

1926 Nov 11 Appointed as Secretary to the Minister of Finance as an additional post;
Promoted to the 4th Rank of Higher Civil Service;
Appointed Chief Secretary of the Secretariate to Ministry of Finance as an additional post;
Relieved from duty as an Acting Secretary of Ministry of Finance (Finance Ministry)

1927 Feb 2 Promoted to the 3rd Rank of Higher Civil Service (the principal and additional posts) (Cabinet);

May 25 Released from his own proper office and put to the Secretary of the Finance Office (Finance Minister's Secretary as well); Given the 3rd Grade Salary (Finance Ministry);
Appointed as Chief of National Treasury of Treasury Bureau and also Chief of Secretary Section in Minister's Secretariat (Finance Ministry)

Jun 30 Granted 2nd Grade Salary;
Released from duty as Chairman of the Committee for the Investment of Funds of Deposit Bureau (Cabinet)

Jul 11 Appointed Chairman of the Committee for promoting National Industry (Cabinet)

1929 Mar. 4 Decorated with the Order of the Rising Sun with Double Rays for meritorious service in stabilizing the financial and economic situation (Cabinet)

Jun 29 Given the 1st Grade Salary (Finance Ministry)

1929 Sep 9 Relieved from additional posts;
Relieved from duty as a Chief of Secretary in the Minister's Secretariate (Finance Ministry)

Sep 20 Appointed Chairman of the Relief Committee (Cabinet)

1930 Apr. 26 Appointed Chairman of the Committee for dealing with unemployment problems (Abolished by the Imperial Ordinance No. 158 issued on July of 1932 (Cabinet)

May 3 Relieved of duty as Chairman of the Committee for Dealing with Unemployment Problems (Cabinet)

Sep 8 Decorated with the 4th Order of Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasure

Jun 10 Appointed Government Commissioner at the 62nd Session of the Imperial Diet for the affairs under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance.

Dec. 15 Appointed Chairman of the Foreign Currency Retention Committee (Abolished by the Imperial Ordinance #136 issued on 25th May 1933)

Dec. 20 Entrusted as Special Commissioner of the Bureau for National Resources.

- 1932 Feb. 16 Appointed Government Commissioner at the 64th Session of the Imperial Diet for the Affairs under the Jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance.
- 1933 May 24 Appointed Chief of Foreign Exchange Controlling Bureau in Ministry of Finance;
Promoted to the 2nd Rank of Higher Civil Service (Cabinet)
- May 25 Appointed member of the Foreign Exchange Control Committee (Cabinet). Appointed Chairman of the Foreign Exchange Control Committee (Cabinet)
- May 25 Appointed member of Committee for the Valuation of Foreign Currency (Cabinet)
- 1933 May 25 Appointed Government Commissioner at the 65th Session of the Imperial Diet for Affairs under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance (Cabinet)
- Jul 13 Appointed Chief of Bureau of Finance in Ministry of Finance; Promoted to the 2nd Rank of Higher Civil Service
- Jul 18 Appointed member of the Foreign Exchange Controlling Committee (Cabinet);
Appointed member of a committee for the valuation of foreign currency (Cabinet)
- Aug. 3 Appointed member of the Rice Controlling Committee (Cabinet)
- Aug. 6 Appointed Councilor of Board on Social Affairs (Cabinet);
Appointed member of the Investment Committee for the funds of Post Office Life Insurance (Cabinet)
- 1934 Aug. 10 Appointed Chairman of an International Committee for Tourists (Cabinet);
Appointed a member of a committee for dealing with unemployment problems (Cabinet)
- Aug. 20 Appointed member of a committee for reviving the National Industry (Cabinet)
- Sep. 1 Appointed member of the Survey Committee for Counter-Measure of Rice (Abolished by the Imperial Ordinance No. 22 issued 1936 (Cabinet)
- Nov. 27 Appointed Governmental Commissioner at the 66th Session of the Imperial Diet for the affairs under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance (Cabinet)
- Nov. 25 Appointed Governmental Commissioner at the 67th Session of the Imperial Diet for the affairs under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance.
- 1935 Jan. 15 Appointed Preparatory Commissioner for determining common officials (Finance Ministry)
- Jan. 18 Appointed councilor of the Commissioner's office on Manchurian Affairs (Cabinet)
- Jun. 11 Appointed member of the Relief Council (Cabinet)

1935 Dec. 24 Appointed Governmental Commissioner at the 68th Session of the Imperial Diet for the affairs under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.

1934 Apr. 29 Decorated with the 3rd Order of Merit with the Order of Middle Cordon of the Rising Sun for meritorious service during the Incident between 1931-1934.

1936 Mar. 13 Appointed Vice-President of the Commissioner's Office on Manchurian Affairs.

Apr. 1 Promoted to the 1st Rank of Higher Civil Service (Cabinet); Given the 2nd Grade Salary

Apr. 4 Promoted to the 4th Class Court Rank - Junior Grade

Apr. 4 Appointed member of the Investment Committee for the Funds of Post Office Life Insurance;
Appointed member of the Tax Investigation Committee (Cabinet)

Apr. 6 Appointed member of Committee on Opium (Cabinet)

Apr. 30 Appointed Temporary Commissioner of Committee on Overseas Colonization (Cabinet)

May. 2 Appointed Government Commissioner at the 69th Session of the Imperial Diet for the Affairs under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (Cabinet);
Appointed member of the Intelligence Committee (Cabinet)

Jul 13 Appointed Councilor of the Cabinet Survey Bureau (Cabinet)

1936 Aug. 15 Ordered to make official trips to Korea, Kwantung Province, Manchuria and China (Cabinet)

Oct. 5 Appointed member of the Committee for Controlling Foreign Exchange

Oct. 26 Ordered to make official trip to Iseka urban Prefecture and Hyogo Prefecture (Cabinet)

Nov. 1 Appointed Councilor of the Air Bureau (Cabinet)
Appointed Government Commissioner at the 70th Session of the Imperial Constitution for the Affairs under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (Cabinet)

Nov. 26 Appointed temporary member of the main fertilizer merchant committee (Cabinet)

1937 Mar. 31 Ordered to make official trip to Aichi Prefecture (Cabinet); Appointed special member of a committee for counter-measures on the extraordinary market price;
Appointed Councilor of the Cabinet Investigation Committee (Abolished by the Imperial Ordinance No. 192 issued 1937)

Jul 1 Appointed provisional member of the Central Economic Committee (Cabinet).

- Jul 14 Appointed member of committee on taxation (Cabinet)
- Jul 23 Appointed Councilor of the Fuel Bureau (Cabinet);
Appointed Government Commissioner of the 71st Session
of the Imperial Diet for the Affairs under the jurisdic-
tion of the Ministry of Finance.
- 1937 Aug. 5 Appointed member of committee for the Establishment
of the Manchurian Colonization Company (Cabinet)
(MANCHU TAKU SHOKU KOSHA)
- 1937 Aug. 28 Ordered to make official trip to Manchuria, China and
Kwantung Province (Not mentioned in the Official
Gazette) (Cabinet)
- 1937 Sep 16 Appointed member of the Extraordinary Funds Adjustment
Committee (Cabinet)
- 1937 Sep 18 Appointed member of the Establishment Committee of the
TEIKOKU Field Industrial Co., Ltd.
- 1937 Sep. 25 Appointed the member of the Cabinet Intelligence
Committee (Cabinet);
Relieved as a member of the Committee for the Establish-
ment of the Manchurian Colonization Company (Cabinet)
- 1937 Aug. 3 Appointed member of Committee for Mobilization Affairs
in connection with the Northern China Incident
(Not mentioned in the Official Gazette)
- Sept 2 Member of Committee for Mobilization Affairs in connec-
tion with the Northern China Incident changed to the
member of Committee for Mobilization Affairs in connec-
tion with the China Incident.
- Oct. 1 Appointed member of the Committee for the Iron Industry
(Cabinet). Appointed member of the Committee on
Shipping Control (Cabinet)
- Oct. 20 Appointed member of the First Committee (Not mentioned
in the Official Gazette) (Cabinet)
- Oct. 25 Appointed Vice President of the Cabinet Planning Board;
Promoted to 1st Rank of Higher Civil Service (Cabinet);
Appointed member of the First Committee.
- Oct. 26 Appointed member of the Main Fertilizer Merchant
Committee (Cabinet)
- Oct. 25 Resource Bureau Specialist Committee has been abolished
according to Edict No. 605 issued in 1937
- Oct. 28 Appointed member of the Cabinet Intelligence Bureau
(Cabinet)
- Nov. 4 Appointed member of the Local Organization Investment
Committee (Cabinet)
- Nov. 4 Appointed Special Member of Committee on Counter-measures
against market prices (Abolished on 3 December, 1945)
(Cabinet)

