyama City was elected President, and NAKABAYASHI, Kimiko (whose husband was sentenced to life imprisonment in the South) of Nagaokamura, Nibu-gun was made Vice-President. (From evening edition of "Hokuriku", dated 6 September.)

EHIME

The ceremony to organize an Absentees' Family Group in Ehime Prefecture was held from 10 a.m. on 11 October at Yuai-Kaikan, No. 2, Matsuyama City. Of 51 Absentees' family members, 18 was present. Among the guests were NISHIBORI, Riichi, Chief of the Relief Section of the Prefecture, IKEUCHI, member of the same Section, HISHIHARA, Ikuo, Chief of Zentsuji Branch of Chubu Demobilization Liaison Bureau, UTSUNOMIYA, Mitsuru, President of



Christian Association of Ehime Prefecture, KODAMA, Kanichi, staff member of the Branch Office of the Red Cross, and several members of the Relief Section of Tokushima and Kochi Prefectures. At the meeting, report was made on the circumstances leading to the organization of the Family Group. They talked over the establishment of the regulations, elected officials and discussed the matters over the presentation of a petition, etc.. The meeting broke up at 1 p.m.

TOGAMA, Iwatara was elected President and SHIGEKAWA, Kiyoko and ISHIKI, Tsuruichi were each made Vice-President. UTSUNOMIYA, Mitsuru, KUNIMASU, Tomasu and another person were recommended as advisers. This is the first time that an Absentees' Family Group was formed in Shikoku. Copies of No. 4 issue of "AI NO HIKARI" were presented to the families and the guests. They were received with joy.

(Red Cross Branch Office in Ehime Prefecture).

#### General Family Groups' Meeting in Fukuoka

In Fukuoka Prefecture the Absentees' Family Group was formed a long time ago in each local district of Kitakyushu, Chikuho, Fukuoka and Chikugo. Soon after conference of Kitakyushu and Chikugo districts held in Ogura City on 20 October, another meeting, a round-table conference, of the Family Groups of Fukuoka and Chikugo districts was held 21 October at the Prefectural Women's Club at Mukojima, Fukuoka City. at 11 a.m. about fifty members gathered together. Among them were seen members of the Relief Section of these Prefectures, West District Demobilization Liaison Office and of the Branch Office of the Red Cross. The decisions made at this meeting were as follows:

1. Petition for sparing the lives of those who were sentenced to death.
2. Promotion of the movement to appeal convicts' serving their term in Japan.
3. Quick and smooth correspondence desired.
4. Organization of the family Group should be examined.  
(Red Cross Branch Office in Fukuoka)

Representative of Toyama Women's League  
Visited Red Cross  
In Order to Make an Appeal for Serving Time  
in Japan

On 28 October HIRAOKA, Hatsue, chief secretary of Heiwakensetsu Fujindomei (Women's League for establishing Peace) of Toyama Prefecture, and several others visited the Red Cross



Society to see ITO, Vice-president of the Red Cross and concurrently chief of Prisoners of War Relief Committee, and asked him to help them making a petition for the serving of term in Japan of the war criminals held in foreign land. They submitted a copy of the petition addressed to General MacArthur.

Mrs. HIRAOKA is endeavoring to promote the movement for a quick repatriation of the Japanese detained in the Soviet Union. She visited the Red Cross before, asking for assistance in this movement.

Byakuren-sha/White Lotus Society/  
Buddhist Relief Organ, Established

A Buddhist society called Byakuren-sha has been established lately. It was originated by the representative of such Buddhist temples as Sensoji, Gokokuji, Tsukiji Honganji, Asakusa Honganji, and also the Buddhist League. It is intended to promote the movement for peace, offer prayers for the repose of the souls of the dead, and to give guidance to the war criminals and their families. It can be much expected as a relief organ. The organization is not quite completed yet. It is being promoted by the Chiefs of the Buddhist Association in each Prefecture. When it is completely organized, it is expected that all the temples in the country will take part in it.



Aino-Hikari (No. 6 Dec 1, 1949) 6

(Ray of Love)

The Japan Red Cross Society's organ

Editorial: Concern was directed to the Japanese remaining in Soviet areas but when some repatriates arrived recently from the Communist China areas, it began to direct to the latter areas.

Remaining Japanese in the Communist China areas are almost civilians, women and children. Among them, technicians and trained nurses were compelled to follow the Communist army from the North China to the South China on foot and the others are driven as servants of Chinese houses in a semi-slavery state.

It is inadmissible that they shall be treated as above despite they are qualified as prisoners of war.

#### Conditions on POW's at Hongkong

1. Report of delegate of International Committee of the Red Cross, Frederic Billier on his visit at the POW's Stanley Camp at Hongkong.  
/ No particular to be translated /
2. Our actual conditions, by all POW's at Stanley Camp.  
/ No particular to be translated /
3. Report of Mr. MATSUMOTO, Chuzo on his return from the Stanley Camp:

According to former Capt. MATSUMOTO who returned to Japan after completed his penal servitude of 2 years at Stanley Camp.

- a. State of health is good in General
- b. Convicts are working on the farm yard that the Japanese had exploited outside of the camp.
- c. Meals are poor  
Breakfirst: Rice (Chipped rice), a piece of pork  
big as the thumb with vegetables  
Supper : Rice (Chipped rice), a dried fish with vegetables  
No mid day meal, except about two Bowls of rice-gruel sent from the International Committee of the Red Cross Society.
- d. On the suggestion in October of the Red Cross Society, POW's applied for books and about 300 Books were sent.
- e. Prison term for term convicts are calculated 8 months for 1 year (that is 2/3 of the sentences term)

#### Sympathy gathered on the First Meeting of W.C. Families:

Summary of wishes delivered by guests at the 1st meeting of War criminals' families held at Nishi-Honganji temple, Tokyo last Oct. 27 and 28 are as hereafter:



Mr. ASAOKA, Nobuo, councillor

In the Diet, the problem of the families of not-yet repatriates was for the first time taken into consideration in September 1948. I met with Mr. Snyder, GHQ, and he told me that we can greet in a great extent ashes etc. from foreign countries. Former Gen. OKAMURA returning from China stood before the Houses' special commission to explain the actual situations of Japanese in China. Such that GHQ began to give ear to the problem, the families therefore can express freely their desire to accomplish their purpose.

Mr. SEKIYA, Sadasaburo, committee chairman of the Japan Y.M.C.A.

As the war criminals are victims of the whole nation, I wish that they can return home by all means.

Lately when Dr. Seiyer came to Japan, I told about this. He promised me to appease the bad sentiments of Filipinos against the Japanese as he was going to the Philippines.

As our association has close relations with American and other corps, I am asking every corps in view of getting their cooperation, by exposing them the present hard circumstances of families.

Mr. NINOMIYA, Genichi, Welfare Commissioner

We 130,000 commissioners having held general meeting at Hiroshima last month, resolved to embark to the assistance of families of non-repatriates.

Those who are suffering should apply to the welfare commissioner of their region, to whom you will be able to rely upon.

Mrs. HIRAOKA, Kikue, Peace reconstruction women's league

The other day, Mr. ASAKURA returned from a foreign country and learned from him circumstances of Autram/?/. Our league has decided to work for WC's and I came here with signs of 20,000 persons and 800 postal cards.

Rev. TAJIMA Ryujun. Chaplain of the Sugamo Prison. Sect Hakuren/white-Lotus

Our white-lotus society has embarked to the petition move under the GHQ understanding. We would exert ourselves in favor of unfortunates despite to sect and religion.

ECHOES to the Petition:

a. GHQ.

We could not see General MacArthur, time being unfavorable. We



handed our Petition over his delegate who promised us to present it to General MacArthur.

b. French embassy

We saw acting ambassador and presented our Petition. He told us that the matter is not concerned only his country and a harmonious step shall be taken with other countries. But if Allied Powers accepts, he will endeavor to satisfy our desire.

c. Dutch delegation

We could not see minister but Capt. Yochiyan told us that he will transfer our petition to his country.

d. Australian delegation

We saw Lt-Col. Goslett who received us very courteously and promised us that he will communicate our petition to his country. He told that the Manus Island is well provisioned and that we shall set our mind at ease.

e. British embassy

Ambassador was absent but we were told that our desire will be transferred to England through Singapore.

f. Philippine delegation

We entreated orally so that the POW's be permitted to serve their sentences in Japan.

g. Allied Council for Japan

We saw Mr. Spinks and entreated for the relief of POW's. He shook hands with us and voluntarily accepted to convey our petition when presented.

h. Premier

He received us despite Diet sitting and told us he will endeavor to come up to our expectations.

i. Diet

We saw President MATSUDAIRA through Councillor ASAOKA's good officers, and handed over him our petition. He promised us to consult with various councillors' commissions. We saw a speaker. He told us that he had last time presented documents to GHQ and failed. But in response to the ardent desire of our delegation, he will try once more although it is a difficult matter to realize.

j. Vatican delegation

We were received by the vicar very courteously and were told that he will do his utmost by transferring our petition to Vatican.



k. International Committee Japan agency, Red Cross Society

"Regarding the servitude in Japan, the talking is being in course of proceeding between Britain, France, Netherlands and their missions in Japan, and the solution will not be far off." Was the reply from the committee.

