

SATO, Kenryo

Request by MUTO, Akira

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- b. He will give relevant testimony very similar to that of ISHII.

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MEMORANDUM

8 August 1947

TO: Lt. Col. T. F. Mornane
FROM: William E. Edwards
SUBJECT: Secret Funds Interrogation Transcripts
Citation(s) re the Defendant(s): **SATO**

A series of interrogations has been conducted in connection with an investigation re alleged abuses and corrupt practices surrounding the uses made of Secret Funds by the Defendants and others, during the last War. The transcripts of such interrogations have been placed on file in the Investigative Division, Room #386.

The information briefly referred to below came to our attention in this manner. Because of your interest in the Defendant(s) it is being cited for your reference.

The essence of the information is as follows:

SASAKAWA, Ryoichi, a prisoner confined in Sugamo, stated under interrogation that following his successful campaign for election to the Diet in April 1942 ("War Diet"), he became embittered toward the accused **SATO** for the reasons hereinafter outlined. During that campaign, the TOJO Cabinet recommended and financially subsidized a group of hand-picked candidates, who it was known would be sympathetic toward the objectives of the TOJO Cabinet and the militaristic clique as a whole. Those candidates who even slightly opposed the program of the conspirators not only were denied a recommendation of the TOJO Cabinet, but they were
(See attachment)

The pertinent questions and answers will be found in the transcript of the interrogation of _____

_____ **SASAKAWA, Ryoichi**
dated 10 April 1947, at page(s) 3 (of seq).

suppressed, sometimes brutally, by the police under the direction of the Home Ministry.

SASAKAWA was one of those who had been suppressed. According to him, he was suppressed by reason of the fact he is "a person who will agree with a good thing and will disagree with something that is bad, even if it is something my father or brother says and that was the reason. In the Diet I made the following statement: 'It is bad for the Government to recommend people whom the Army likes and suppress the people the Army does not like. That is bad.'"

SASAKAWA claims that he prepared a report on the situation and presented it to the TOJO cabinet. At the time he presented such report he also advised that he proposed to put the question to a special session of the Diet (immediately following the War Diet election) as to why the people whom the Army preferred should be recommended, and the others suppressed. At that time the accused SATO was Chief, Military Affairs Bureau. SASAKAWA relates that immediately after his announcement that he proposed to address the question above referred to to the Diet, the accused SATO met him in a conference room in the Diet which was set aside for War Ministry personnel to hold meetings. At that time SATO assertedly stated that he had heard that SASAKAWA proposed to ask the Government why the militaristic clique was permitted to suppress those not sympathetic to their objectives. SATO reportedly informed SASAKAWA that he had been requested by the accused TOJO to request him (SASAKAWA) not to ask this embarrassing question. Instead thereof, SATO asked SASAKAWA to address some questions which had been prepared by the Army, on the basis that it would be better both for SASAKAWA and the Army. Moreover, SATO endeavored to entice SASAKAWA by pointing out that if he would adopt the alternative he would be accorded more favorable publicity by the Japanese press.

SASAKAWA claims that he replied that "That is bad. I did not become a member of the House of Representatives to have my name in the papers. * * * * The papers are now controlled by the Government; therefore, if I ask my questions it is probable that not a word of my statement would appear in the papers, but I am quite content to have it that way."

SASAKAWA states that he refused to abide by SATO's request and so he "raised a big voice in the Diet" regarding the "election which poisoned the country. Among others the election that just took place in Japan is the worst."

While SASAKAWA is a man having a pretty poor record, and is confined in Sugamo Prison, nevertheless he is a man of strong convictions, and his record indicates that on more than

one occasion he had the courage to stand by his convictions in the face of overpowering opposition. His aversion toward the military controlled election, through recommendation and subsidy, and the suppression of those who opposed the views of the TOJO Cabinet is one example of the type of strong convictions which he has had. I am inclined to subscribe to his statement that he harbored ill feeling toward SATO because "the representatives to the House of Representatives should be for the good of the people, and he (SATO) was trying to prevent that." SASAKAWA vowed that he was telling the truth, and the facts which he related are corroborated by others who have been interrogated. He indicated a willingness to take an oath to the truth of the interrogation transcript; and, in answer to the question as to whether or not he would be willing to testify, if called, he replied, "I do as I please, and I am willing to testify on the witness stand." (See page 9 of the transcript of interrogation dated 10 April 1947.)

NOTE: Also see page 18, same transcript, re the fact that the police tore down SASAKAWA's campaign posters.

Copy to: Mr. Tavenner
Mr. Sutton

REPORT ON : The Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai
(National Policy Research Institute)

PREPARED BY : Lt. Eric W. Fleisher
Investigator, I.P.S.