- 1937 Nov. 5 Appointed member of the Investigating Committee on Eastern North Area Promotion (Abolished by the Imperial Ordinance No. 176 issued 1938) (Cabinet)
- Nov. 9 Appointed member of an investigating committee on taxation (Cabinet)
- Nov. 13 Appointed provisional member of the Central Statistics Committee (Cabinet)
- Nov. 16 Appointed member of the Central Air Defense Committee (Cabinet)
- Nov. 17 Appointed member of the Extraordinary Funds Adjustment Committee (Cabinet);
Appointed member of the Committee for promotion of inventions (Cabinet)
- Nov. 24 Appointed President of the Ordnance Council (Cabinet)
- Nov. 22 Asked to become member of the Committee for Promoting Commercial and Industrial Education (Ministry of Education)
- Nov. 27 Appointed member of the Committee for Investing Reserve Funds of the Post Office Life Insurance (Cabinet)
- Nov. 29 Appointed member of the Committee for Promoting National Industry;
Appointed member of an investigating committee on the system of weights and measures
- Dec. 8 Appointed Councilor of the Commissioner's Bureau on Manchurian Affairs (Cabinet);
Appointed member of a committee on Foreign Exchange Control (Cabinet)
- Dec. 10 Appointed member of the Education Council (Cabinet)
- Dec. 24 Appointed Government Commissioner at the 73rd Session of the Imperial Diet for the affairs under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (Cabinet)
- Dec. 27 Ordered to make an official trip to China (Not mentioned in the Official Gazette) (Cabinet)
- 1938 Jan. 15 Appointed member of an investigating committee for the protection of wounded soldiers (Cabinet)
- Jan. 25 Appointed member of the liquid-fuel Committee (Cabinet)
- Feb. 19 Appointed member of the Planning Council (Cabinet)
- Apr. 2 Appointed member of the Central Committee for Adjusting Rice allocation (Cabinet);
Appointed member of the investigating committee on devising new organization for rice allocation (Cabinet)
- Apr. 15 Appointed member of the Council on Science (Cabinet)
- Apr. 22 Ordered to make official trip to Nagano Prefecture (Cabinet)

- 1938 Apr. 28 Decorated with the 2nd Order of Merit with Order of Pillar of the Nation (GHU KOKU) given by the Emperor of Manchuria and permitted to wear it (Cabinet).
- Apr. 30 Appointed member of the Establishment Committee for the Northern China Development K/K (KITA-SHINA KAI HATSU K/K) and the Central China Industry Promotion K/K (NAKA-SHINA SHIKO K/K) (Cabinet)
- May 6 Ordered to make official trip to Aichi and Gifu Prefectures (Not mentioned in the Official Gazette) (Cabinet)
- May 18 Appointed member of the Estimation Committee of the Government invested properties for Northern China Development K/K and the Central China Industry Promotion K/K (Cabinet)
- May 25 Appointed Provisional Member of the Council for Electric Power (Cabinet)
- Jun 6 Appointed member of the Committee for Encouraging National Savings (Cabinet)
- Jun 10 Appointed member of the Diet Organization Council
- Jun 17 Ordered to make official trip to Nagano Prefecture (Cabinet)
- Jun 18 Appointed member of an establishing committee for the promotion of the Nippon Gold Mining Industry Co., Ltd. (Cabinet)
- Jun 30 Appointed member of the Central Market Price Committee (Cabinet)
- Jul 2 Appointed President of the General Mobilization Compensation Committee (Cabinet)
- Jul 14 Appointed member of a committee investigating the Administrative System of Justice (Cabinet)
- Jul 27 Appointed member of the committee for dealing with unemployment problems (Cabinet)
- Aug. 3 Appointed member of the committee for Adjusting the Communication Works (Cabinet)
- Aug. 15 Appointed member of an Investigating Committee for the Promotion of Science (Cabinet)
- Aug. 27 Appointed member of the Investigating Committee for dealing with present business situation of Korea (Cabinet)
- Sep. 5 Ordered to make official trip to Osaka Urban-Prefecture (Cabinet)
- Sep. 10 Appointed member of the Electric Communication Committee (Cabinet)
Ordered to make official trip to Aichi Prefecture
- 1938 Sep. 17 Appointed member of the Committee for Adjusting the Principal Industries of Formosa (Cabinet);
Appointed member of an establishing committee for the promotion of the Nippon Gold Mining Industry Co., Ltd. (Cabinet)

- 1938 Oct 14 Appointed member of the committee for the Machine-Tool Manufacturing Enterprises (Cabinet)
- Nov. 8 Relieved from duty as member of an Establishing Committee for the Northern China Development K/K and the Central China Industry Promotion K/K (Cabinet)
- Dec. 6 Appointed member of an Investigating Committee for Controlling the National Physical Strength (Cabinet)
- Dec. 9 Ordered to make trip to the Osaka Urban-Prefecture (Cabinet)
- Dec. 24 Appointed Government Commissioner at the 74th Session of the Imperial Diet for the Affairs under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (Cabinet)
- 1939 Jan. 11 Appointed President of the Cabinet Planning Board (Cabinet)
- Jan. 16 Raised to the 4th Class Court Rank, Senior Grade
- Jan. 19 Appointed Government Commissioner at the 74th Session of the Imperial Diet (Cabinet)
- Feb. 14 Decorated with the 2nd Order of Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasure
- Apr. 20 Ordered to make trip to Osaka Urban-Prefecture (Cabinet)
- Aug. 28 Appointed member of the House of Peers by Ordinance of the House of Peers, Article I, Paragraph IV
- Aug. 30 Appointed the Minister of Finance and also President of the Cabinet Planning Board (Cabinet)
- Sep. 1 Promoted to the 3rd Court Rank, Junior Grade
- 1940 Jan. 16 On his request, relieved of duty from the principal and additional posts (Cabinet);
Promoted one grade of court rank as an act of grace from the Throne;
Promoted to the 3rd Class of Court Rank, Senior Grade
- Mar. 19 Appointed member of the Committee for encouraging national savings (Cabinet)
- Apr. 10 Appointed Advisor to the Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the Republic of China;
Granted special treatment due officials of Shinin Rank
(Expired on 26th December 1940)
- Apr. 26 Appointed advisor to the Ministry of Finance and entrusted with the affairs of the Asiatic Development Board;
Given monthly allowance of ¥2,000 (Cabinet)
Appointed to serve on the Central China Liaison Office of Asiatic Development Board.

- Jan. 16 Appointed member of the National General Mobilization Council (Cabinet)
- Mar. 7 Appointed diplomatic adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mar. 31 Henceforth cancellation of payment of monthly allowance (Asiatic Development Board)
- Jul. 12 Relieved of duty by his request as a member of the National Mobilization Council
- Sep. 17 Relieved of duty as diplomatic adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1942 Sep. 17 Appointed the Minister of State (Cabinet)
- Sep. 19 Relieved of duty as Adviser to the Ministry of Finance (Cabinet)
Relieved of duty as a member of the committee for encouraging national savings
- Sep. 17 Relieved of duty with the Affairs of the Asiatic Development Board.
- Nov. 1 Appointed Greater East Asia Minister
- 1943 Apr. 16 Ordered to make official trip to the Republic of China and various parts of southern areas (Cabinet)
- May 15 Returned
- 1944 Jun 13 Decorated with the 1st Order of Merit with Order of the Sacred Treasure
- Jul 22 Relieved of his principal post by his request (Cabinet)
- Aug. 25 Appointed adviser to the Ministry of Finance
- Aug. 25 Appointed in an advisory capacity to the Greater East Asia Ministry; Appointed member of a committee for taking hold of urgent matters of the war (Cabinet)
- Aug. 29 Appointed adviser to the Ministry of Finance (Cabinet)

(Ref. for above biography - IPS File #215-12)

Comments(IPS - 215-5)

AOKI joined the Finance Ministry after his graduation from the Tokyo Imperial University in German Law. Among his classmates entering the Finance Ministry at the same time were KAYA, Okinori, and ISHIWATA, Sotaro, both later Finance Ministers, and HOSHINO, Naoki, who became President of the Cabinet Planning Board in 1940.

After a career in various subordinate positions in the Finance Ministry, he was appointed Vice-President of the Manchurian Affairs Board in 1936. It is at this time that he is reported to have worked closely with TOJO, Hideki, then Chief of the Gendarmerie Headquarters, Chief of the Kwantung Police and Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army in Manchuria.

In December 1937, AOKI was appointed Vice-President of the Cabinet Planning Board. In this capacity, he was sent, in October, 1938, to Shanghai to evaluate the government investments in the Central China Reconstruction Company which was to be organized the following month.

In February 1939, AOKI is reported in Chuo Koron as being the most important of the Finance Bureaucrats but the article adds that there were indications that he was not one who would take orders and faithfully carry them out. It was for this reason, the article says, that AOKI was not appointed Finance Vice-Minister, even though he had the support of IKEDA, KAYA and ISHIWATA. Nevertheless, with the formation of the HIRANUMA Cabinet, AOKI was appointed President of the Cabinet Planning Board succeeding TAKI, Masao.

In August, 1939, AOKI was appointed Finance Minister in the new ABE Cabinet. In his first statement, he declared that "because of the entangled international situation, the aim of the new government must be the augmentation of the national defense economic power." During this period he still held the position of President of the Cabinet Planning Board, and according to one source, was called "the strongest man in the ABE government." Although he cut the Army and Navy budget demands in December 1939, one source calls him a "semi-militarist and expansionist, and a Greater Japan enthusiast." The same source in 1939 says that AOKI was "fundamentally agreed with the Japanese military" but that he "remembers his arithmetic and considers it impossible to grant their demand."