Reply of Singapore High Commissioner

When High Commissioner Macdonald of British Southeast Asia came to Japan Mrs. FUKUOKA, Haruka, Mrs. UPSUNOMIYA, In, Mrs. WATARU, Masuko and families of remaining Japanese in the Malay and Singapore areas had called on him at the British Embassy and presented him a petition so that Japanese W. Criminals be permitted to serve sentences in Japan, and the acknowledgement of the above petition was sent dated September 26 from his secretary.



To : CHISUWA, Takeichi,  
Sugamo Prison.

From: MURAKAMI, Yoneo,  
Tokyo-To, Omori-Ku,  
Shinaraijyuku, 3 Chome.

#-7

A copy of AI NO HIKARI  
published on January 1, 1950

Activities of Society of War Criminal Families.

AKITA

The general meeting for establishment of Society of War Criminals Families of AKITA-Ken was held on November 29, 1949 at the AKITA Branch of Japan Red Cross Society, with the attendance of 30 members of war criminal families and some guests including the Chief of Civil Welfare Department of the Prefectural Government, Director of AKITA Branch of Japan Red Cross, Head of AKITA Branch of Christian league and Chief of OSARUZAWA Mine. After deciding on the regulations of the society and electing the executives, the reports were heard from those recently released after their completion of the term. The concrete steps were discussed to immediately open petitioning movements for home-land service of the war criminals, their commutation and improvements in treatment. The officers of the society elected are as follows:

Chairman	YAMAGAMI, Suekichi
Vice-Chairman	FUJII, Seiji
"	FUKUOKA, Kiichiro
Managing director	NISHIMURA, Setsuko
"	SATO, Kamejire
"	OWARI, Kiyoko
"	SAKATA, Kaya
"	TANAKA, Tomitaro

OKAYAMA

On December 7, 1949, all those concerned assembled at OKAYAMA Branch of Japan Red Cross Society and the Society of War Criminals Families of OKAYAMA-Ken was officially organized. Mr. OKAMOTO, Teraji was elected Chairman, and OTAWARA, Sugae and KATAYAMA, Jin as vice-chairman. It was decided to positively act for making petition for home-land service of the war criminals abroad and their commutation.

HOKKAIDO

On December 10, 1949, the Society of War Criminals Families of HOKKAIDO was established, sponsored by HOKKAIDO Branch of Japan Red



Cross and other religious groups. The objective of its establishment was to give both spiritual and material support to those war criminals families who are confronted with such more difficulties compared with the people of other kinds. Mr. KONDO, Head of HOKKAIDO Branch of Japan Red Cross, became first Chairman of the newly established society.

#### AOMORI

On December 16, 1949, the first meeting of war criminals families for friendly talks was held at AOMORI Branch of Japan Red Cross, to which some officers of Red Cross and 8 members of war criminals families (of 14 members in all) attended. At this meeting the proposal for establishment of a society of war criminals families of this prefecture made, and after electing the executives, AI NO Hikari Society of War Criminals Families came into existence. The following are the executives elected:

Chairwoman	IMA, Tsune
Vice-Chairwoman	KIKUCHI, Toshiko
Manager	KUSHIBIKI, Takeshiro
"	ASAKA, Toshio
"	TAKANO, Hiroshi
Adviser	SAITO, Takichi

#### FUKUOKA

The Society of War Criminals Families of FUKUOKA-Ken held a meeting of its committee on November 11, 1949 at MATSUNOI Hotel in Fukuoka City, at which representatives from Japan Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Society of Love, Buddhist League, Religious League and Women's Association were present. Mr. HAKAMURA, Yoshio, Chairman, presided the meeting, and the budget for this fiscal year was one of the subjects for discussion.

#### Be Cautions of Fraud Pertaining War Crimes

We learn by hearsay that there are still happening cases of fraud resulting from taking advantage of the matters pertaining war crimes. Let us caution ourselves so that we shall never fall a victim to fraud. We were even informed by some persons now kept at SUGAMO Prison that there are many cases of fraud in KYUSHU area. In case of some doubt, it is advisable that you immediately communicated to Assistance Division of Prefectural Government for consultation.



To : Those kept at 1st Floor, Block 2,  
Sugamo Prison.

From: MURAKAMI, Yoneo,  
Tokyo-To, Omori-Ku,  
Shinaraijyuku, 3 Chome.

FF 8

A copy of AI NO HIKARI,  
published on February 1, 1950

What shall become of Australian Trial?

Reading a report of newspaper that the trial on those war criminal suspects now kept at Sugamo Prison will shortly be opened at MANUS Island as intended by the Australian Army authorities, the families of those suspects rushed to Sugamo for inview. On January 19 they visited Mr. Sebald, Chairman of Allied Council for Japan, Mr. Hodgson, Representative of Australian Mission and Legal Section, SCAP for making a petition, but they were told that a definite reply had not been received yet. They asked for good consideration in the future.

Welcoming Capt. ENKO (phonetic)

In early December last year, Capt. ENKO, Chief of War Criminals Affairs Bureau, came to this country from Philippine. The Society of War Criminals Families (Philippine) invited him to the residence of Mr. KYOSE, Yasuhachi, Tokyo-To, Setagaya-Ku, 2 Chome, 2059, on December 9, where he came with Maj. Stewart of Philippine Mission. More than 30 members of the society and some other persons concerned attended this meeting. For various questions which were made by Mr. KYOSE in behalf of all the members of the society, Capt. ENKO and Maj. Stewart kindly explained about the nature and organization of Philippine trial court and expressed their opinions on the wishes of the families and the procedure for making petition. All the members were so much encouraged and very thankful.

Talk with Maj. Stewart.

On January 15, a meeting of the Society of War Criminals Families (Philippine) was held at the residence of Mr. IMAWURA, Eikichi, Tokyo-To, Nakano-Ku, Saginomiya, 1 Chome, 132, to which Maj. Stewart, Chief of Philippine Division of Legal Section and Mrs. Stewart were invited.



At the meeting a souvenir was presented to them, and all the member had happy time in talking with them.

Information from Society of War Criminals  
Families (British area) of Tokyo.

For a petition addressed to Mr. MacDonald, Higher Commissioner of South-Eastern Asia from Mr. KURANISHI (Nara-Ken) for improvement in treatment at the prisons in Malay area, his reply was received. The detail of the reply cannot be written here, but he made very kind explanation about the actual condition of the prisons. Mr. MacDonald kindly made his best efforts to improve OATORAM Prison after his return. From this Society letters of gratitude were sent to Mr. MacDonald and the new Commandant of OATORAM Prison.



APPENDIX "D"

ACTIVITY OF GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND OFFICIALS

1. There is not much information available to indicate the activity of governmental units and officials, but there is enough to warrant further investigation. Quite naturally, such agencies and officials have been and will become contacted and there is danger that their interest and activity will increase if the organized activity continues. The political possibilities of organizations formed for war criminals should not be overlooked.

2. The relief sections of many prefectures appeared to have been active in the promotion and organization of SWCF units. Members of the Relief Section of Fukuoka and Chikugo Districts of Kyushu were present at a conference on 21 October 1949 in Fukuoka.

3. At the organization of the SWCF in Ehime Prefecture on 11 October 1949 Riichi NISHIBORI, Chief of the Relief Section of the prefecture was present along with IKEUCHI of the same section. Several members of the Relief Section, TAKUSHIMA and KOICHI prefectures were also present.

4. The Relief Section of Fukuoka Prefecture warned of fraud in connection with war criminal matters and asked that reports of same be submitted to the section.

5. About 45 persons attended an SWCF meeting in Kyoto on 15 January 1950. Members from the Relief Section were present and "spoke kindly to us." "Lots of presents" were given for those in attendance, some of them from "Kyoto-Fu". It is not known whether the presents were from the Relief Section or some other branch of the City Government.

6. At the initial SWCF National Convention in October 1948 it appears that Genichi NINOMIYA, Welfare Commissioner, gave a speech during which he is reported as saying, "We 130,000 (?) commissioners having held general meeting at Hiroshima last month resolve to embark to the assistance of families of non-repatriates. Those who are supporting should apply to the Welfare Commissioners of the region to whom you will be able to rely upon."

7. On 21 October 1949 Mr. Hagen of Legal Section inquired of Mr. KIMURA, Chief of the Liaison Office of the Foreign Ministry, whether he knew of any organized activity in behalf of war criminals, and he replied that he did not. On 9 December 1949, Mr. YOSHIMURA of the same office raised the subject to Mr. Hagen, apparently as a consequence of the interview with Mr. KIMURA. He stated that they were aware that some organizations had been formed but that so far as he knew there had been no illegal activity. He was advised that SCAP preferred to deal with recognized Japanese agencies and did not look with favor upon private organizations attempting to promote activity in behalf of war criminals. It appears that some officials of the Foreign Office are more active on behalf of war criminals than normal duty might require.

APP  
"D"



8. An SWCF Unit was organized in the Service Section (evidently Demobilization) of ISAHAYA (apparently a village in the town of Minamiya, Minami Tokaki-gun in Nakasaki-ken). It also appears that the Service Section continued action.

9. The Chugu Demobilization Liaison Bureau was represented at the organizational meeting of the SWCF in Ehime Prefecture on 11 October 1949 by Ikuo ISHIBARA, Chief of the Zentsuji branch.

10. A relative of a war criminal living in Setagaya-ku wrote that she owed a lot to the efforts of the Demobilization Bureau.