DATE : 4 June 1947

The Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai, a little heard of organization with the outward appearance of a group devoted to the discussion and study of current events has since 1937 played an extremely important part in advising the various departments in regards national policy, the administration of conquered territory and the utilization of the natural resources and materials available in territories already occupied by Japan, and in those that the association considered should be occupied. Its membership consisted mostly of second rate politicians who were devoted to the cause of Japan ruling not only Asia, but of making the Pacific Ocean a "Mare Nostrum" by occupying Alaska and certain countries of South America along the Pacific Coast and thereby spreading Japan's influence into the interior of South America and through the West Coast of the United States. Lacking in power, themselves, the members of the Association sought to influence the greater political figures of the day and to gain the support of those that favored their policy of aggression and conquest, which they did with considerable success. Such men as MOTO, Akira; KAYA, Okinori; SATO, Kenryo; SUZUKI, Teiichi; GOTO, Shigenori; KISHI; TAKAHASHI; GOTO, Fumio; ABE, Nobuyuki; ISOGAYA; SHIMOMURA; HORIUCHI; SAKURAI; KOPAYASHI, Seizo; ARITA, Hachiro; IWAKURO, Tokue; SHIBAYAMA, Kaneshiro; MATSUMURA; ARISUE, Seizo; NAGAI, Yatsuji; SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru and other influential men were affiliated with the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai and many of them made speeches at the meetings or attended them for the purpose of informing the society of recent developments in the political scene in Japan, in the occupied areas, and abroad.

In spite of the fact that the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai claimed to be a private organization under no outside influence, most of its financial backing came from the secret funds or "Kimitsuhi" of the various ministries and departments of the Government and from the larger private concerns. In the early days these contributions rarely exceeded five thousand yen, but later, especially after the outbreak of the "Greater East Asia War" contributions were rarely less and usually well over five thousand yen. The War Ministry and Navy Ministry were the most regular contributors and gave the greatest amounts, but the Greater East Asia Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Cabinet Bureau of Information, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry also gave their support. Out of the almost one hundred private companies that gave financial backing to the KKK, Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Asano, Ayakawa, Sumitomo, Tokyo Shibaura Denki and Osaka Seitetsu are the most well known. Extra amounts were collected from these sources on other occasions for special projects. In the end of 1941, or the beginning of 1942, the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai began research on their "Ten Year Plan for the Development of Greater East Asia."

For this project Muto, Akira of the Military Affairs Bureau gave the KKK 20,000 yen out of secret funds, and the same amount was received from Oka, Keijun of the Navy. The Foreign Office and the Cabinet Bureau of Information contributed 20,000 yen but this time only 5,000 yen was received from the Greater East Asia Ministry. From private companies 200,000 yen was collected.

The Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai, although not organized into definite sections for the study of various areas, did have specialists in each field and committees were formed whenever a project was undertaken, headed by these specialists. For example, specialists studying relations with the United States were Ishida, Reisque (Mitsui Bussan); Tojima (Mitsui Bussan); Isogaye, Reisque; and Sato, Naotake; while Okura, Kinmochi; and Kuroda, Kakuchi were the outstanding specialists on Russia.

The sources of information available to the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai were so extensive that no civilian, none government organization could ever have come near it. Much of this information was gathered from prominent members and their more influential friends, but documents too, from government ministries were in the possession of the society. Through Muto, Akira; Yatsugi, Kazuo of the KKK, was able to acquire and retain in his possession many documents of the Military Affairs Bureau, classified as "Top Secret." Yatsugi obtained documents through Muto as Muto was a good personal friend of his, but information was procured from other government ministries and from other high officials. This information was used in drawing up the various plans put out by the KKK.

In regards the United States a committee was formed in 1939 and functioned through 1941 studying U.S.-Japanese relations and conditions in the United States. The KKK published a full report in 1940 on its findings. So thorough was the knowledge of this committee that it was even familiar with the fortification of the Mandated Islands, something that was known only to a circle of the top ranking military and naval men. The material and statistics published by other societies, such as the Showa Kenkyu Kai and the Towa Kenkyu Kai was available to the KKK. An organization known as the Chosa Kenkyu Doin Honbu (Investigation and Research Mobilization Headquarters) acted as liaison between the many associations. Okura, Kinmochi; senior member of the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai was president of the Chosa Kenkyu Doin Honbu and Kanamori, Tokujiro, Chief of the Political Section of the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai was one of the Directors of the Chosa Kenkyu Doin Honbu.

By the end of 1941 the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai had worked on plans to utilize the facilities of the South Seas, Eastern Russia, Alaska, Canada, Central America, South America and India. Many members, influential sponsors, and associates thought that the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai had gone too far. Even Muto was opposed to including India although he approved of evicting the British from Asia. Regardless, the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai had gone ahead with these plans, some of which were later adopted in a modified form, to suit the Army, and the entire area was called the "East Asia Sphere."

