

**GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)**  
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FILE UNDER: *Labn*

I N D E X S H E E T

DATE: *19 July 47*

FROM: *Wurray, Jr.* TO: *CGS*

SUBJECT: *Memo -*

*Reestablishment of Labor Ministry*

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER:

CLASSIFIED FILE:

*Memo to CGS*

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Government Section

28 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Establishment of Labor Ministry

1. Following a conference with Mr. Stanchfield and Miss Stander of ESS/LA, Mr. Iris of the Cabinet Bureau of Legislation and Mr. Morioka of the Cabinet Secretariat were advised that the holding of the general election and the advent of the effective date of the new Constitution makes it advisable to postpone the establishment of a Labor Ministry as now planned by the Japanese Government, and that, in order to assure prompt completion of the program, the following steps should be taken now:

a. Issue the attached press release (Tab "A").

b. Issue immediately an ordinance and regulations establishing in the Welfare Ministry a Labor Standards Bureau, with adequate authority and facilities to insure effective implementation and enforcement of the Labor Standards Law. This ordinance shall include substantially the following:

"The said Bureau shall also, prior to the establishment of the Labor Ministry, develop plans for establishing a Women's and Children's Bureau and a Bureau of Labor Statistics and Research, with sufficient authority and facilities to deal effectively with all matters in their jurisdiction."

c. Take immediate steps to make available to the Labor Standards Bureau sufficient additional funds to permit the carrying out of the activities referred to under b.

2. The adoption of these measures was agreed to by the representatives of the Japanese Government.

ALFRED R. HUSSEY, JR.  
Special Assistant to the Chief  
Government Section

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**PRERE RELEASE**

The Cabinet announces that in order not to hamper the work of the new Cabinet which will take office as a result of the general election and under the new Constitution, it has been decided to postpone the immediate establishment of a Labor Ministry and to recommend to the new National Assembly that a bill be enacted without delay establishing a Labor Ministry. The Cabinet recognizes that such a Ministry must include several major bureaus with sufficient authority and facilities to handle all matters concerning labor administration, employment security, labor standards, labor statistics and research, and the broad field of special labor problems relating to women and children. The Cabinet recognizes the urgent necessity for the early establishment of such a Ministry but believes it consistent with the spirit of the new Constitution that this be done by law rather than Imperial Ordinance.

Tab "A"

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Government Section

6 March 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Formation of Labor Ministry

1. A conference was held in Government Section at 1500 4 March 1947 between Mr. Cohen, ESS/LA, the undersigned, Messrs. Fujisaki and Irie of Central Liaison Office, and four members of the Seamen's Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation, at which the Japanese Government's arguments for the retention of the Seamen's Bureau within the Ministry of Transportation were presented. Mr. Irie stated that there were four major difficulties in connection with the establishment of a Labor Ministry which they wished to discuss, namely: (a) the transfer of the Seamen's Bureau, (b) the transfer of Labor Statistics Section, (c) transfer of Workmen's Compensation, and (d) establishment of an Unemployment Insurance Section.

2. The arguments for and against transfer of the Seamen's Bureau were presented at length, at the end of which time it was stated that the matter would be taken under consideration.

3. It appeared that objections to the transfer of Labor Statistics were based on a misunderstanding which Mr. Cohen said he would undertake to clarify.

4. It was stated by Mr. Cohen that responsibility for both Workmen's Compensation and Unemployment Insurance should be placed in the Labor Ministry, that the matter was not subject to discussion at this meeting in view of the fact that there was no Japanese official present competent to discuss the matter in detail.

ALFRED R. HUSSEY, JR.  
Special Assistant to the Chief  
Government Section

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Government Section

12 February 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Organization of Labor Ministry

REFERENCE: Memorandum for the Record dated 5 February 1947, subject:  
"Proposed Organization of Ministry of Labor."