11. At a (Ray of Love) editorial conference on 21 October, 1949, relative to war criminal matters, Mr. KODAMA, described as "Administrative Official of Control Bureau Foreign Office" was present.

12. An organization has been formed to aid the "Overseas Police", who had been convicted as war criminals. These "Overseas Police" had served as "Counselor Police" in connection with what the Japanese apparently claim were "consulates" in the occupied territory. This organization undoubtedly expects support from the Foreign Office, although there is nothing yet to indicate they have been successful. One writer states that there are some prefectures which support the movement with their "Sewa-bu Service Section" under the patronage of the "Government Section". This letter is not clear but it is believed that the reference is to the local branch of the Demobilization Bureau working under the Foreign Office.

13. Naaji KURIWA, ex-Major General, recently released from Sugamo wrote that "drafts of petition forms will be immediately prepared through liaison contacts with the Foreign Affairs Bureau." These petitions were to be used for submission to a prefectural assembly.

14. On 27 January 1950 SWCF had a party to thank attorneys and interpreters who had assisted in war criminal matters. Invitations were extended to section as well as division chiefs of the Foreign Office and First and Second Demobilization Bureau. Approximately 70 persons were present, but our information does not indicate if the officials indicated attended.

15. On 31 January 1950 the Japan Red Cross Society held a gathering to enable the representatives of the SWCF to thank Professor Renner for certain activity in behalf of war criminals. Among those in attendance were Chief SAITO and section and division chiefs concerned with war criminals and section and division chiefs of the First and Second Demobilization Bureaus and the Chiefs of the Foreign Affairs Section.

16. Mrs. IMAMURA, Chairman of the Tokyo SWCF, made personal calls to express appreciation for efforts to have war criminals returned to Japan. She writes that she called upon "Foreign Office, Mr. SAITO, Chief of Relief Bureau, Chief of Demobilization Bureau, (His Excellency Prince KAZUKI) \* \* \*, Second Demobilization Bureau." The same writer in describing a meeting of the Australian unit of the SWCF on 29 January 1950 states that four government employees were among those present. She also writes that among those who called to congratulate her on the return of her war criminal husband from Indonesia were, among many others, Mr and Mrs TAKETOMI, Administrative Official of the Demobilization Bureau."



17. A petition dated 30 September 1949 was submitted by 544 petitioners to Masakiko OKUBO, Chairman of Kogawa Prefectural Assembly. The said petition recited a number of grievances relative to the treatment of the prisoners serving outside of Japan and entreated the assembly to give its support to realize the return of the war criminals to Japan and the commutation of their penalties. Some of the allegations in the petition were not true and it is doubted that any attempt whatever was made by the assembly to verify them. However, the assembly forwarded with a covering endorsement noting "The KOGAWA Prefectural Assembly, through careful examination, adopted the petition and hereby ask you to take appropriate steps thereon." The same was forwarded to the Chief, Civil Affairs Officer of the Chikoku Civil Affairs Region.

18. Naoji KORIWA, ex-Major General, released at the end of December, 1948, contacted an old acquaintance, Koji ADACHI, a member of the Prefectural Assembly of Nagano Prefecture and apparently arranged for the submission of a petition to the assembly.

19. At the initial National SWCF Conference in Tokyo in October 1949, Nobuo ASAOKA, a member of the House of "Councilors" spoke mainly about the problem of repatriation and indicated that GHQ was beginning to "give ear to the problem" and stated that the families could express freely their desire to accomplish their purpose.

20. After the conference delegates were selected to call on Premier YOSHIDA, both Houses of the Diet and interested Ministries. Councillor ASAOKA arranged for the delegation to see President MATSUDAIRA, who promised to consult various councillors commissions. It appears that they also saw the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The speaker told them that he had once passed documents to GHQ, which had failed. He was reported by the delegation as stating that he "will try once more, although it is a difficult matter to realize." It is believed that in the delegation visiting the Diet were Yasaburo HIRAMOTO, Yoshinobu INABA, and others, including possibly Miozo KATAYAMA.

21. In a letter KATAYAMA is reported to have "strongly entreated Prime Minister YOSHIDA, all Ministers concerned and the staff of the two houses there." YOSHIDA is reported to have stated: "I am deeply moving to sympathy by the Japan Government under occupation regret to think that the time is not coming to advocate positively the campaign. Nevertheless, for the campaign arising out of the population the Government will take (so far as possible) a sympathetic attitude and will not restore more objection to it, etc."

22. Mrs. IMAMURA, President of the Tokyo SWCF, and a delegation, were scheduled to call on Prince KITASHIRAKAWA on 7 February 1950 and on the Prime Minister on 9 February 1950. Mrs. MIYAKE of the Tokyo SWCF, writes, "Mr TAKETOMI of the Demobilization Board has been there and is giving us very kind assistance, and we consult him on all the matters."

23. A writer from Miyagi-Ken wrote in her letter of 10 February 1950 that "Mr TAKAHASHI of Samama (who went to Burma) is now serving at the Foreign Office as an administrative official. He recently called on me during his trip for visiting war criminals families and gave me money of sympathy which he had been requested by the Division of Personnel to hand over to me."



APPENDIX "E"

ACTIVITY OF MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIZATIONS

1. The YMCA had a representative at the initial national conference of the SWCF who gave a "congratulatory address". Mr. Sadasaburo SEKIYA, Committee Chairman of the Japanese YMCA, is reported to have said:

"As the war criminals are victims of the whole nations, I wish that they can return home by all means.

"Lately when Dr. Seiyer came to Japan, I told about this. He promised me to appease the bad sentiments of Filipinos against the Japanese as he was going to the Philippines.

"As our association has close relations with American and other Corps, I am asking every corps in view of getting their cooperation by exposing them the present hard circumstances of families."

The "RAY OF LOVE" notes that the Welfare Department of the YMCA was "taking great pains in realizing the object reasonably and by moderate measures."

The TOHOKU District, SWCF, submitted petitions to the YMCA on two occasions with approximately 30,000 signatures each time. The first instance was the end of 1948 and the second in May, 1949. Miscellaneous references indicate the YMCA is rather active.

2. The YMCA had a representative at the initial conference of SWCF, who also gave a "congratulatory address". Mrs. Teraki UESURA, as President of the YMCA of Japan wrote a letter in June, 1949, urging the commutation of the death sentences imposed upon war criminals convicted in the Western Army and Kyushu University cases.

3. The REPATRIATION SPEEDING UP MOVEMENT LEAGUE OF NAKANIKAWA GUN, TOYAMA PREFECTURE, secured 1,933 signers to a petition in behalf of a single war criminal. The initial signature was "Shoji NARUSE, representative."

4. The ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF JAPANESE ABROAD has supplied newspapers and "other articles" to war criminals held outside of Japan. Nothing is known about that association.

5. A REPATRIATION AID ASSOCIATION has given assistance to war criminals. Nothing more is known.

6. A Christian Brotherhood Society (SEINYU-Kai) is organized in Sugano Prison. The only known member thereof is Michio KURIYAMA.

7. Mitsuru UTSUNOMIYA is President of the CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION of EHIME Prefecture, and was present at the organizational meeting of the SWCF Unit and was selected as "Advisor".



8. The White Lotus Society (BYAKURIN-sha), a Buddhist society has, among other aims, the "guidance to war criminals and their families". It is a relief organization being promoted by the chiefs of the Buddhist association in each prefecture. It had a representative at the national conference. It appears that Reverend Ryujun TAJIMA, Chaplain of Sugamo Prison, is secretary of the Society.

9. The HANEGOGUJOKYOKAI (SOUTH LIGHT MUTUAL HELP SOCIETY) in Tokyo is lead by Hiroshi ARIMA. After June, 1948, he established contact with the families of war criminals who were held in Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo and Burma. He secured over 20,000 signatures to a petition in December, 1948, and over 30,000 to a petition in April, 1949.

10. Hatsue HIRAKA, Chief Secretary of the WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE (HEIWA KEN SEISU FUJIN DOMEI) of Toyama Prefecture, Toyama City, Sakura Cho - 475, on 28 October 1948 contacted the Vice President of the Red Cross relative to petitioning for war criminals. Mrs. Kikus HIRAKA (apparently the same person) was present at the initial national conference of the SWCF in Tokyo and is reported to have stated, "Our League has decided to work for war criminals and I came here with signatures of 20,000 persons and 800 postcards. This same League apparently distributed, hundreds of postcards, urging the return of Japanese war criminals to Japan. The cards were postmarked in November and December, 1949, and may have been the result of Mrs. HIRAKA's contact with the Red Cross. They came from many prefectures and were addressed to the League, which in turn forwarded them to SCAP.

11. The UNITED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF FUKUOKA CITY is supporting the Fukuoka Prefecture unit of the SWCF.

12. The ONWA (Gentle and Sweet) WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION of Kajiya-gun, Gifu Prefecture has circulated petitions.

13. On 25 November 1949 Mrs. Yachigo SAFO, styling herself as "Delegate" of the KUSAMOTO LADIES SOCIETY, wrote to SCAP in behalf of an individual war criminal.

14. The LADIES SOCIETY OF HAMERIKAWA cho, Nakanikawa-gun, Toyama Prefecture, secured 404 signatures for the same war criminal. The initial signature was that of Ise YOSHIMI.

