

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
APO 234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. 18
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE: TOKYO
DATE: 11 Oct. TIME: 1400

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment and Construction.

SUBJECT: ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT CONTROL ASSOCIATION.

Personnel Interrogated and background of each:

D. YASUKAWA - President of Ass'n.

Where interviewed: Office of Control Ass'n.

Interrogator: Pfc. Jacobson.

Interpreter: Lt. Love.

Allied Officers Present:

Capt. McGurk - GHQ, Economic & Scientific Branch.
Lt. Pineau - Interpreter, USSBS.

Summary:

1. Preliminary details on organization and functions of the association obtained.
2. Statistical data on production obtained.
3. General information about electrical manufacturers obtained.

INTERROGATION

1. The Electrical Control Association was founded by law in January 1942, its original purpose being to ascertain the productive capacity of all electrical plant facilities available, make specific demands on plants for production, standardize production of electrical equipment of all types, fix prices, allocate labor, and exercise general supervision over production.

Membership in the Association was compulsory with each member corporation paying dues to support the organization.

As soon as the Association was founded in 1942, the Army and Navy assumed control over production of equipment made directly for the Armed Forces, so that in effect, the Association was stripped of its power with respect to firms working on Army and Navy contracts.

The Association thus had actual jurisdiction over those concerns which were not working on Army and Navy contracts. Allocation of labor and materials and price regulation for concerns not working on war contracts were functions of the Association. Actual allocations of materials, however, were reduced at times by the military, who assumed control of a greater portion of basic materials as time went on. Military authorities controlled the labor supply, raw materials, and prices of concerns working on war contracts.

Plans for production of less essential products were also drawn up by the Association and presented to the Government. If accepted, the plans had the force of laws.

2. A list of important electrical equipment manufacturers is being prepared by the Association and will be available in a few days. It will include the name of the firm, address of its home office, affiliated plants and their location, products made, and relative importance of the corporation (in terms of percentage of total Japanese electrical production which the firm manufactured).

3. When questioned on statistics the Association had, Mr. Yasukawa indicated they were available for 1942, 1943, and 1944 in annual form only. He asserts there was no breakdown of statistics in monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual form. Mr. Sakakibara, managing director of the Control Association, produced statistics of a fragmentary nature. They included estimated total annual production of electrical equipment for 1942, 1943, and 1944, with actual statistics on production of a sector of the industry which did not work on war contracts. Fragmentary labor statistics, estimated total damage to productive capacity, plant facilities and machinery, and some statistics on requirements and allocations of metals and fuel were also available. All statistics are in general form, and must be subjected to careful investigation to determine their validity. They appear to have been prepared specifically for the Survey.

For national production data before 1942, Mr Yasukawa referred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as the source of such information.

4. When interrogated on knowledge of overall production plans, Yasukawa stated he is not familiar with overall production plans for the Armed Forces, but indicated he may be able to give the production program for part of the industry in rough form.

5. When queried on exports and imports, Yasukawa stated there were no exports since the supply of electrical equipment was too short. According to him there were no imports of finished products, but certain basic materials were imported.

6. When asked about expansion of the industry, he indicated it was undertaken when requirements for production that were given to firms exceeded their productive capacity. Financing of expansion of plant facilities was conducted by the corporation itself, or by several methods, such as private loans, construction by the Government, or drawing on the Corporation's own financial resources.

7. The most important electrical products during the war were radar, RDF equipment, and all communications equipment in general. Products whose production was curtailed were less essential items such as incandescent lamps and broadcast receivers.

8. About 100 of 300 electrical firms are stated to have held high priority positions in the electrical industry due to the nature of equipment manufactured for the Armed Forces. This was an advantage in obtaining fuel and labor. The war and Navy Departments supplied priorities for labor and fuel, and allocated raw materials to concerns working on war contracts.

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JAPANESE PERSONS PRESENT AT INTERROGATION

- D. Yasukawa - - - President of Electrical Machinery Control Association formerly President of Yasukawa Electrical Co. of Yawata. He founded the corporation about 30 years ago. He has a fair command of English.
- K. Kobayashi - - A Director of the Control Association formerly Director of the Tokyo Shibaura Electrical Co. Can read and understand English.
- K. Sakakibara - Managing Director of the Control Association formerly with the Hitachi Engineering Works
- K. Ishizaka - - Accountant.
- H. Sugimoto - - Liaison between the Electrical Association and the larger control Association (Tosei Kei).