1. At 0930 10 February, a conference was held in the office of Mr. Cohen, ESS/LA, attended by Lt. Veed, CIAE, Mr. Sullivan, PHAW, Miss Ellerman, Dr. Peake and the undersigned, GS, at which a preliminary discussion was held concerning the IJG draft of an Imperial Ordinance setting up a Labor Ministry. It was unanimously decided that the draft was completely unsatisfactory from SCAP's point of view and it was further decided not to enter into a detailed discussion with the Japanese, but to inform them that the draft was unsatisfactory and to instruct them to prepare a draft consistent with the instructions given them by PHAW and ESS/LA during the course of the past nine months.
2. At 1400 10 February, Mr. Cohen, ESS/LA, Miss Ellerman and the undersigned, GS, met with Mr. Iris of the Cabinet Board of Legislation, Mr. Yonezawa and Mr. Hori of the Ministry of Welfare, and Mr. Yamada and Mr. Akitane of the Central Liaison Office, to discuss the IJG proposal (Tab "A").
3. Mr. Iris stated that the Ministry was to be established by Imperial Ordinance under Article 10 of the Meiji Constitution. It was admitted that the draft had been prepared by the Prime Minister with the assistance of the Board of Legislation and without consulting the Ministry of Welfare, the officials of which had been working with ESS/LA and PHAW for nine months on the organization of a Labor Ministry. Mr. Yamada went so far as to state that the proposal had been conceived as a political maneuver in connection with the January Cabinet crisis, the purpose being to provide a Cabinet portfolio for the Social Democrats.
4. There was some discussion of the details of the proposed draft, especially with regard to the transfer of the Seaman's Bureau from the Transportation Ministry and the Bureau of Labor Statistics from the Cabinet Board of Statistics, and the creation of a Women's and Children's Bureau. These were stubbornly opposed by Iris on the grounds that, (1) the Ordinance should not deal with "unimportant and minute" bureaus and, (2) that there would be too great opposition from other Cabinet sources.
5. The Japanese were instructed that the draft was totally unsatisfactory in its present form, that under no circumstances would this Head-

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quarters accept an ineffective Labor Ministry created for purely political purposes, and that both ESS and GS would strongly and unhesitatingly oppose the creation of anything less than a strong and competent Ministry of Labor, embracing within the scope of its responsibilities all phases of labor activity and all labor problems and matters other than those arising out of the employer-employee relationship of the government with such groups as the communications workers and railway employees. They were further told that the proper function of a Labor Ministry was to represent the interests of labor in government, not to impose the edicts of a particular political administration on labor.

6. The Japanese officials were then presented with the ESS/LA - GS draft (Tab "B") of amendments to the IJG draft, were informed that these suggested amendments represented basic requirements, and were instructed to report back within the near future with a revised draft. They were told that it was not the intention of the Supreme Commander to impose any particular form of organization upon them, that they were free to work it out according to their own ideas, but that nothing short of an effective labor agency in government would be acceptable.

7. It was apparent that the Japanese had hoped to rush through the flimsiest excuse for a Labor Ministry, that they had deliberately ignored the advice and suggestions given them over the past nine months by this Headquarters, and that Mr. Irie, representing the official attitude, was in complete opposition to the views expressed by GS and ESS/LA.

8. At the close of the meeting, Mr. Cohen reiterated that any draft must contain a strong statement that the Ministry of Labor will be responsible for all matters relating to labor, that the administration of all laws and regulations relating to labor and now charged to other ministries will be transferred to the Ministry of Labor, and that the Ministry of Labor will have authority to establish such local units of labor administration if necessary.

ALFRED R. HUSSEY, JR.  
Special Assistant to the Chief,  
Government Section

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Government Section

4 February 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Labor Ministry

1. Mr. Cohen, Chief of Labor Division, ESS, called this morning to discuss the plans for the organization of a Labor Ministry in the Japanese Government. He pointed out that his Division had been working on this problem for over a year, that they had well defined plans and policies, that the Japanese Government had been fully informed of what ESS considered to be the basic requirements for the organization of such a ministry. He asked that any action taken by Government Section on this matter be fully coordinated with ESS.

2. Mr. Cohen was assured that no action would be taken without the prior knowledge and concurrence of ESS.

ALFRED R. HUSSEY, JR.  
Special Assistant to the Chief,  
Government Section

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