15. The SWCF unit in NIIGATA solicited TAKITARO, Kodama, Chief of the Niigata Branch Foundation of COMPATRIOTS AID SOCIETY, established through Imperial Gift (ONSHI ZAIDAN DOBO ENGO KAI, NIIGATA SHIBU CHO).

16. The Chief of the YOUNG MEN PROTECTION BUREAU attended the party sponsored by the Red Cross on 31 January 1950 to enable relatives to express appreciation for the activity on behalf of war criminals.

17. A letter, dated 17 February 1950, by an active worker of the Tokyo SWCF contained information that "In the future the Family Society will combine their efforts with those of HANYU KAI (FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN VETERANS)."



18. The same writer refers to a proposed "visit" to the CIVIL COMMITTEE LEAGUE in Shibuya, Tokyo.

19. The same writer refers to a proposed visit to the "MINAMI KAZE" (SOUTH WIND) store of YAMAMOTO, Takayuki to discuss and decide on a souvenir for presentation to 17 or 18 attorneys and interpreters. It continues "a store which deals mainly in cloth and other dry goods. Aside from this, it deals in other matters". The name of the store and the latter reference may indicate the place is a headquarters or clearing house.

20. The Yamagata Prefecture SWCP "expects to carry on its activities through contacts with the HANKU AOEA KAI in Sendai."

21. The Hiroshima Prefecture SWCP in December 1948 was renamed the HIROSHIMA KEN SHIRA YURI KAI (Society of the White Lily).

22. It appears that in late 1948 the Japanese-Philippines Good Relations Committee was established by the Japanese and Philippine YBCA's. The SWCP proposed that said committee consider the re-trial of the death sentences imposed in Philippine war crimes trials.



APPENDIX "F"

ACTIVITY OF SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

1. The SWCF units were composed of relatives of war criminals, although in a few instances it appeared that non-relatives were participating. One of the aims of the SWCF was to provide aid to the families of war criminals. Funds are being collected for that purpose. The exact role of "supporting associations" is not known but apparently is financial aid.

2. Mrs. Toshie TOMOMORI, wife of ex-General Kiyoharu TOMOMORI, now under death sentence, in a letter dated 1 October 1949 disclosed that former subordinates had not only signed petitions in his behalf but had sent some money several times.

3. Mr. OHATA of the Labor Section of OSARIZAWA Mining Corporation of Okita-ken, urged the SWCF unit there to become very active and to expand its activities, one of the latter being to give financial aid to war criminal families.

4. Mr. SUZUKI of the Shimazu Mfg. Plant in Kyoto has aided the local unit of the SWCF and he and his friends have contributed presents to its members.

5. In November it was noted that there existed an "ASSOCIATION FOR RELIEF OF JAPANESE ABROAD" which had participated in dispatching newspapers and other articles to war criminals serving abroad.

6. An intercept dated 5 January 1950 to a war criminal in Sugamo mentioned a visit to "the PREFECTURAL SPONSORS' SECTION" and remarked that the Section was greatly concerned in doing its best for war criminals.

7. An intercepted letter to a war criminal in Sugamo dated 11 January 1950 expresses gratitude for the efforts of the "REPATRIATES AID ASSOCIATION".

8. A SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION (KOHEN KAI) was organized in Hokkaido on 10 December 1949. It appears to function as a part of the Sapporo Red Cross. The family of Chihiro KOKUBO received a relief payment of ¥1,500 according to an intercepted letter. According to the same letter, the Supporters' Association will pay the train expenses for persons in outlying areas wishing to attend meetings of the SWCF. It will pay travelling expenses for visits by relatives to Sugamo and invited those wishing to avail themselves of the same to submit visiting dates.

9. Another letter to a war criminal at Sugamo states that travelling expenses would be paid to Tokyo by the "ASSOCIATION TO SUPPORT WAR CRIMINALS families in Sapporo", of which the Chief of the Hokkaido Branch of the Japanese Red Cross is present.

10. The WHITE LOTUS SOCIETY and the COMPATRIOTES AID SOCIETY appear to be interested in "relief" measures.

RPP  
"F"



- PRINTED CIRCULAR -

Indorsed in letter dated 24 Jan. 1950,  
from SARUWATARI, Hiko to SARUWATARI, Kunio, Sugamo.

A Happy New Year to you.

Two years having passed since this War Criminal Families Society had founded, the Society wishes to center our efforts to attain our objective.

It is a matter of congratulation that lately 62 persons were released from the Sugamo prison and the POWs in the Netherlands Indies will be transferred to Japan on or about Jan. 20. This is also due, we think, to the petitions zealously tendered by you all and active grievances etc. of the part of the Tokyo W.C.F. Society that made towards the Authorities concerned.

On January 13, we members of the Society of War Criminal Families gathered at the home of chairman Mr. SASABU and discussed various matters. After a careful consideration on the collection of prefectural fund of ¥ 20,000 that was discussed at the initial whole national conference, we believed that we the members of the Kumamoto Society have the duty to do firstly our best under the principle of "relief of blood relations by blood relations themselves". We dare therefore in spite of time in which the expenses are incumbent on you, to ask you for your reasonable contribution.

As for us, we are planning to call upon the general public for charity in the collection of fund and to increase our efforts in our Society's activities, and we would like to request that you would address your contribution within the limits that you can justify to SASABU, Shitsunao, No. 146, Tsubeicho, Kumamoto-City before Feb. 20. Any amount is optioned and will be appreciated.

We can look forward to the Peace-treaty for this year, and this year will be that the war criminals families can cherish a desire, we expect that you would entertain good hope and collaborate for the Society's prosperity.

January 16

Committee of the Kumamoto Society of  
War Criminals Family.

Chairman: SASABU, Shitsunao  
Members: NAGANO, Minoru  
SAKAMOTO, Hiko  
HIRANO, Kiyo  
SHIRO, Junke  
NAKAYAMA, Masanari  
KIYOHARA, Zenichiro  
MATSUURA, Otome  
TORII, Suiko  
KIKUTAKE, Sumiyo



"NOZOMI" - Hope

Monthly Publication

Gratis

Publishing Office:

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Mrs KAMEYAMA, Fusako

Mimeographer:

KITAMURA Mimeographing Co.,

Ezakicho, Tottori-Shi

(Telephone: 1584)

No 2, January 1950

From: KAMENOTO Fusa  
c/o Tamura, Tottori-shi  
Kochojin-machi.

To : KAMENOTO Satoshi  
Sugamo Prison

A copy of NOZOMI published on January 20, 1950.

#### Happy News of Commutation

The Legal Section SCAP announced some reduction had been made in sentences for those war felons served in Dutch-India area, on the occasion of 50th anniversary of coronation of Dutch Queen. The following are those who went from our prefecture and have been informed of commutation:

KINOSHITA Mitsugu	reduced by 4 months
SATO Kakuzo	reduced by 8 months
WASHIMI Tetsuo	reduced by 8 months
YONEHARA Kisaburo	reduced by 3 months
OISHI Tomiji	reduced by 6 months
SUZUKI Hideo	reduced by 4 months
KOTANI Tsuguo	reduced by 8 months
FUJIWARA Seitaro	reduced by 8 months

#### Bright Hope

On Christmas Day last year, special amnesty was granted by General MacArthur to some of those prisoners serving sentences in the home-land, it created big reactions among other countries. Following the commutation for those prisoners in Dutch-India, those war felons serving sentences in Indonesian area were decided to be transferred to the custody in the home-land, and papers report they are expected to arrive at this country on January 20. Moreover, the conclusion of a peace treaty is expected very shortly. We can have very bright hope this year.

#### Activities of Society of War Criminal Families of Tokyo Area.

We are very thankful for Society of War Criminal Families of Tokyo area which has been carrying on best activities with Chairman IMAMURA as its leader, since the birth of All Japan Committee in October last year. Chairman IMAMURA and branch society of each area never fail to get into contact with foreign diplomats visiting this country, foreign Ambassadors or Ministers stationed in this country, lawyers and missionaries, and are endeavouring to get good results by inviting them or presenting them with souvenirs. Your cooperation will be much appreciated.



From Society of War Criminal Families (American area) of Tokyo

By Christmas amnesty 46 were freed at the first time and 16 at the 2nd. This society is considering a visit to express gratitude. Each member of the society is asked to write a letter of thanks. A doll was sent by those who were released from Sugamo.

From Society of War Criminal Families (French-Indo-China area) of Tokyo area

(1) Christmas cards were sent to the prisoners, French Ambassador and Commandant of the Prison. The total cost was ¥ 2,500 and each family is required to pay ¥ 20 to meet this expenditure.

(2) Comfort bags will be mailed out in December.

(3) There is a prospect for the completion of the trial in about February this year.

(4) We expect the transfer of prisoners to home-land to be made shortly.

From Society of War Criminal Families (Philippine) of Tokyo area

(1) It was reported that the comfort bags mailed out in October last year had been received by them on November 13.

(2) A tea party was held by the families concerned for the Chief of Philippine War Crimes Section who recently visited this country. Some souvenir was presented to him.

(3) Recently the Japanese-Philippine Good Relation Committee was established by Japanese and Philippine YMCA's. We proposed that committee to consider retrial of those given death sentence, at proper retrial organ.

(4) Invited Mr. YENKO and Mr. STEWART who were visiting this country and presented them with some souvenirs. They are, after their return, carrying on very careful investigation for diciding death or life imprisonment sentences, because such sentences require the approval of the President. Each member of the society concerned is asked to pay ¥ 100 (¥ 200 by Tokyo member) to meet the expenditure for the above-stated reception and souvenir presented.