From April to December 1940, General ABE, Nobuyuki, was special Ambassador to the Nanking Government and AOKI was his economic advisor. According to the Osaka Mainichi, AOKI "played an important role in the formulation of the financial and economic policies" of the puppet government and "his contribution to the establishment of the Central Chupei Bank was highly praised."

Subsequently he was appointed Supreme Economic Advisor to the Nanking Government. In assuming this post he was to "assist HONDA, Kumataro, Ambassador to Nanking, in promoting economic cooperation between Japan and China, and the economic reconstruction of the latter."

When in September 1942, TOJO reshuffled his Cabinet and appointed TANI, Masayuki, to replace TOGO, Shigenori, as Foreign Minister, he appointed AOKI, Kazuo, as Minister of State without Portfolio. The Tokyo radio at that time said that AOKI was expected to take charge of the projected Greater East Asia Ministry. His first statement to the press emphasized the need to "harmonize his work with the military administration."

Then, in the following November, he was duly appointed the first Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs. Again his first press conference stressed the "necessity for close cooperation between the government and the chief commander of the Japanese forces" saying that this was one of the reasons for the formation of the new ministry. "The building up of Greater East Asia is absolutely inseparable from continuance of the war," he said. His first act was to create a Greater East Asia Liaison Committee which he headed and which was composed of representatives of the Army, Navy, the various Cabinet ministries, and the Legislative Bureau. In addition, he held numerous other posts in the Greater East Asia Ministry, including the chairmanship of the Asia Technical Development Commission.

AOKI took several trips as Greater East Asia Minister. In early 1943, he took an extensive trip through China and the Southern Regions; in July 1943, he visited Manchuria, inspecting the Chungsientao mining District, accompanied by LI, Shao-keng and HANAWA, Yoshiyuke, both diplomats in Manchuria; from 19 August, 1943 to 5 September, 1943, he traveled through Nanking, Shanghai, Peking, Kalgan, Dairen and Ksinking. As Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs on 28 March, 1944, he called on WANG, Ching-wei, who at that time was convalescing in a Tokyo hospital. In May 1944, with SHIGEMITSU, Memoru, he was scheduled to attend a meeting of the Great Japan Buddhists Association.

When the TOJO Cabinet fell in July 1944, AOKI resigned along with the other Ministers.

The following month, AOKI was appointed as advisor to the Greater East Asia Affairs Ministry and to the Finance Ministry.

On 1 June, 1945, AOKI was named advisor to the recently formed Dai Nippon Seijikai.

On 29 June, 1945, he was appointed to the new Extraordinary Wartime Measures Law Committee.

One source believed, in 1942, that AOKI was "liberal and possibly even friendly towards the United States"; source felt that at the time "many Japanese who oppose the present war as a suicidal policy nevertheless feel that they now have no other choice but to support the war effort." But according to another source, AOKI is regarded as a TOJO "yes-man." A third source terms him a "favorite of the Kwantung Army Clique."

AOKI is reported to be a foreign exchange expert and while he was a finance official, he modeled his foreign exchange control on the Nazi system.

According to the "Osaka Mainichi", AOKI is known for his tenacity. "This quality has enabled him to accomplish anything he had decided to do. In this sense, he is trusted by persons knowing him," the paper says.

SUMMARY

AOKI, Kazuo, is a career Finance Ministry official who has played an important part in Japan's domestic, economic and financial affairs as well as in similar aspects of Japan's program of continental expansion. He joined the TOJO Cabinet in 1942 as the first Greater East Asia Minister, a position which he held until the fall of that cabinet in 1944. Since that time, his activities have been confined to an advisory rather than an administrative capacity. (Ref: 215-5)

On 14 February, 1946, at Sugamo Prison, a lengthy interrogation of Kazuo AOKI revealed the following information:

Kazuo AOKI was born on 28 November, 1889. He graduated from the Imperial University of Tokyo Law Division in 1916 and immediately upon graduation became a Minister of France. In September, 1917, he became secretary to the Finance Commissioner to London and was Finance Attache to the Japanese Embassy in London, which position he held until the end of 1920. AOKI returned to Japan in January 1921.

Upon his return to Japan, he was attached to the Finance Ministry as Chief of the Secretarial Section. In 1926, he became chief of the Personnel Bureau Section and in 1927, he held the position of Chief of the Investment Section for the Government Postal Savings Fund, in conjunction with the previous position. In 1934 and 1935, subject was Director of the Finance Bureau and in 1936 and 1937, he was Vice President of the Manchurian Affairs Board.

The duties as a member of the Manchurian Affairs Board were mainly in two parts: (1) to co-ordinate the government's policies and business of many departments in regard to Manchuria; and (2) over-seeing of the South Manchurian Railway. During his term of office as Vice-President of the Manchurian Affairs, AOKI had occasion to go to Manchuria two or three times between the years 1936 and 1937. When asked if he knew whether or not Hideki TOJO was in Manchuria at that time, subject said he thought TOJO was -- he thought TOJO was the Commandant of the Kempei Headquarters and later became the Chief of Staff. AOKI stated he did not know, in detail the functions of the Kempei Tai Unit for the Kwantung Army but he thought it was very similar to that of the one in Japan Proper in that it supervised the rules and regulations pertaining to military personnel within the armed forces.

Subject stated the Kwantung Army was in Manchuria (recognized by Japanese as an independent nation) for the purpose of protecting it from any invasion, as there was close relation between Manchuria and Japan, and Manchuria was of great importance to the Japanese nation. He said the protection may have been for the purpose of Anti-Soviet defense.

To the question: "How do you justify Japan's position in placing in Manchuria the Kwantung Army and thereafter establishing the separate state of Manchukuo as against China?", AOKI replied "Through the years of Anti-Japanese teachings and policies of Chan Shu Rin and son, the blowing up of the South Manchurian Railway, which is some times termed the Mukden Affair, the affair finally came to the climax as the Mukden Incident which finally opened the Manchurian Affair. To save the Manchurian people, the Japanese forces were used to over-come the Chan Shu Rin forces, and the state of Manchoukuo was finally set up and recognized by Japan."

AOKI stated that there were some Japanese civilians who acted as advisors to the Manchoukuo Government. The chiefs were all Manchurian, however, their subordinates were Japanese who were there as an aid in the administration of the Manchurian Government. Subject further stated that due to the inability of the Manchurians to carry on its administration, and especially in lines of engineering in any progressive ways, Japanese supervisors were placed at their disposal to aid in the progress of Manchuria and it was his contention that as soon as the Manchurian people became able to carry on their administration and other governmental functions, the Japanese officials would be pulled out. However, this could not be carried out as quickly as had been hoped and, therefore, it appeared on the surface that Manchuria was nothing more than a puppet state of Japan. (Ref: 215-11)

Reference is made to Serial 2, IPS File 392. According to information contained therein, AOKI was in active charge of the Ministry of Greater East Asia Affairs. (Ref: 215-19)

In a biographical sketch of the East Asia Research Institute (Tao Kankyu Sho), AOKI is listed as one of the Directors. (Ref: IPS 215-20)

On 7 March, 1946, at Sugamo Prison, another interrogation of Kazuo AOKI revealed the following information:

AOKI advised that he was a Director in name only of the East Asia Research Institute (Tao Kenkyu Sho) and that he never was called on to perform any duties. He claims that by virtue of his being Vice-President of the Planning Board, he automatically was given an honorary directorship in the Institute.

AOKI disclaims any connection between the Institute and the Greater East Asia Ministry and alleges that it played no part in helping Japan to establish its policy in the Far East. He personally, at no time, requested information from the Institute. None of the employees with whom he was acquainted had any connection with the Army, the Navy, or the various Ministries. It was supervised by the Cabinet Planning Board but the Planning Board did not dictate who should compose the personnel. (Ref: 215-21)

The following listed documents are all located in the Document Section of the International Prosecution Section:

Doc. No. 506

15 February, 1946

Title and Nature: Letter from Admiral OKADA to Prince KONOYE

Date: August 13, 1943

Source of Original: Prince KONOYE's residence

Persons Implicated: KONOYE, OKADA, TOJO, SUZUKI, AOKI, HIRANUMA, YONAI, OKADA, KAYA, SHIGEMITSU, HIROTA, ABE, HARA, WAKATSUKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Illegal Warfare

Summary of Relevant Points:

Due to the fact that "the present situation is truly grave and the future of our country greatly concerns us all" and since he believes "that it is the duty of the Elder Statesman to intimately talk to the Prime Minister and other Ministers concerned, OKADA proposes to KONOYE that the elder statesman have a luncheon for the Prime Minister, SUZUKI, KAYA, AOKI and SHIGEMITSU on Aug. 30, 1943, at the Peers Club.

According to USHIBA, KONOYE's secretary, such a meeting was held.

Doc. No. 952

25 March, 1946

Title and Nature: Book, "Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Privy Council in 1937"

Date: 1937 Original (x) Copy () Language: Japanese

Source of Original: Privy Council

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Violation of Open Door Policy

Summary of Relevant Points:

This document contains the official minutes of the Privy Council. It contains a list of members present and absent and describes briefly the topics discussed.

In the table of contents are listed:

"Planning Board Organization and four other matters."

"Conclusion of the Agreement Regarding the Establishment of the MANCHUKUO Colonization Company (MANSHUKOKU TAKUSHOKU KOSHA) and Exchange of Official Documents Concerned with it."