In the spring of 1942 the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai began research on its "Ten Year Plan for the Development of Greater East Asia." There were approximately ten different sections covering an extremely wide scope doing research on this subject. Yatsugi, Kazuo (IPS witness) was the administrative head of the project, and was responsible for financing it. Takahashi, Kamegichi was the chief investigator and Kanamori, Tokujiro was in charge of the Political Section. At first the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai received much support from the different ministries and from high officials in the Government, but as the future of the "Greater East Asia Sphere" became more and more uncertain this support decreased. The plan was finally completed and a final report published, but it was never adopted, for by this time the tide of battle had turned against Japan and she had her hands full just trying to hang on to what territory she had. With this change in the fortunes of war the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai became less and less active. Government circles became more reluctant to give out information and documents were not easily obtained. Government agencies were no longer receptive to advice or plans for the future as they had their hands full with the War and its outcome. Although by 1944 the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai had lost its influence and had become almost inactive, it nevertheless carried on its meetings and still remained well informed in almost every field. Prominent members of the KKK were familiar even with secrets such as the profits from the opium trade. Satomi, head of the hong at Shanghai, sent the profits to Suzuki, Teiichi who placed them in Tojo's secret fund.

The Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai continued from 1944, when it lost its influence until the end of the War, when it was dissolved, as an organization that was extremely well informed on all matters and could be called on at all times should its need arise.

The foregoing report is based upon the interrogations of Yatsugi, Kazuo and Okura, Kinmochi conducted in June 1946. Okura was again interrogated on 27 May 1947 by this investigator prior to this writing. Documents published by the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai in the possession of the International Prosecution Section were used as reference and background material in the preparation of this report.

Eric W. Fleisher
ERIC W. FLEISHER

1st Lt. Inf.

Investigative Division, IPS.

DATE 2 April 1947

PROGRESS REPORT OF: SATO, Kenryo (MUTO)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>Partially Completed</u>	<u>Fully Completed</u>
1. Information in the hands of the Investigation Division.	_____	<u>X</u>
2. Statement in application for subpoena as to subject of witness's testimony.	_____	<u>X</u>
3. Examination of case file, if any.	_____	<u>X</u>
4. Cross-reference file on case files in office of Investigation Division.	_____	<u>X</u>
5. Cross-reference card file by subject matter of evidentiary documents in Document Division.	_____	<u>X</u>
6. Reference in evidence to witness or to the subject matter of his testimony.	_____	<u>X</u>
7. Preparation of summary of testimony already given by witness.	_____	<u>X</u>
8. Memorandum prepared by Mr. Lopez, dated March 11, 1947, relating to decorations awarded to defendants and their witnesses.	_____	<u>X</u>
9. Statement of any other investigation conducted by you.	<u>One of defendants</u>	

Pedro Lopez
Capt. James J. Robinson
William E. Edwards

By

P. Lopez

Paper No. 964
Disposes of
Paper No. 959

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST
SITTING AT TOKYO, JAPAN

Case No. 1

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; et al)	ORDER: FOR THE
)	PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS
- vs -)	ON BEHALF OF THE ACCUSED,
)	SATO, Kenryo UNDER
ARAKI, Sadao; et al)	THE CHARTER

This matter coming on to be heard on this 16th day of May 1947, before The Honorable Sir William Webb, President of the Tribunal, upon the application of SATO, Kenryo, one of the defendants herein, for the production of documents necessary to the defense of said SATO, Kenryo, in accordance with the provisions of Section III, Article 9, Paragraph (e) of the Charter, the description of the documents being fully set forth in said application which is Paper No. 959, and after hearing the statements and arguments of counsel for the said SATO, Kenryo, and the Tribunal being fully advised in the premises, it is

ORDERED: That the application of the accused for the production of documents is granted as prayed, and that the following documents which may be located at the place or in the custody of Central Intelligence Group, 14th and "L" Street, Washington, D.C., or Washington Document Center, Stuart Building, 5th and "K" Street, Washington, D. C., or their successors as Depositories of said documents, be procured forthwith and lodged with the Registry of the Tribunal:

<u>Crate No.</u>	<u>Items No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
650	43	File of non-classified correspondence and records dealing with China Affairs, 1942 (3 bundles). (Note--Returned Document No. 41 as per letter 24 Apr 46 from Doc. Sect. ATIS)
?	379	File of miscellaneous correspondence and records of War Ministry, 1940-1942. (1 bundle). (R.D. 52 on letter 14 June 46 and R.D. 68 on letter 25 July 46)

Dated at Tokyo, Japan, this 16th day of May 1947.

BY THE TRIBUNAL:

(signed) W.F. WEBB
PRESIDENT