From Society of War Criminal Families (Dutch area) of Tokyo.

(1) Before any sign of possible establishment of a new Government was seen, a petition had already been filed for the transfer of prisoners to the home-land.



(2) For a joint letter from the society, answers were received from the prisoners, saying they were so much pleased.

(3) A doll was presented to Miss A. M. Henny of Dutch Mission who recently left this country. For the cost of ¥ 3,000 each member is requested to pay ¥ 10.

(4) Our wish for the transfer of prisoners to the home-land was realized, and all of them departed there on December 26 and are enroute to Japan. In Tokyo, we are making necessary preparation for expressing our thanks.

(5) As we intend to invite those defence counsels concerned in the Dutch trial and present them with some souvenirs, please agree to pay out ¥ 50 (¥ 100 by Tokyo member) to meet the expenditure.

From Society of War Criminal Families (Australia) of Tokyo area.

(1) According to what was told by a person who recently returned from that area, the prisoners are comparatively well paid and they are not put in dangerous work at present. They want newspapers and magazines from the home-land. Some books on religion were sent by Chairman INAMURA, and some magazines by Buddhist Association.

From Society of War Criminal Families (British area) of Tokyo area.

(1) In behalf of all the societies in the country, we filed a petition with British Ambassador.

(2) A petition was filed with Mr. MacDonald, Higher Commissioner of Southeastern Asia, when he visited this country.

Miscellaneous

(1) Because of their respect of discipline and good service at the prison, those prisoners in French-Indo-China and Dutch areas are giving very good feeling to the authorities and are being given very favorable consideration on the matter of transfer to home-land and the living condition.

(2) The chiefs of the prisons in Burma, French dominion, Dutch dominion and Philippine are becoming very sympathetic and they are giving many conveniences to the prisoners.



HEADQUARTERS  
SHIKOKU CIVIL AFFAIRS REGION  
APO 1050

DPC/mh

Takamatsu, Shikoku  
20 January 1950

MG 010

SUBJECT: Petition

TO: Chief, Civil Affairs Section  
GHQ, SCAP  
APO 500

1. Forwarded herewith a petition received by this headquarters from Meshiko OKUBO, Chairman of the Kagawa Prefectural Assembly.

FOR THE CHIEF, SHIKOKU CIVIL AFFAIRS REGION:

1 Incl:  
Original and English  
translation of petition  
adopted by Kagawa  
Prefectural Assembly

/s/ Ernest H T Schechinger  
/t/ ERNEST H T SCHECHINGER  
Lt Col CAC  
Adjutant



Ka Gi Hatsu No. 321, 5 January 1950

TO: Col Toole, Chief Civil Affairs Officer of the  
Shikoku Civil Affairs Region

FROM: Masahiko OKUBO, Chairman of the  
Kagawa Prefectural Assembly

SUBJECT: A Petition adopted by the Kagawa Prefectural Assembly

Forwarded herewith is a petition signed jointly by 543 members of families awaiting for their relative war criminals returning home. The Kagawa Prefectural Assembly, through careful examination, adopted the petition and hereby ask you to take appropriate steps thereon.

Petition

TO: Masahiko OKUBO, Chairman of the  
Kagawa Prefectural Assembly

For four years since the Pacific War was brought to an end, tens of thousands of fellowcountrymen have been able to repatriate from abroad, through the good office of the Allied Powers, and even war criminals interned in Chinese Territories was approved in February 1949, to return to Japan to serve their sentence here. We also heard that all internees in Soviet zones would be sent back here within this year.

However, on the other hand, our relatives near in blood who had been mobilized in the same way as other soldiers and army civilians, were sentenced to five years, ten years, twenty years or life imprisonment or death on charge of having infringed the national law. We suppose that they are serving in hard labor at daytime in equatorial districts, having no opportunity of being relieved by religion of any kind, being unable to communicate with their relatives as they wish, and getting tired both physically and spiritually, not having enough food for recovery of fatigue, and at night they sob all night laying themselves on hard concrete-made beds in prison where they cannot sleep soundly.

We believe that conviction of their grave crimes were not caused by their fault in true mind and that most of them were forced to commit crimes by army orders, or in operation fields,



or were born with responsibility for crimes committed by their followers. We have endured heretofore all troubles as sacrifice of the nation, but can no longer bear inexpressible physical and spiritual sufferings as the general public frown upon "families of war criminals".

From what we have heard from returnees, the war criminals desire earnestly to serve their term in Japan at the earliest possible date. If they are allowed to return to Japan and serve their term here, they would be able to communicate with us as they like and moreover, possibly see us once a month. Old-aged, their parents grasp hands of their dear sons. Therefore, we all keenly want to get them back here, expecting that sufferings of us would be lessened.

An old Oriental proverb says, "Abhor an offence, but do not hate an offender". War criminals overseas have already served their term for a considerably long while, and therefore, if their penalty could be commuted after re-examining motives and causes of their crimes, how joyful we should be! Joy of such a kind would give a cause for steady advance toward the world peace, we believe.

If the Kagawa Prefectural Assembly understand and sympathize with our earnest desire, and do favor to offer support for realizing returning of war criminals to serve their term here and for commutation of their penalty through Japanese Government and representatives of Allied Powers in Japan, it is more than our appreciation. This is our sincere petition to the authorities.

30 September 1949  
Shika FURUKAWA  
No. 1889, Ikuno, Zentsuji Town,  
Nakatado County,  
Kagawa Prefecture,  
and 543 others.



COMMENT SHEET

JP/SUG/\_\_\_\_\_

From: KURIWA, Naoki

To: KONATSU, Kiyomi

Address: Harano-shi Ta-machi 102  
Banchi

Address: Suzano, Prison

Examiner: Sgt. Uyeda

Date Ex'd: 25 January 50

Dated: 17 January 50.

Title: Organization.

Writer states that:

I returned home a day before yesterday and am planning to visit Tokyo on the 18th.

Recently, I met an old acquaintance, who is a Member of the Prefectural Assembly, Mr. Koji, ADACHI. Since consent was obtained to submit petitions thru the Prefectural Assembly for the Release of War Criminals of this Prefecture, drafts of petition forms will be immediately prepared thru Liaison Contacts with the Foreign Affairs Bureau and the chairman of Prefectural Society of War Criminal Families, Mr. Sumio NAKAHARA, and rely on the offices of Mr. Koji, ADACHI. However, since conditions will be unknown to me when I leave, please inform me at your earliest possible moment whether or not this type of movement is possible and what sort of draft is desired.

Please forward your answer to

Mr. KURIWA, Naoki  
c/o KOBAYASHI, Munasaburo

Address

Tokyo-to, Tachikawa-shi Akebong-cho  
1-chome, 163 Banchi.



SPECIAL  
COMMENT SHEET

JP/SUG/ \_\_\_\_\_

From: KANEYAMA, Hisao

To: KANEYAMA, Yasuichi

Address: SUGANO Prison

Address: Niigata-Ken, Nakaurahara-Gun, Tezen Mura, Oaza Kamitogura

Examiner: Sgt. Y. Kikuchi

Date Ex'd: 22 Dec., '49

Action:

Title: Criticism of Confinement

Passed

Condemned

Re-examined

Trfd to

Legal Section

Writer states that:

No matter how long I serve, I will not regret it. Not one of the war criminals acknowledges his crime. We did good by obeying higher orders during the war that I don't think I committed a crime. Also, who can assert that the next war can be avoided by punishing us. I think it is necessary for you and all Japanese to consider the country to side with when the next war is imminent.

The Americans say that they will permit 5 visitors per month yet before a week is over, they will cancel the permit. Therefore, they cannot be trusted. Again, they state that they will distribute mail this week, we have not received even one for over a month.

There are some war criminals who were tried because they retarded POW's mail during the war. Aren't defeated people miserable.



23 Dec. 1949

From: ONISHI, Sōji, Nishikoshi-mura, Kogi, Niigata-ken.

To: KOBAYASHI, Tetsuo, Sugamo Prison, Nishi-sugamo,  
Toshima-ku, Tokyo.