"Conclusion of the Treaty Between Japan and Manchukuo Regarding Abolition of Extra-territoriality in MANCHUKUO and the Transfer of Administrative Power."

"Conclusion of the Protocol Between Japan, Italy and Germany."

On 19 July, 1937, the Privy Council Committee concluded the agreement regarding establishment of the MANCHUKUO Colonization Co. and the exchange of official documents. Discussion dealt with the emigration plan, the number of emigrant homes per year and advantages and disadvantages (Section 10).

The first and second Investigation Committee meeting on the 18th and 20th of October, dealt with the conclusion of the treaty between Japan and MANCHUKUO for abolition of extra-territoriality in MANCHURIA and the transfer of administrative power of the railway zone of the South Manchuria Railway Co. Councillor KAWAI asked, "Why the extra-territoriality should be abandoned precipately without assuring the situation prevailing after the abolition of the administrative power lately carried out? What will be the disposal of the concessions and what will be if a third country does not accept the abolition of the consular tribunal?". The Foreign Minister and the Director of Treaties Bureau replied. (Sec. 14) Councillor MOTODA asked whether there was reason to hurry the abolition of the extra-territoriality and whether there was an agreement regarding the Japanese army's garrison in MANCHURIA. The Military Affairs Bureau Chief gave his reply.

At the second meeting Councillor MOTODA drew attention to the need for attainment of the spirit of the MANCHUKUO Foundation in bringing about the harmony of the five races. The President of the Manchurian Affairs Board SUGIYAMA replied on the difficulty of harmonizing the HAN and the Manchurian races. Sec. 14-9.

Premier KONO explained the spirit of the Protocol between Japan, Italy and Germany, Foreign Minister HIROTA summarized the contents of the bill, and Director of the Treaty Bureau MITANI explained it article by article.

Councillor KAWAI asked why the bill did not contain a secret agreement. He also inquired as to counter-measures in the event that Russia would not sign the Fishery Treaty (Sec. 15).

Councillor ARIMA asked the state of activities of the permanent committee acting upon the Nippon-German Treaty. The Foreign Minister replied. (15-6).

Councillor HARA inquired about the degree to which the Nippon-German secret clauses and the translation into Japanese of the word "Comintern." The Foreign Minister replied.

Councillor KUBOTA asked for clarification of the actual state of relation between England and Japan; the results of the Nine Powers Pact; and the actual state of the Nanking Government. (15-6).

Councillor MOTODA inquired as to results of asking foreign states for industrial funds in MANCHURIA and asked for suspension of the Proletariat Party after the Chinese Affair. (15-6)

Councillor ISHIZUKA asked whether the government had received any negotiations from Germany regarding the South Sea Islands. The Foreign Minister replied (15-7).

Councillor KUBOTA asked about limiting military action in China and Councillor MOTODA also asked for the peace security after the termination of the affair. (REF: IPS File 215-26).

Doc. No. 1128

3 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI, Kazuo

Crimes to which document applicable: Japan's aggression in China. Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity League

Summary of Relevant Points:

Record of Privy Council deliberation re alliance treaty between Japan and China.

Prime Minister TOJO stated "before outbreak of Greater East Asia War, Japan had to settle the China Incident, leaving Britain and U. S. to act as they pleased in China..with the new orientation of our China policy, the nationalist government of China declared war on America and England at the beginning of this year...and cooperated with Japan to bring the Greater East Asia War to a successful end."

Supersedes "Sino-Japanese Fundamental Treaty" of 30 November, 1940. Annexed protocol promises withdrawal Japanese troops from China when general peace returns as well as the giving up right of stationing troops in China as per Peking Protocol. Draft was unanimously passed.
(Ref: 215-27)

Doc. No. 1134

3 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI, Kazuo

Crimes to which document applicable: Aggressive warfare - China

Summary of Relevant Points:

Prime Minister TOJO and Foreign Minister TANI explained object of agreement between Japan and China re cooperation on prosecution of war, reestablishment of Japanese concessions, and extra territoriality in China. This caused by America's aid to CHUNKING.

In answer to question, TOJO stated that by participating in the war, China would draw sentiment of 100,000,000 Chinese to side of Japan under Pres. WANG at Nanking. Due to touchy relations with USSR, Japan would not insist on Manchukuo's participation in the war.

Discussion touched on fighting between NANKING and CHUNKING troops, next on extra territoriality for Japan in China.

In answer to question as to WANG's cooperation with Japan Premier, TOJO replied that since there was the "silent aid" of the Japanese troops, there would be no anxiety re public peace and order.

Draft for new treaty was unanimously passed. Analyst: 2nd Lt. Ohberg
(Ref: 215-28)

Doc. No. 1152

4 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Conspiracy to wage war of aggression - Thai and Malay

Summary of Relevant Points

The Committee discussed and unanimously approved the following items:
1. That it is of utmost importance that Japan maintain close collaboration with its Allied countries in Europe while strengthening her position in Greater East Asia, in order to achieve victory and the construction of a Greater East Asia.

2. In return for THAILAND's sincerity in engaging with Japan in the common effort toward dislodgment of Britain and America, Japan approves the incorporation of four Malayan Provinces (KELANTAN, TRENGGANU, KEDAH, PERLIS), and two of the SHAN STATES (KENG TUNG, MONG PAN) by THAILAND.

(Ref: IPS 215-29)

Doc. No. 1161

4 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which Document applicable: Conspiracy for aggression.

Summary of Relevant Points:

The committee reached the following conclusions:

1. The internal situation of the Philippines is such that they are not yet ripe for participation in the war.

2. Therefore, Japan has no intention of asking the Philippines to send troops abroad at this time.

3. Japan intends that any feeling of uneasiness within the Philippine Government disappear, by endeavoring to carry out this policy immediately, giving the Philippines the opportunity to remedy internal difficulties.

(Ref: IPS 215-30)

Doc. No. 1185

5 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: Kazuo AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Aggressive warfare; conspiracy.

Summary of Relevant Points:

Record of Privy Council meeting re Japan's troubles with Russia in Saghalien since Anti-Comintern Pact of 1941. Propose now to conclude a neutrality treaty in which Russia is to take over Northern Saghalien for a consideration. Upon completion of drafts of proposed treaties Prime Minister TOJO expressed his gratitude, and asserted "last object of anything in operation or in diplomacy is to win this war by all means."

(Ref: 215-31).

Doc. No. 1197

8 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: Kazuo AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Puppet government - Philippine Islands.

Summary of Relevant Points:

American policy of granting P.I. independence was to be copied by Japan. "...Thus the Japanese government, taking advantage of the opportunity of the declaration of independence by P.I., will recognize her independence, establish the regular diplomatic relation, station the ambassador there in view of the specially important position of P.I. in the Greater East Asia, and leave nothing to be desired in our P.I. policy."

"....we will establish there our official organization which shall deal with diplomatic affairs between us and P.I.; we think that the measures are proper for the present situation."

(Ref: 215-32)

Doc. No. 1212

9 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Propaganda and censorship

Summary of Relevant Points:

Some topics treated:

1. Outlook of Japanese Industry
2. The Establishment of the Asia Resuscitation Board.
3. Establishment of the Commission for the Expansion of Production Power
4. Decision Concerning General Principles of Price Control
5. The Materials Mobilization Plan
6. The Abrogation of the Japan-American Commercial Treaty
7. Conclusion of the Japanese-German Trade Agreement
8. Resignation of the HIRANUMA Cabinet.
9. Manchukuoan Economic and Financial Measures Get on the Right Track
10. Unification of the Chinese Administration
11. Steady Progress of Semi-official Exploitation Companies
12. United Administration of Mongolia Established
13. Korean Industries
14. Shipbuilding in its Golden Age
15. Automobile Industry
16. Synthetic Oil Industry

(Ref: IPS 215-33)

Doc. No. 1228

9 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: Kazuo AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Japanese Aggression-Philippines.

Summary of Relevant Points:

Privy Council's decision to grant independence to P.I. and to recognize new (VARGAS) Government. P.I. to cooperate with Japan by granting full use of military facilities and aiding Japan in her efforts to terminate the war successfully. To establish the Greater Asia Co-prosperity Sphere. Copy of treaty annexed to report.

(Ref: IPS 215-34)

Doc. No. 1254

10 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Aggression-French Indo-China; Conspiracy

Summary of Relevant Points:

Contains telegram from and to above named persons.

At Imperial Headquarters and the government connecting council, it was decided to make France return her concessions and extra-territoriality and withdraw the Chinese Embassy from France. Telegram No. 54 10 Feb. 1943

(TANI to MITANI)

(Reference: IPS 215-37)

Doc. No. 1336

15 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: Kazuo AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Economic Aggression

Summary of Relevant Points:

Ordinance establishes responsible offices and bureaus, including one each for Manchuria, China and the South Seas. Work of same is outlined.

(Ref: IPS 215-42)

Doc. No. 1440

24 April, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI
Crimes to which document applicable: Relations French Indo-China. Relations Germany, Italy.

Summary of Relevant Points:

German and Italian agreements outline in general terms economic cooperation, except no Italian protocol, because "at present Italy's economic sphere in Europe cannot be determined."