Dear Mr. KOBAYASHI, Tetsuo,

I received yesterday 22 /Dec./ your letter dated 24 October. I wonder why it took much a long time, but I am deeply touched by your kindness in receiving your warm friendly letter which was sent on purpose, from such a place in a stringent rule as you are now. I am now old enough, but when I think of you, restricted in youth from freedom, I cannot help from moving to sympathy. From your family house at Mitsuke, my mountain-cottage on a hill along the Kogo-castle forest, near the sea-shore is within sight. This cottage is named as "Kanzan-so = Mountain-view cottage" by courtesy of Mr. SUZUKI Soroku /ancient general of army/, whereas I am passing my few remaining days, completely secluded from the world, in reading and in dabbling in potted plants, I feel anxious about you and your friends and play to God and Buddha for the prompt liberation of you all. In a life as mine, your dear face, that of Mr. UCHIDA, SAITO and others who were very friends in the hospital come up in a vision and my heart become full of longing. Since last month, I have been several times to Niigata/city/ to see Mr. KATAYAMA, Miozō (father of Mr. KATAYAMA, Kengo and my senior) and consulted with him about the campaign for the prompt liberation of war criminals and relief of their family. I have an opinion of mine about the question and I am doing my best. As for Mr. KATAYAMA he went the other day to Tokyo as chairman of the Niigata prefectural committee of war criminals' family. He attended there the meeting of representatives of whole Japan, and entreated strongly Prime Minister YOSHIDA, all ministers concerned and the staff of two Houses presented there. Prime Minister said that "I am deeply moving to sympathy, but the Japanese government under occupation regret to think that the time is not coming to advocate positively the campaign. Nevertheless, for the campaign arising out of the population, the government will take so as possible a sympathetic attitude and will not restrict nor oppose to it, etc. -". Mr. KATAYAMA before the vague reply made, felt very miserable asked for an interview with General MacArthur and as a representative of war criminals' family of whole Japan he entreated and appealed to, but General's representative general only nodded saying "Yes!" "Yes!" and did not made any further statement. Therefore, I consulted with Mr. KATAYAMA and arrived to the conclusion that under the present condition in which our government, our Houses, our prefectures, our cities nor our villages cannot do anything for



113012

this matter, the entreatment of criminals' families is in itself being to weak to move American authorities, the religious bodies must rouse themselves for the sake of humanity, crossing above all revenges. For this purpose, I talked Rev. ANDO of Shōraku-temple, Nishihoridōri, Niigata-city, and then the chief of Niigata Branch of the Red Cross, into going to campaign together with criminals' families. This campaign body will gather alms of all interested person of all Japan and do its best to relieve the criminals' families as well as to get prompt liberation of war criminals.

Presently, Mr. KATAYAMA is on the move, and I am decided to help him as far as I can. We do not know of course about the success but we believe that we will be able to achieve our purpose if we work in devoting our life to it.

Now the social conditions are improving, the Peace-treaty seems approached without fail this time, and the future of you all became brightened. I beg you not to take a gloomy view of your future and hold you out to the last. Your good health is first of all. Kindly take good care of yourself, and I long for your return home in good health.

Mr. KOBAYASHI, it is only 5 or 6 ri distance from your house to my cottage. I will wait you impatiently your return home and your call on my cottage. I have always plenty of rice, soy and fire-wood.

I heard that you are in the same room with Sergeant ITO. I was with him in the same room for a long time, and was intimated with him. Kindly look well after him. I understand well the origin of his mental anguish and deeply sympathize with him. I wish you and Mr. UCHIDA encourage him when he is in downcast. It is quite in vain to be discouraged and anguished before a fixed time comes. Furthermore if it injures one's health, it will be irreparable. I wish you will support him in order that he conquests his agony by his strong will.

I cannot forget Mr. UCHIDA. I have a clear impression on his bright character and I talk always about him. Give my best regards to him. Is Capt. SAITO, Hiroshi not in your room? If you see him, kindly give my best regards to him. I heard that Mr. WAKAMATSU entered again hospital. I am sorry, but do not forget to give my best regards to him. I send every month a letter of sympathy to Lt. Gen. NAKAZAWA, I think no old acquaintance of mine except Mr. NAKAZAWA is in the hospital.

I sent a postal card of sympathy addressing to four or five persons of the "case of Niigata". How are they now? I am sympathizing with them. If you happen to see them, remember me kindly to them.



COMMENT SHEET

JP/SUG/\_\_\_\_\_

From: Katayama, Kazuko  
 Address: Niigata-ken, Gatsuko-cho  
 Examiner: Sgt. Kikuchi

To: Katayama, Kengo  
 Address: Sugamo Prison  
 Date Ex'd: 13 Jan. 1950

Action:	
Passed	
Condemned	
Re-examined	
Dated	8 Jan. 1950
Trfd to	
Legal Sec.	

Title: Organization Activities.

Writer states that: The Society of War Criminals Families is doing its best and have requested aid in a fund-raising campaign from the following people.

Kedama, Takitaro, (ONSHI ZAIDAN DOBO ENGO KAI, NIIGATA SHIBU CHO) Chief of the Niigata Branch Foundation of Compatriots Aid Society established through Imperial Gift.

Ando, Hisao, (NIIGATA-KEN SHUKYO RENMEI, RIJIKAI CHO, NIIGATA-KEN BUKKYO KAI CHO) Chairman of the Niigata Buddhist Association.

Otake, Takesaburo, (NISSEKI NIIGATA SHIBU SEKIJUJI HONIN DAN IIN CHO) Chairman of Niigata Chapter Japanese Red Cross.

Murata, Haruko, (Mayor's wife) Niigata Branch Red Cross Committee Member.

The following are the objectives of the society.

1. To petition for clemency on death sentences.
2. To bring overseas convicts for servitude in Japan.
3. To permit handing of gifts to P.W.
4. To petition for sentence reduction and release in general.

The goal of the fund drive is to raise 500,000 yen out of which 20,000 yen will be deposited with the National Society of War Criminals Families and the remainder will be used within the prefecture to carry on its activities.



Date: January 24, 1950, 10 p.m.

To : SARUWATARI, Kunio, Sugamo Prison, Tokyo.

From: Mrs. SARUWATARI, Eiko,  
Tozaki-Mura, Akaboshi, Kikuchi-Gun.

Dear Kunio,

As we are in the "great cold" season, cold days continue. How are you? Just this morning I talked with my mother-in-law about you in the course of breakfast and attended here /the Tozaki-village office/. In the afternoon when I was at the desk, your letters addressed to my mother and to me arrived (letters dated Jan. 3, Jan. 9 and Jan. 16), and I read them with gratitude.

I am glad to learn that you are in good health. How your mother and I are yearning for you! Does not your wound on shoulder hurt badly?

All members of family are getting well. All family is praying for your return home this year.

I went to Tahara by 2:40 p.m. bus last Saturday, 21 January (to the house of Mrs. Toshi), though I was very busy, for my mother to inquire after his father-in-law's sickness and brought clothes that I made for her.

On 22, I called Mr. IWAMOTO of Hishihon and Mr. MATSUO at Kamikoma. At the house of Mr. IWAMOTO I conversed for a while with his mother and at about 4 p.m. I went to the house of Mr. MATSUO in the rain. There, I was shown his several favorite articles and treated to buckwheat noodles. I passed there one night on the advice of his couple and as there starts a bus from Kamikoma for Kumamoto, I took 11:30 bus next morning and went to Kumamoto. I went to the "Committee" and I paid to Chief SASABU ¥ 200, my delayed membership fee together with another ¥ 200 as fund of the Society. Thus I passed these 3 days busily as a bee. I bought back for my mother some apples and returned home by electric train at 4 p.m. My mother was waiting for me preparing a bath with Miss /?/ TAJIRI, Hatsu.

The above is my journal of 21, 22 and 23.

My husband! The proverb "even on the stone, 3 years" says of me. My patience for these three years made me a good wife and sister-in-law, as my sister-in-law calls me willingly "My sister".

Your wife scheming in her heart the day of your return home takes good care of health. I am waiting for the sound of your foot-steps that I shall hear on the happy day of your return. Your letter of Jan. 16 appeared to me somewhat lonely. Are you not worried about something?



SECRETED BY TROOP SEC. 5(L) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 113012

My husband! Your wife is always your wife. All pains are to be divided between two. I waited and will wait courageously for your return.

I pray in God in order that you can return home in good health as early as possible.



From : SARUWATARI, Eiko  
KIKUCHI-Gun, TOZAKI-Mura,  
KUMAMOTO-Prefecture.

Examiner: SFC Harry Taniguchi

To : SARUWATARI, Kunio  
Sugamo Prison

Date Ex'd: 2 Feb, 1950

Trfd to : SCAP Legal Section

Title: ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR COLLECTION OF FUNDS.  
SOCIETY OF WAR CRIMINALS FAMILIES --

On the 13th of January, we members of the Society of War Criminals Families gathered at the home of Chairman Mr. SASAFU and discussed various matters. Over a heated debate concerning the accumulation of funds (¥ 20,000) by each District and Prefectures, which has become a problem of the Initial National Conference we believe that we as members of the Society should do our utmost in regards to the expenditure and collection of funds necessary to save our next of kins. Therefore, we ask of you for any contribution you may be able to afford.

As for us, we are calling upon the general public for charity in the collection of funds and increase our efforts in the Societys activities. Therefore, we would like to request that all contributions be addressed and sent to Mr. SASAFU, SHITSUNAO at 146 Tsudoi Town, Kumamoto City on or by the 20th of February at your earliest convenience. Any amountis optional and will be appreciated.

Committee of Kumamoto Society of War Criminals Families

CHAIRMAN - Mr. SASAFU, Shitsunao

MEMBERS:

NAGANO, Minoru	SAKANOTO, Hiro
HIRANO, Kiyoshi	SHIRO, Junko
NAKAYAMA, Masashige	KIYOHARA, Zenichiro
MATSUURA, Otome	TORII, Saiko
KIKUTAKE, Sumiyo	



FROM: SASAFU, TADANAO

ADDRESS: Kumamoto-Ku  
Tsuboi Kyoku-Nai, Uchi-Tsuboi-cho  
145 Banchi

Examiner: SGT UYEDA

\*\*\*\*\*

TO: SASAFU, NAOTERU

ADDRESS: SUGAMO PRISON

DATE EX'D: 20 Jan 1950

\*\*\*\*\*

TITLE: ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dated 13 January 1950

WRITER STATES THAT:

The Society of War Criminal Families was also organized in Kumamoto Prefecture last November and since I was finally persuaded into its chairmanship, I am taking charge of organizational duties. The objects of this organization is to communicate with the Society of War Criminal Families in Tokyo and thru movements and petitions assisted by religious organizations plead for:

- a. Domestic servitude of Prisoners of War now serving their sentences abroad.
- b. Leniency on sentences
- c. Release of Prisoners of War
- d. Improvements in treatment of Prisoners of Wars.

There is a total of approximately 100 War Criminals from Kumamoto Prefecture who are serving their sentences at home and abroad, and over 100 from Fukuoka Prefecture.

Although organizations have been established in each prefecture, its movements are different from those carried on by non-repat's families and therefore cannot be made formal presenting no alternative other than thru family petition.



UNCLASSIFIED BY: 11031 SEC. 5(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNOG # 115012

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES CONTINUED:

In Tokyo Headquarters, there is also an organization by district.

Formally this organization was concerned only with foreign affairs. However, from last autumn, domestic and foreign affairs were combined. The National Convention was held in Tokyo last autumn and we initially visited General Headquarters and various other districts for petition.

The 2nd General Convention is scheduled for March or April this spring and in accordance with the general opinion of all families petitions will be continuously submitted.

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SPECIAL  
COMMENT SHEET

JP/SUG/\_\_\_\_\_

From: ITO, Sadaji  
Address: Akita-ken  
Examiner: Sgt. UYEDA

TO: TANAKA, Kumataro  
Address: Sugamo Prison  
Date Ex'd: 7 Jan 1950

Action:	
Passed	
Condemned	
Re-examined	
Date	26 Dec 49
Trfd to	
Legal Sec.	

Title: Organization Activities

Writer states that: The above mentioned society of war criminal families which was being organized in the eastern and western districts since last spring, was of grave concern to us since our district did not have the opportunity to organize.

Therefore, while liaison contracts urging the immediate formation was being established by us with other related districts, an organization was formed in Akita City on the 29th of last month, at long last. Although invitations were extended to you and other war criminal families, circumstances prevented full attendance at the meeting. However, 5 of the families under the guidance of Mr. OHATA, clerk of this section (ex. note: Labor Section Osarizawa Mining Corporation) attended the initial opening meeting and vehemently solicited the officials of the organization for active expansion of its activities.

The primary objective of this organization is; the suspension of the execution of death penalty on war criminals, repatriation of war criminals serving sentences abroad, petition for leniency on sentence, improvement in treatment of war prisoners serving sentences, and aiding the livelihood of those with families in prison.

Even in the future, we are determined to utilize our combined efforts to its fullest extent for the attainment of the just cause thru this organization.



COMMENT SHEET

JP/SUG/\_\_\_\_\_

From: MIYAKE, Susko.

To: MIYAKE, Toshio

Address: SETAGAYA-Ku,  
MATSUBARA-Che

Address: Suzano Prison.

Examiner: # 11

Date Ex'd: 10 February 1950.

Post Dated: 11 January 1950

Trfd to: SCAP, Legal Section.

Title: Meetings and Activities of the Society of War Criminals Families.

Writer states that;

I owe a lot, especially to the efforts of the Demobilization Bureau and Japan Red Cross, Repatriates Aid Association and to others for their aid. The Society of War Criminals Families too, has been of great help. I became intimate friends with IJIMA, KASAI, YANO, IMAMURA, MARUYAMA, KASANATSU, and YAMAMOTO after our initial gathering, and they rendered great assistance especially in regards to the Indonesian problems.



To : IMAMURA, Hitoshi.

From: IMAMURA, Hisako.  
209, 3 choms, Setagaya,  
Setagaya-ku.

Dear Hitoshi:

Although I wanted to write to you all this while, I have been unable to do so, as I had many visitors and also had to answer in reply to the letters regarding the affairs of the Society. I am anxious lest you should be cold, because I hear you have only very few blankets.

It was really like a dream to see you with my own eyes being carried to Sugamo in a truck, when I thought I could never see you again. All of us recognized you, but you did not seem to notice that we were there. We said to Mieko, "Look! there is your grandpa." She could not recognize you, as she had never seen you, and while she asked us, "Where? Where is he?", your truck was gone. My heart was full when I saw you, even for a moment. The relatives were all crying for joy. It appears that those who have been acquitted are to be released from prison about the 14th. Mrs. OKAZAKI came up to Tokyo on the 19th and is waiting for the coming day. I have been so busy up to-day writing letters in reply to the letter full of joy from the families of war criminals all over Japan or inquires from these families as well as those of the dead. I had to make a round of calls to offer our thanks on the person who helped us in making an appeal for the war criminals serving term in Japan. I really had no time to write to you. The persons or places I visited were: Foreign Office, Mr. SAITO, Chief of Relief Bureau, Chief of Demobilization Bureau ( His Excellency KAZUKI ), Japan Red Cross Society, International Red Cross Society, Second Demobilization Bureau, G.H.Q. ( saw Lieutenant-Colonel T. ), Allied Council for Japan, ( saw a person next to Mr. Carpenter ), and the Dutch Mission. I am scheduled to pay a visit to Prince Kitashirakawa on the 7th with Kazuo, and to Prime Minister on the 9th. That is all.

On 27 January we (all the families of war criminals) held a gathering to thank the Attorneys and Interpreters. Invitations were extended to Section as well as Division Chiefs of the Foreign Office, Japan Red Cross Society, the First and Second Demobilization Bureaus. It was a successful meeting, attended by seventy persons, and we expressed our heartfelt thanks to the persons concerned.

A gathering of the Netherlands Indies was held at the home of KASAI on the 28th, when Attorney MATSUMOTO and SATO, Prison Chaplain, talked to us on many subjects.



On the 29th a meeting of the Society of the Families of Australian War Criminals was held at my home, and the drawing-room and the corridors were crowded by the attendance of the relatives of seven convicts, four government employees and twenty-seven war crimes suspects waiting for trials. Up to that time there had never been a gathering of the families of Australian war criminals, and I intend to take part in this Family Society in the future and do my best in consolidating its activities.

The sponsors' group for the Netherlands Indies is full-handed, being consisted of eight of us, KASAI, MIYAKE, IINO, YANO, MAHUYAMA, YAMAMOTO, KASAMATSU and I. Moreover, since we were all women we could get along to gather nicely, and we were lucky in this respect. This was not the case, however, with other regions. Although I am a member of the Netherlands Indies Family Society and am associated with other Districts through the Tokyo Family Society, I intend to work exclusively for the Australian Family Society from now on. It seems that the men whose trials are pending are also to be sent to Manus Island. At the meeting held the other day the subject of conversation was solely concentrated on this question.

I feel so sorry for Mr. KIKUTAKE, who was left behind all alone in Batavia. A package of streptomycin, was forwarded to Tokyo by his family, and I tried every means to find a way to send it to KIKUTAKE, but in vain. I submitted it to the Demobilization Bureau, asking them to entrust it to the Captain of the ship going back, but when I went there the next day to see whether or not my request was granted, I learned to my regret that KIKUTAKE had died on 13 January. I sent a letter of condolence to his home yesterday.

To-day a conference of eight Netherlands Indies sponsors was held at the home of YAMAMOTO.

On the 31st, the Japan Red Cross Society held a gathering, enabling us Representatives of the Family Society to offer thanks to Professor Renner. This meeting was attended by Chief SAITO, Section and Division Chiefs concerned with war criminals. Mr. August of the International Red Cross, Section and Division Chiefs of the First and Second Demobilization Bureaus, Y. M. CA/7/, President of the Japan Red Cross and his wife, and Chief of Foreign Affairs Section. We were able to thank Professor Renner from the bottom of our heart, and we presented him a doll, dressed up like a Japanese bride. Professor Renner opened the box on the spot, as all foreigners do and was very pleased with the doll. He told me that he had talked with you on the ship and you looked quite well. A man called HONDA in the Foreign Office ( He said he had known you in the south. ) took your luggage to us yesterday. Just then I had gone to G.H.Q. with YAMAMOTO. As I was told that you were cold with only two blankets on and under you, I mentioned it, and they said they would see to it at once. It is warmer than usual this year. I am so glad of it and feel that God is watching over you. All of you must be much relieved now that you are returned to Sugamo. I am afraid



you may be taken to Manus Island, but I am sure I can see you at least once before you go I hear two persons are allowed for a visit at time. I am talking of coming with Kazuo and Miyoko ( on my back ). Yet I feel as if all this is a dream. Out of the sight of us who gathered to-day, KASAI, MIYAKE, YAMAMOTO and YANO have already received letters from Sugamo. MARIYAMA, KASAMATSU, IINO and IMAMURA did not receive any. IINO is worried lest her relative, coming back from the place where the climate is hot, should be suffering from cold.

To-morrow, I am going to the Branch Office in Sugamo to make an inquiry for the families in local districts, and I think I shall submit this letter to the office to be taken to you.

Please take good care of yourself. I wanted to read all you have written, but have been so busy that I cannot read it yet. I am looking forward to reading it after the 10th, when I expect I shall have finished all that I have to do for the moment.

Hisako,  
on the night of  
5 February.

Persons who visited us to congratulate on your return.