F.I.C. Agreement provides "special yen" should be used in settling accounts between the two countries, Indo-China in return to give Japan "Piastra" currency for payment to troops, merchants, etc. Exchange value to be on basis of rate of 1 Jan. 43.
(Reference: IPS 215-44)

Doc. No. 1685

23 May, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI
Crimes to which document applicable: Conspiracy to wage aggressive warfare in China; violation of Nine Power Treaty.

Summary of Relevant Points:

Contains decisions on Japanese policy in China made at conferences of high government officials, 1938-40. (2 copies and original). Published by Jap. Home Ministry.

Section 1. Conference between the Imperial Headquarters (DAIKONKEI) and various government officials 15 Jan. 1938. Present: KONOE, SUETSUGU, SUGIYAMA, Gen.; Adm. YONAI, Gen. TADA; Adm. KOGA and others. (Ref: Tokyo Asahi Newspaper, #18596, PP. D-1 and H-2.)

Since occupying Nanking, the Japanese Government has been trying to give the Chinese opportunities to make peace but China takes no notice. "Japan does not recognize the present Chinese Government, but expects the rise of a new government with which Japan will cooperate."

Section 2. Government declaration 3 Nov. 1938. Approved by cabinet meeting 1 Nov; KONOE conferred with the Emperor on the 2nd; declaration announced on the 3rd. (Ref: Tokyo Asahi Newspaper, #1885, p.H-2).

Section 3. Speech of Premier KONOE on policy in East Asia, North China, and Inner Mongolia, 22 Dec. 1938.

China must abandon her anti-Japanese policies and prejudice towards Manchukuo. A Sino-Japanese Anti-Comintern Pact must be concluded. It is necessary to station Japanese troops in parts of China. Mongolia should be a special anti-comintern sphere. China is required to allow Japanese subjects to live and do business there. Japan has no territorial ambitions in China.

Section 4. Conference of high officials in the Imperial Presence, 11 Jan. 1938. Present: KONOE, HIROTA, SUGIYAMA, YONAI, SUETSUGU, KAYA, Gen. TADA, Adm. KOGA, HIRANUMA, and others. (Ref: Tokyo Asahi Newspaper #18591, p. I-2).

The policy of Japan is to establish peace in the Orient. "In case China does not seek peace, we will help in the establishment of a new government."

Section 5. Decisions reached in various Five-Minister Conferences. The Five Ministers: Premier KONOE; Minister of War ITAGAKI; Navy Minister YONAI; Foreign Minister UGAKI; Finance Minister IKEDA, Seihin. This section is dated 16 Aug. 1938 and contains no mention of the above men by name.

- a. The principles of leading the China Incident.
- b. Measures when the Central Gov't of China submits: Chungking, China, is to be absorbed into the Japanese China puppet regime according to a decision made at an Imperial conference. Surrender terms.

c. Measures should Chungking, China, refuse to surrender: "We should prepare for a long war....for the purpose of destroying the Chungking Gov't or making it give in."

"We...will occupy strategic points in order to control China and make the Chungking Gov't surrender."

"We will improve our political, economic, diplomatic, and propaganda policies in China to make the Chinese pro-Japan and anti-comintern. "We will also lead several small governments which are pro-Japanese."

"We will aid the unification of pro-Japanese governments so that foreign nations cannot but recognize this as the new Central Gov't of China."

"We will respect the rights.. of foreign nations in China, so that they will reciprocate in recognizing our special position there."

d. Plan to bring about the establishment of a new Chinese gov't.

The new Central Gov't should cooperate with Japan. "The establishment of this new central government will be in the hands of Chinese but Japan will assist underneath the surface."

"To unify the small governments..we will create a joint committee with the aid of provisional and WEISHIN Governments, which will absorb the Mongolian Terr. United Committee."

"This new Central Gov't will not be established until either HANKOW is captured and the Chiang regime dwindles in power, or until Chiang resigns."

Should Chiang not fall from power after the capture of HANKOW, we will create a new government from the ones that exist now. Should the Chiang government dissolve, and pro-Japanese states appear, we will include these in the new Central Gov't, which Japan will recognize as soon as it is qualified.

The following must be considered.

1. Exploitation of resources in North China.
2. Establishment of an extra-territorial concession in favor of Japanese nationals in the lower reaches of the YANGTZE and in North China.
3. Joint concert among Japan, Manchukuo and China for joint defense and economic development.

Organization of the Joint Committee:

The Joint Committee will consist of delegates from the provisional government, WEI SHIN Government, and the CHANAR-SUIYUAN Government. Diplomacy will be in the hands of the Joint Committee, but most governmental functions will be carried out by each government separately.

e. Emergency policy for monetary problems in North China.

f. Special China policy committee will be under control of Five Minister Conference. Committee's purpose is to establish a new Central Gov't in China.

Section 6 War Ministry Press Section Chief SATO, Kenryo, said the following during a conference of police bureau chiefs at the Home Office, Aug. 25-Aug.29, 1938:

The solution of the China Incident is very difficult. Japan's purpose was at first to punish China, but since China has not reconsidered her attitude, we must drive out the aid of Britain, U. S., and the U.S.S.R. and show China our real strength. Nov.1937, Germany told HIROTA that China would consent to make peace with Japan, but Japan had already refused Chinese terms and now stated terms of her own. (The terms are here stated) China would not consent to these terms because they were too indefinite. Now that we know China is not sincere, the Japanese Army thinks it essential to destroy the Chungking Gov't to bring about a new Chinese Gov't.

Section 7 Decisions reached in five minister conference. Names of five ministers same as in Section 5, except that KONOE is War Minister. This section is dated 30 Oct. 1938, and no definite mention is made of names or dates of decisions. The subjects on which decisions were reached are the same as in Sect. 5.

We will not negotiate for peace with the present Chinese Central Gov't unless it surrenders. Surrender terms: (1) Chungking, China, must join or aid in the establishment of a new government. (2) The old national gov't must change its name. (3) Rejection of anti-Japanese policies. (4) Chiang Kai Shek must fall from power.

Policy against China: Purpose: to crush the central gov't. Promote the establishment of a new gov't; weaken anti-Japanese feeling; make the most of anti-Chiang statesmen; establish anti-comintern sphere consisting of Mohammedans in northwest China; acquire the specie of the present Chinese gov't abroad; make use of necessary propaganda.

Section 8. A meeting of the Asia Development Board (KOAIN) at which was decided policy in leading the Central Political Conference (CHUO-SEIJI-IIN-KAI). Those present: ABE, Nomura (Vice-Pres.); Army Minister HATA; Navy Minister YOSHIDA; Finance Minister AOKI; General Affairs Bureau Chief YANAKAWA; and others.

The new Chinese Central Gov't will be established with the aid of several Chinese gov'ts and the Chungking gov't if it changes its present attitude. The new government should cooperate with Japan. Important persons in the Chungking Gov't can be won over through WANG-CHING-WEI.

Principles regulating the relation of the new gov't with the existing gov'ts.

With the Mongolian (CHAHAR-SUIYUAN) Gov't: WANG-CHIN-WEI and TE-WANG (Head of Mongolian Gov't) may meet under control of Japan. The new gov't recognizes the anti-comintern policy of the Mongolian gov't. The Mongolian gov't can dispatch a deputy to the Central Political Conference.

With the provisionary gov't: North China Political Affairs Committee should be established to facilitate cooperation in defense and economy. This should be considered by the Central Political Conference.

With the WEI-SHIN Gov't: We will lead the WEI-SHIN Gov't so that it will join the new gov't. WANG will take over the organization and business of the WEI-SHIN Gov't.

The new gov't will recognize the special position of SHANGHAI, TSINGTAO, and AMOY. In islands near the coast such as the HAINANIs., political organizations should be established.

Plan of the political system of the new China.

CHAHAR-SUIYUAN: Self-government except for foreign affairs.

HOPEH-SHANSI-SHANTUNG - part of HONAN: Affairs concerning Japan will be handled by the North China Political Affairs Committee. Cooperation with Japan will be considered in all affairs such as defense, anti-comintern moves, maintenance of public peace, and economic development. "Measures will be taken so that Japanese advisers and officials will be appointed." Diplomacy will be handled by the Central Gov't and negotiations with Japan will be handled by the North China Political Affairs Committee.

Central China: Economic cooperation with Japan will be controlled by the new Central Gov't.

Hainan Is: Local gov't under control of new Central Gov't will be created.

Concerning personnel to be placed in essential posts in the new Central Gov't just before its establishment. After the opening of the Central Political Conference and before the establishment of the new Central Gov't, person will be placed in essential posts who promise to promote the new relation between Japan and China.

Section 9 Chinese (Chungking Gov't) demands concerning respect for China's sovereignty, financial problems in the new Central Gov't, and miscellaneous subjects. The Japanese replies to these demands. More on the decision of the Asia Development Board (same session as covered in Sect. 8).

Section 10. Concerning principles of Japanese-China relations. Decision made 30 Dec. 1939. Body making decision not mentioned here. Policy here stated is the same as stated in the foregoing sections, with the following additions: Japan will strive to maintain the rights of keeping troops in China and stationing Japanese warships at ANOY and other ports.

Agreement between Gen. HISHIO, Toshizo, and WANG-CHING-WEI concerning the establishment of the new government. 25 Mar. 1940 recognize Manchukuo and control maritime customs. North China will be a semi-independent state; customs, monetary system, important transportation facilities and diplomacy will be inspected by the new Central Gov't. Japan will station 100,000 troops in Inner Mongolia for ten years. If any foreign nation station troops in China, Japan can bring in more troops. Japan will send technical advisers to the new government, including military officers. Legal tender will be issued and controlled by the Central Bank of the new government. The North China Development Company and Central China Promoting Co. which aid the national policy of Japan will be continued, but their subsidiaries will be joint Sino-Japanese. Stocks: 51% Japanese, 49% Chinese basis. Chinese will have a 51% share in all transportation stock companies except the KINGSHAN and KINGPAO lines, which will be 55% Japanese owned. In cases where the stock allotted to the Chinese is not bought, Japan can increase a 49% allotment to 50%. Foreign companies in China must be 50% Chinese backed, or withdraw from China. The committee to decide the question of the lower YANGTZE should have Japanese members. The decision of this committee should be accepted by the new government. WANG-CHIN-WEI will honor foreign loans made before Dec. 1938, but not those made later.

Section 11. Explanations of the establishment of the new government, published by the Peace Section, Police Bureau, Home Ministry at the end of March, 1940. Contains a clarification of the policies laid down in the foregoing sections.

(Reference: 215-47)

18 June, 1946

Doc. No. 1935

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Economic Aggression - China

Summary of Relevant Points:

Detailed statement of Greater East Asia Affairs Ministry Extra Projected Expenditures for fiscal year 1944 prepared for 84th Diet Session.
Expenses for colonists and colonial enterprise, ¥25,000
Subsidy for North China Development Company - ¥2,723,035

(Reference: 215-48)

18 June, 1946

Doc. No. 1936

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Economic Aggression China and possible economic aid to international conspiracy

Summary of Relevant Points:

Detailed statement of Greater East Asia Affairs Ministry Extra Expenses for fiscal year 1942 prepared for 81st Diet Session.

Ordinary Expenditures, ¥175,068

Subsidies for International Culture Group, ¥121,500

Extraordinary expenses for foreign political organization - ¥4,000

Transfer to KWANTUNG Bureau Special Account - ¥31,261

Expenses for colonists in Manchuria, ¥491,300

Expense for Youth Volunteer Corps. - ¥343,680

(Reference: 215-49)

Doc. No. 1937

18 June, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Economic Background

Summary of Relevant Points:

Detailed statement of Greater East Asia Affairs Ministry Extra Projected Expenditures for fiscal year 1943 prepared for 83rd Diet Session.

Ordinary Expenditures, Y67,481

Extraordinary Expenditures, Y67,481

(Ref: IPS 215-50)

Doc. No. 1932

18 June, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Economic Aggression - North China

Summary of Relevant Points:

Detailed statement of Greater East Asia Affairs Ministry Extra Projected Expenditures for fiscal year 1943 prepared for 81st Diet Session.

Secret Service Funds Y6,000.

Expenses for Colonists and Colonial Business Y339,310

Transfer to Kwantung Bureau Special Account Y262,557

Subsidy for North China Development Company Y6,526,938

(Ref: IPS-51)

Doc. No. 1933

18 June, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Economic aggression through subsidy of East Asia Training Corps subsidy

Summary of Relevant Points:

Detailed statement of Greater East Asia Affairs Ministry expenses for fiscal year 1944 prepared for 83rd Diet Session.

Greater East Asia Training Corps Y803,076.

(Ref: IPS 215-52)

Doc. No. 2587

13 August, 1946

Persons Implicated: Kazuo AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Propaganda, Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

Summary of Relevant Points:

Draft of Greater East Asia Declaration prepared by 1st Section, 1st Dept., Information Bureau on 6 Dec. 42, with note stating that this draft was prepared to provide referential guidance data in event that such a declaration might be made later. (Dec. 1942)

Material re and drafts of Greater East Asia Declarations prepared by various bureaus and organizations.

Texts of Greater East Asia Joint Declaration in Japanese, English, and French.

Outline propaganda program for Greater East Asia Joint Declaration, prepared jointly by Information Bureau and Greater East Asia Ministry, 25 Oct. 43.

(Ref: IPS 215-53)

Doc. No. 2589

13 August, 1946

Persons Implicated: AOKI, Karuo

Crimes to which document applicable: Greater East Asia Ministry

Summary of Relevant Points:

Complete personnel directory listing names and positions of members of various sections and bureaus of Greater East Asiatic Affairs Ministry. (Complete translation of members' names and their positions is enclosed within document).

(Ref: IPS 215-54)

Doc. No. 2609

29 August, 1946

Persons Implicated: Karuo AOKI

Crimes to which document applicable: Sino-Japanese relations

Summary of Relevant Points:

I. Record of Debates at the Privy Council Committee Meeting concerning the Sino-Japanese Joint Declaration and Sino-Japanese Agreement. 8 Jan. 1943

1. Four documents concerning the execution of the retrocession of concessions and relinquishment of extra-territorial rights. Drafted 15 Feb. 1943.

II. Documents concerned with negotiations with China.

1. Message handed from President Wang Ching-wei to Premier TOJO on 21 Dec. 1942.

In this message Wang says that China would participate in the war in cooperation with Japan.

2. Instructions issued from Foreign Minister TANI and Greater East Asia Minister AOKI to Ambassador SHIGEMITSU to China on 29 Dec. 1942 ordering opening of negotiations to conclude various agreements with the National Government of China.

3. General plan for dealing with the agreements to be concluded with the National Government of China when China participates in the war. (no date)

- (a) Joint declaration of Japan and China concerning cooperation for the prosecution of the war.
- (b) Abandonment of Japan's concessions in China.
- (c) Transferral of the Shanghai International Settlement and Amoy International Settlement.
- (d) Japan's mediation in the relinquishing of the French and Italian concessions in China.
- (e) Transferral of Japanese legation's quarters in Peking.
- (f) Relinquishment of extra-territorial rights.
- (g) Transactions in enemy property in China.

4. Records of the talks of Premier TOJO and President WANG in December 1942.

- (a) Record of the talk on 21 Dec. 1942
Appendix (1) Message handed from WANG to TOJO in which WANG expresses that China would participate in the war.
- (b) Outline of TOJO's talk to WANG, in which TOJO approves of WANG's statement that China will participate in war and suggests this be done after middle of January, 1943.

5. Documents concerning China's participation in the war and the ensuing retrocession of concessions and relinquishment of extra-territorial rights.

Most of these documents are instructions and reports exchanged between Foreign Minister TANI and Ambassador SHIGEMITSU to China.

Among these documents the following included:

Draft of the declaration of the Imperial Japanese Government concerning China's participation in the war.

Statement of Prime Minister TOJO concerning China's participation in the war in which TOJO expresses his respects to China and his resolution to continue prosecution of Pacific War by any and all means.

Draft of the agreement between Japan and China concerning the withdrawal of concessions and relinquishment of extra-territorial rights.

Draft of the extracts from the records of debates in which Japan accuses China of positive cooperation in carrying on the war.

Explanatory document on the joint declaration of Japan and China concerning the cooperation for the prosecution of the war and the agreement between Japan and China concerning the withdrawal of concessions and relinquishment of extra-territorial rights.

III. Documents concerned with the negotiations with Germany, Italy and France from 31 Dec. 1942 to 12 Feb. 1943. The content of these documents is classified as follows:

1. To inform to the said three countries of China's participation in the war and the steps taken by Japan thereafter.

2. To request Italy and France to follow Japan's example (relinquishing concessions, etc.)

IV. Documents concerned with Manchukuo, Mongolia and Thailand, from 2 Jan. 1943 to 18 Mar. 1943. In these documents Japan informed the said three countries of China's participation in the war and of Japan's steps. (Taken in connection therewith).

V. Documents concerning repercussions in foreign countries.

These documents may be classified as follows:

1. Reports from Japanese diplomats abroad on reactions to China's participation in the war in foreign countries.
2. "Source Documents on Reactions in Foreign Countries to China's Participation in the War", compiled by the Foreign Office and Greater East Asia Office.

(Ref: IPS 215-55)

Following is a summary of evidentiary facts regarding Karuo AOKI, taken from the interrogation of subject on 19 February, 1946:

AOKI stated that in January 1939, he was appointed as President of the Planning Board by Baron HIRANUMA. That the most important policy of the government during 1939 due to the difficulties of the China Affair became one of economic control of materials and commodities; and in planning for economic control of materials needed as a result of the China Incident, it was necessary to include in such plans increased armaments and ammunitions for the support of the Japanese

Army in China.
(Ref: IPS 215-39)

AOKI was appointed Minister for the Greater East Asia War Eastern Affairs Bureau by Premier TOJO on November 1, 1942, which Bureau had been created to exercise supervision of political affairs in far eastern districts, except diplomatic matters, protection of Japanese business in far eastern districts, colonization of far eastern districts, administration of the mandated territories and foreign trade.
(Ref: 215-40)

AOKI was born on 28 November, 1889; graduating from the Imperial University of Tokyo, Law Division on 1916, immediately going into government service in the Finance Department; in 1934 and 1936 being Director of the Finance Bureau; 1936 and 1937 Vice President of the Manchurian Affairs Board, duties being to coordinate the Japanese policy of government and business in regard to Manchuria, in such position visiting Manchuria two or three times in 1936 and 1937.