Mr. and Mrs. SUGITA, Kazutsugu, Father of Interpreter KOYAMA, Father and son from SEIGENJI, OTSU, Hisanosuke, His Excellency KANABE, Mr. and Mrs. TAKYOTOMI, Administrative Official of the Demobilization Bureau, Mrs. TOJO, wife of late TOJO. Colonel SUWABE, KUMAGAI ( who was in China ) TAKEDA, Ayano, OCHIAI, Reiko, Mrs. ITO, Shinobu, Mrs. WAKAMURA, wife of late WAKAMURA, Masao, SUZUKI, Yoshio, SHIMOYA, Miko, OTA, Shoji, AOKI, Minoru, Mother of SHIMOMURA, MUKAI, Kinjiro, Mrs. OKAZAKI, WAKAMURA, Yukiko, YAMADA, Rokuro, His Excellency SAKAI, Yasushi, KUWABARA, Seiichi, KUBONERA, HOJIRI, Senji, UMEDA, Jiro, IKARI, Jusuke, EZAWA, Tamie, TANABE, Shinji, WAKAJIMA, Haruhiko, TSUBOKAWA, Hatsune, YAMAMOTO, Haruko, KATO, Yasuko, ISHIMORI, Mine, SUZUKI, Toki, MIKI, Yoshihide, Motoko, USUDO, Hachiro, Sumio, HONDA, in Foreign Office ( He took your luggage home ).

Persons who sent us letters of congratulation.

OCHIAI, Katori, SAKURAI, Kazuko, CHIGA, Doctor SATO, HONDA, Yukiko ( daughter of His Excellency KAKU ) TERAO, Yoshio, UJIIE, Aiko, IMAMURA, Shin, MIKI, Terno, TAKAHASHI, ISHIMORI, Kyoko, WAKADAI, Seikichi, UEMATSU, Kenichi, MATTORI, Shojiro, CHIYOKURA, Jiro, ( served in Rabaul ) NARA, Yaeko, wife of Lieutenant-General NARA, SATO, Hashime, YOSHINO, Katsubumi, GOTO, Kinya, KANEKO, Teiichi, Mrs. SAITO, Yaheida, WATSUKAWA, Yasuoka, KATO, Kiyoshi, ITO, Shigeo ( served in Rabaul ), ISHIDA, Eiichi, MIZUTA, Mrs. ANDO, wife of late His Excellency ANDO, Mrs. NUMATA, IMAMURA, Noriko, SAKAGUCHI, Shinichiro, YOKOI, Kezo.

Letters of congratulation came from many more person, acquaintances of mine and Kazuo's, whom you do not know.



From: MIYAKE, Sueko  
Tokyo-to, Setagaya-ku,  
Matsubara-cho, 2 chome, 661.

To : MIYAKE, Toshio  
Sugamo Prison.

Date of attn: Feb. 11, 1950.

Yesterday I read your letter dated Feb. 7 and felt happy to know how you were getting along. However, it seems that you have now to live in a solitary cell where you shall feel lonely. I shall be very glad if you can gradually regain your energy lost in the strained living in the southern area.

We are all well. YOSHISAKU has just returned home from about 10 day tour in Kyushu district. During his tour he visited the family of YOSHIO San, of which he already wrote you in his letter. They are all very well with two persons who are working to keep the family, and have some farm to raise vegetable. On the 3rd inst, when I visited the family of Mr. SAEKI who had died a week earlier, I happened to see there ex-Lt. General IAWAMURA (same prefecture) who asked me to send you his good regards. General KAWAMURA told me that he had sold his house in Tokyo and is now living in his native place. Ex-Lt. General TESHIMA recently was freed from Sugamo Prison, but I heard he was again taken to Sugamo to be tried by the Australian authorities. I tender my deep sympathy to him who just recently asked me to send his warm regards to you.

On the 4th inst. I visited the family of late Mr. IENAGA to attend the ceremony on the 3rd anniversary of his death. On the 5th, a usual monthly meeting of executive officers of the Family Society was held at the residence of Mr. YAMAMOTO, at which it was decided to visit General Headquarters of the U.S. Forces, Netherland Mission, Allied Council for Japan, Roman Vatican, Prime Minister, Foreign Office, House of Representatives and Councillors, Demobilization Board, International Red Cross, Japan Red Cross, YMCA, YWCA and the BYAKURENSHA (HONGAJI Temple) to submit petitions for domestic servitude of War Prisoners serving sentences abroad, dividing the work among us 8 executive officers of the Society. This decision was carried out the following day. As we had already often visited them and got well known by them, they received us very warmly.

Mr. SHIGEMATSU who resides just in front of HIGASHI MATSUBARA Railway Station is always giving us kind assistances.

On the 7th we received from SHIZUE San a postal money order for ¥ 3,400. She writes in her letter that she mailed out some nourishing canned food to be given to you, saying that it will reach us around the end of February at earliest. I, at once, sent a letter of thanks to her by airmail. She is



such a warm-hearted woman. FUMIO San who already built up a home is now studying at Harvard University in Boston and is expected to graduate in February this year when he will get title of Doctor.

On the 8th I went to the Foreign Office and received one baggage. Another one will be received on the 15th.

On the 9th Mrs. YOSHIDA, Tatsuo gave us a visit for celebration of your safe arrival. She called on us two or three times since your return from the South. Today Mr. SUZUKI Harumata came and asked me to send his good regards to you and to let him know if interviews with the prisoners have been permitted. He told me that he is now living with his young son and his wife.

I think I already informed you of the visits paid by Mr. NOSE, old-aged Mr. and Mrs. OHASHI and young Mr. and Mrs. OHASHI.

The following are those who kindly called on us, excluding the relatives:

Mr. HONDA, Masao  
Mrs. HARADA (husband died)  
Mr. TAMAKI  
Mr. ITO  
Mr. SHIMIZU  
Mr. INAI, Saburo  
Mr. YAMAGUCHI  
Mrs. MATSUURA (my friend)  
Mr. MURATA (father of Mrs. ISHII)  
Mrs. KUDO  
Mrs. HARA  
Mr. HANAYAMA  
Mr. MIYAKE, Noshizo  
Mr. MATSUBARA  
Mr. TANABE, Keijiro  
Mr. JIMBO (Odawara)  
Mr. YAMASHITA  
Mr. SAKURAI  
Mrs. ISHII

Mr. TAKETONI of the Demobilization Board has been and is giving us very kind assistances, and we consult him on all the matters. I have just been visited by Mrs. ISHII who lost his husband six years ago. Her second daughter got married with a very good man, and her first daughter is likely getting on well but I heard nothing from her. I am very sympathetic with Mrs. ISHII who is now compelled to work as a school teacher to feed the family which lost the head. Troubled by two children, I cannot continue writing. Please be very careful of your health.



APPENDIX "A" - Translations of Miscellaneous Intercepts

- A - Printed circular dated 24 January 1950, by KUMAMOTO SWCF.
- B - Vol #2, January 1950, issue of NOZOMI (Hope), Tottori SWCF.
- C - KAGAWA Prefectural Assembly indorsement of petition on behalf of war criminal.
- D - Letter from KURIWA, Naoji, disclosing contact with Nagano Prefectural Assembly.
- E - Letter by Hisao KANEYAMA, 22 Dec 49, war criminal held in Sugamo.
- F - Letter from Seiji ONISHI, 23 Dec 49, re SWCF activities, including fund raising.
- G - Letter from Kazuko KATAYAMA, 8 Jan 50, re organizational activities, including funds.
- H - Letter from Eiko SARUWATARI, 24 Jan 50, re membership dues and donations to Kumamoto SWCF.
- I - Letter from Eiko SARUWATARI, written in Jan 1950, re fund raising.
- J - Letter from Tadanao SASAFU, 15 Jan 50, re organizational activities.
- K - Letter from Sadaji ITO, dated 26 Dec 49, re organizational activities.
- L - Letter from Susuko MIYAKE, 11 Jan 50, indicating activity by SWCF and other organizations.
- M - Letter from Takeko TENNA, dated 29 Jan 50, re SWCF meeting where presents were distributed and advising that the SWCF unit had a group photograph taken.
- N - Letter from Aiko KOBUKO re the Supporters' Association and the financial assistance it would render.
- O - Letter from Toshimote TANAKA, 7 Dec, indicating that "Service Section" of prefectures under the patronage of an official governmental agency supports the movement.
- P - Letter from Ryosaku KOHASE, 4 Feb 50, indicating movement for relief of families of war criminals who had served as "overseas" police (Consular police).
- Q - Letter from Sumiko KISARA, 10 Feb 50, stating that the Ray of Love is published by the Red Cross to publish activities of the SWCF and related that Mr. TAKAHASHI, an administrative official of the Foreign Office, made a trip for the purpose of visiting war criminal families and gave the writer "sympathy money".

RFP  
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R - Letter from Kuniaki MAMIYA, 31 Jan 50, indicating Tokyo SWCF dispatched detailed reports.

S - Letter from Setsu YAMADA, 29 Jan 50, indicating that the SWCF was organized in the Service Section of the local governmental unit.

T - Letters indicating the tremendous activity of the Tokyo SWCF and indicating the nature of it as shown in the letters of:

- (1) Mitsuko YAMAMOTO, 4 Feb 50;
- (2) Mrs. Chiyo KASAI, 7 Feb 50;
- (3) Mrs Chiyo KASAI, 13 Feb 50;
- (4) Hisako IMAMURA, 5 Feb 50;
- (5) Sueko MIYAKE, 11 Feb 50.