That General TOJO was stationed in Manchuria at that time as commandant of the military police and later Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army. That the Kwantung Army was stationed in Manchukuo in 1936 and 1937 for the national defense of Manchukuo and for anti-Soviet defense.

That Japan was colonizing Manchuria and was developing Manchurian industry for the benefit of both Japan and Manchuria. That the Manchurian railroad was for the benefit primarily of Manchuria but that the same was controlled by Japan. That while Manchuria was an independent state it had not the power to protect itself and being of great importance to the defense of Japan, Japan found it necessary to keep armed forces there. That among the Manchurian officials were quite a number of Japanese officials serving in an advisory capacity, the chief Japanese officials being recommended by the government of Japan.

In 1936, the steel, coal and electrical industries and other industries were unified in Manchukuo under the supervision of the Manchuria-Japan Affairs Board, mainly with a Japanese capital and the same being controlled by the Japanese.

That a five-year industrial plan was formulated for Manchuria in 1936 by Naoki HOSHINO. This plan having been approved by the Japanese government. In October, 1937, AOKI became Vice President of the Planning Board, continuing in the same until January 1939, during this period of time the Central China Reconstruction Company was organized for the purpose of reconstructing public utilities such as railroads, water systems and electricity which were destroyed by the war in China. The stock for the Central China Reconstruction Company was sold in Japan and was all owned by Japanese. That as Vice President of the Planning Board in 1937, AOKI, as an expert, estimated the value of the Central China Reconstruction Company and advised the Japanese government accordingly.

A special office was established in the Cabinet to take care of the Central China Reconstruction Company in order to evaluate and estimate the value of the Central China Reconstruction Company. In January 1939, AOKI became President of the Cabinet Planning Board, being appointed by Baron HIRANUMA who was then Premier. The Planning Board being concerned with three functions: (1) to examine plans regarding extension of national power prepared by various ministries to be presented to the Cabinet; (2) to adjust the mobilization plan of various ministries; and (3) to plan policies of the government and submit the same to the Cabinet.

The most important policy of the government during 1939 due to the difficulties in the China Affairs was economic control of materials and commodities and included the demands for increased armaments and ammunition for the support of the Japanese Army in China.

That the provisions of the National General Mobilization Act of 1939, because of difficulties arising from the China Incident were intensified, government control of all industries becoming much stronger. That the National General Mobilization Act was primarily to take care of the China Affair but could be applied in the event of war with any other nation.

That the HIRANUMA Cabinet followed the same policy of the KONOYE Cabinet relating to China and it was the policy to support the installation of another government in China other than the government of Chiang Kai-shek. That in 1939 Mr. WANG of China visited Japan for the first time and HIRANUMA decided to help him form a new government in China. In 1938 WANG had set up a provisional government in Peikin, it being the policy of Baron HIRANUMA to recognize the provisional government of WANG. That while WANG's provisional government was not recognized in 1939 while HIRANUMA was Premier it was recognized in 1940 in the Second KONOYE Cabinet.

That following the collapse of the HIRANUMA Cabinet, Nobuyuki ABE became Premier from August 1939 until January 1940. ABE's policy in connection with WANG's Chinese Provisional Government being the same as HIRANUMA's.

That on the fall of the ABE Cabinet, Admiral YONAI became Premier and as such sent General ABE to Nanking as plenipotentiary to negotiate treaties with the Nanking Government of WANG, which treaties were negotiated and as a result of which the Japanese Government recognized the WANG Government, the recognition being concluded in April 1940, when Prince KONOYE was again Premier.

That AOKI accompanied General ABE to China in connection with financial problems to be determined between WANG's provisional government and the Japanese government, the most important of which was the establishment of an issuing bank in accordance with the desire of the Nanking Government. That the capital of this bank was one hundred million Chinese yen upon which new notes were issued by the Nanking Government. That half of the capital was raised by the Nanking Government from revenues and the other half being advanced by the China Commerce Bank, which bank was controlled by both the Chinese and Japan. That a certain amount of credit was advanced the China Commerce Bank by the Bank of Japan, which bank was owned by other Japanese banks.

In February 1941, AOKI, upon a recommendation of the Japanese Government was appointed the Chief Advisor to the Economic Committee of the Nanking Government and as such acted as financial advisor to the Nanking Government, and as financial advisor his duties were to promote the economic construction of the Nanking Government and to promote economic cooperation between Japan and the Nanking Government. His salary in such position being paid by the Japanese Government. In September 1942, AOKI was appointed Minister without Portfolio in the TOJO Cabinet and was then appointed Minister of the Greater East Asia Far Eastern Affairs Bureau and which Bureau was created to administer political affairs in far eastern districts, except diplomatic matters, protection of Japan and Japanese business in far eastern districts, colonization of far eastern districts, administration of Mandated Territories in the southwest and foreign trade. This Bureau having jurisdiction over these subjects in Manchukuo, China, Indo-China, Siam and Burma and it being contemplated that Bureau would further exercise jurisdiction in the Philippines after its independence.

That the Greater Far Eastern Affairs Bureau cooperated with the military but did not exercise any jurisdiction over territories that were occupied by the Japanese Army.

Subject is willing to testify as to the facts as set forth.
(Reference: IPS File 215-41)

In view of the foregoing information and analysis of documentary evidence contained in this report, it is believed that there is enough material contained herein for prosecutive action.

It is believed that the sources of information have been exhausted at this time.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The Tokyo Office -- At Tokyo -- Will follow and report prosecutive action.

P E N D I N G

Legal Section AOKI (1940)

6

(19)

Case

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND

CHECK SHEET **SECRET**

(Do not remove from attached sheets)

File No:

Subject: AOKI Kazuo, Internee in Sugamo Prison

Note
No.

From: G-2

To: Legal Section
(Attn: Invest. Div.
Lt. Col. R. E. Rudisill)

Date: 14 JUN 1947
CIS/OD:NER/mc

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div.
Mr. E. P. Monaghan)

1

1. Curriculum vitae of AOKI Kazuo (TAB A) shows that he is a Finance Ministry bureaucrat whose career after 1936 was largely connected with Asiatic affairs. Beginning with that year his important posts were those of Vice-Chief, Manchuria Affairs Board; Chief, Cabinet Planning Board (HIRANUMA and ABE Cabinets); Finance Minister (ABE Cabinet); Economic Advisor to the Nanking (Puppet) Government; and Greater East Asia Minister (TOJO Cabinet). After the fall of the TOJO Cabinet in 1944 his activities were advisory rather than administrative.

2. "Japanese Government Officials, 1937 - 1945", published by the Military Intelligence Division, War Department, Washington, D. C., on 21 July 1945, gives AOKI's career as per TAB B.

3. Evaluation of AOKI at the time of his arrest in December 1945 reads as per TAB C.

4. Direct and implied charges against AOKI in these two documents (TAB B and TAB C) are that:

a. "AOKI used his position on the Manchuria Affairs Board to assist TOJO, who was at that time Chief of the Kwantung Police and Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, in perfecting his "Gestapo" in Kwantung and to lay the foundations of TOJO's power."

b. AOKI was "Vice-President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and adviser to the Great Japan Political Party, both dedicated to creating enthusiasm for the war."

c. "AOKI should be apprehended for his prominent part in assisting General TOJO, and for contributing to the political and economic support of the Japanese war of totalitarianism and aggression."

5. Investigation of AOKI and his activities reveals that:

a. Upon graduation from the Law Department of Tokyo Imperial University in 1916, AOKI entered the Finance Ministry. After some years of experience in France, including membership in the Japanese Delegation to the League of Nations, AOKI returned to Japan in 1921 to a normal succession of administrative posts, chiefly within the Finance Bureau of

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
NARS Date 8-18-76

File No.:

Subject: AOKI Kazuo, Internee in Sugamo Prison

Note
No.

From: G-2

To: Legal Section
(Attn: Invest. Div.)

Date: 14 JUN 1947

CIS/OD:NER/mc

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div.)

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cont'd

the Finance Ministry. During this time he earned the reputation of being an expert in the field of foreign exchange.

b. In 1936 and 1937 AOKI served as Vice-Chief of the Manchurian Affairs Board. It seems hardly astonishing that he should in that capacity have "worked closely" with TOJO, who in 1936 was Commander of Military Police HQ of the Kwantung Army and in 1937 was Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army. Evidence that the relationship between the two men was anything other than of an official nature is not available in G-2 files or official records.

c. AOKI was appointed Vice-Chief of the Cabinet Planning Board in October 1937 in the 1st KONOYE Cabinet, and continued a personal and official friendship with KONOYE in succeeding years. One of his nominal affiliations in his Planning Board capacity was with the TOA KENKYUJO (TAB D), a research society which undertook investigation of Asiatic economic and cultural conditions under Planning Board sponsorship. When the HIRANUMA Cabinet succeeded the 1st KONOYE Cabinet, AOKI became Chief of the Planning Board, a position which he continued to hold in the following, ABE, Cabinet concurrently with the post of Finance Minister. When the ABE Cabinet fell in January 1940, ABE was appointed Special Ambassador to the Nanking puppet regime to supervise the treaty with WANG Ching-wei. AOKI went along as ABE's economic advisor. After ABE's work was completed, AOKI stayed on as economic advisor to Ambassador HONDA Kmataro in Nanking, throughout the period of the YONAI and 2nd and 3rd KONOYE Cabinets.

d. In August 1942, TOJO recalled AOKI from Nanking to become Minister without Portfolio in his (TOJO's) Cabinet, and then in October 1942 Minister of the newly established Greater East Asia Ministry. The GEA Ministry was formed to further the Cabinet's increasing economic control, and usurped as part of its functions numerous activities formerly under the purview of the Foreign Office. Thus, the treaty with the puppet Philippine Government in 1943 was negotiated more through the GEA Ministry than through the Foreign Ministry. AOKI claims, furthermore, that the treaty, like most GEA matters, was pushed through by TOJO personally, and that he, AOKI, did not take part in the policy-making involved. While AOKI was Minister in TOJO's Cabinet, he became a member of the IRAPS and an advisor to the IRAA. He was not, as TAB B states, Vice President of the IRAA; in fact his membership in these two Imperial Rule Assistance organizations was nominal, and rested solely on his position as Cabinet Minister.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By *85T*, NARS Date *8-15-75*

File No:

Subject: AOKI Kazuo, Internee in Sugamo Prison

Note
No.

From: G-2

To: Legal Section
(Attn: Invest. Div.)

Date: 14 JUN 1947

CIS/OD:NER/mc

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div.)

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5. In summary, AOKI was a financial expert whose services were consistently used from 1936 on in the interest of Japanese aggression in Asia. There is, however, nothing to indicate that AOKI was personally responsible for any policies other than financial ones, the formulation of which was his official duty. It is significant that at the close of the war he was again named advisor to the Finance Ministry. Personal opinion about AOKI varies: he has been called a 'tenacious tortoise' who cannot be budged, and on the other hand a 'yes-man' to TOJO; he has been called a favorite of the Kwantung Army Clique, yet also "liberal and possibly even friendly towards the United States". His contributions to Japanese "aggression and totalitarianism" lie wholly within his bureaucratic sphere of duty.

6. Therefore, unless the International Military Tribunal for the Far East has in its prosecution phase uncovered evidence of AOKI's activities which may serve as a basis for indictment, G-2 recommends that AOKI's case be considered in the light of policy to be adopted towards responsibility of individual bureaucrats for their official acts.

- TAB A - Curriculum Vitae of AOKI Kazuo
- TAB B - Extract from "Japanese Government Officials 1937-1945"
- TAB C - Evaluation of AOKI Kazuo at time of Internment, December 1945
- TAB D - TOA KENKYUJO

for P. J. B
C.A.W.

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AOKI Kazuo, Internee in Sugamo Prison

G-2

Legal Section
(Attn: Invest. Div.
Lt. Col. R. E. Rudisill)

14 JUN 1947
CIS/OD:NER/mc

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div.
Mr. E. P. Monohan)

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AOKI Kazuo, Internee in Sugamo Prison

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Legal Section
(Attn: Invest. Div.)

14 JUN 1947

CIS/OD:NER/ms

Info Copy to: IPS (Attn: Invest. Div.)

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AOKI Kazuo, Internee in Sugamo Prison

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Legal Section
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14 JUN 1947
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of Internment, December 1945
TAB D - TOA KENKYUJO

-----C.A.W.-----

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Curriculum Vitae of AOKI Kazuo

Curriculum Vitae of AOKI Kazuo

- 1889 - Born, Nagano Prefecture
- 1916 - Graduated, Tokyo Imperial University (German Law)
- Entered Finance Ministry
- Clerk, Monetary Circulation Section, Finance Bureau
- 1917 - Secretary to MORI Kengo, Financial Commissioner at Japanese Embassy, London
- Delegate, with MORI, to Versailles Peace Conference
- Traveled in Europe for International Good Will Conference
- 1920 - Vice-Councillor, Monopoly Bureau
- 1924 - Chief, Research Section, Finance Bureau
- 1926 - Chief, Secretarial Section, Finance Minister's Secretariat
- 1927 - Chief, Treasury Section, Finance Bureau
- 1933 - Director, Foreign Exchange Bureau
- 1934-36 - Director, Finance Bureau
- 1936-37 - Vice-Chief, Manchurian Affairs Board
- Oct 1937-Jan 1939 - Vice-Chief, Cabinet Planning Board
- 1938 - Director, TOA KENKYU SHO (East Asia Research Institute)
- Jan-Aug 1939 - Chief, Cabinet Planning Board (HIRANUMA Cabinet)
- Aug 1939-45 - Appointed Member, House of Peers
- Aug 1939-Jan 1940 - Finance Minister and concurrently Chief, Cabinet Planning Board (ABE Cabinet)
- 1940 - Economic Advisor to ABE Nobuyuki, Ambassador to the Nanking (puppet) Government
- 1940-42 - Economic Advisor to WANG Ching-wei Regime
- Aug-Oct 1942 - Minister without Portfolio (TOJO Cabinet)
- Aug 1942 - Member, YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI (IRAPS)
- Sep 1942-Jul 1944 - KOMON (Advisor), TAISEI YOKUSAN KAI (IRAA)
- Nov 1942-Jul 1944 - Greater East Asia Minister (TOJO Cabinet)
- Aug 1944 - Advisor, Greater East Asia Ministry
- Aug 1944 - Advisor, Finance Ministry
- Apr-Jul 1945 - KOMON (Advisor), DAI NIPPON SEIJI KAI (Great Japan Political Association)
- Jun 1945 - Member, Extraordinary Wartime Measures Law Committee
- Aug 1945 - Advisor, Finance Ministry
- 12 Dec 1945 - Interned in Sugamo Prison as a "Class A" suspected War criminal

Extract from "Japanese Government Officials 1937-1945", published
by the Military Intelligence Division, War Department, Washington,
D. C., 21 July 1945.

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Extract from "Japanese Government Officials 1937 - 1945", published by
Military Intelligence Division, War Department, Washington, D. C.,
21 July 1945.

"Kazuo AOKI: Advisor to Greater East Asia and Finance Ministries.
Member House of Peers. Former Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs.

1889 Nov.	Born Nagano Prefecture. Son of Zenso Aoki, Japan's first Ambassador to United States in 1906-07, and German mother, Princess von Rahden. Married Chiyo, daughter of Takekazu Kikuchi.
1916	Graduated Law College, Tokyo Imperial University. Entered Finance Ministry.
1917-21	Financial Secretary England and France.
1924	Chief Research Section, Finance Bureau.
1926	Chief of Secretariat, Finance Ministry.
1927	Chief Treasury Section, Finance Bureau.
1933	Director, Foreign Exchange Department.
1934-36	Director, Finance Bureau.
1936-37	Vice-President, Manchurian Affairs Board.
1937 Dec.	Vice-President, Cabinet Planning Board.
1939 Aug-1940 Jan.	Finance Minister in Abe Cabinet.
1940	Member House of Peers.
1940 Apr-1942 Sept.	Supreme Advisor to Nanking Government.
1942 Sept-Nov.	Minister of State without Portfolio.
1942 Nov-1944 Jul.	Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs, Tojo Cabinet.
1944 Aug.	Appointed Advisor to Finance and Greater East Asia Ministries.

Address: 1049 Oyama-cho, Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

Career bureaucrat. Expert on finance. As President of Manchurian Affairs Board worked closely with former Premier Tojo who was then Chief of Kwantung Police and Chief of Staff of Kwantung Army.

An article in Sozo December 1942, characterized Aoki as "absentminded, early rising with a burning zeal for work. Taciturn, inflexible, a lump of intellectual ice... a civil servant, not a statesman... with a sour face that has forgotten how to smile, with a mouth hard as flint, that never utters a joke or an idle word, with an undersized body that scampers around like a mouse... an unpretentious practical type... a man of will... the model of discretion... the incarnation of official secrecy... the embodiment of official regulations... an indefatigable stickler... with a profound knowledge of finance"... His nickname is "Garikame" (tenacious tortoise). The article further states that at his inauguration the new GEA Minister told his staff, "Don't be bound by what has been done in the past in your previous department. Create a new original spirit in the East Asia Ministry... you must resolve to be a constant example to the people in your private and public life."

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Kazuo AOKI: Advisor to Greater East Asia and Finance Ministries.
Member House of Peers. Former Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs.

An AP article at time of his appointment as GEA Minister, stated:
"Aoki's record leaves no doubt that he will be amenable to the influence
of the Tojo Military Clique."

During April and May 1943 Aoki made a long tour of South China, French
Indo-China, Malaya, Netherlands, East Indies, and the Philippines. Later
that year he spent several weeks in Central and North China and Manchuria."

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Evaluation of AOKI Kazuo at time of internment, December 1945

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Evaluation of AOKI, Kazuo at time of Internment.- Dec 1945.

AOKI Kazuo

Born 1889. Member of the House of Peers. Secretary of London Embassy, 1917-21. A career official in the Ministry of Finance who arose from minor posts in 1918 to Director of the Finance Bureau, 1934-36 and became Minister of Finance in the ABE Cabinet, 1939-40. Among other positions he has held are those of Vice-President of the Manchuria Affairs Board, 1936-37; President of the Cabinet Planning Board, ABE Cabinet, 1939; financial adviser to WANG Ching-Wei's puppet government in Nanking, 1940-42; Vice-President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and adviser to the Greater Japan Political Party, both dedicated to creating enthusiasm for the war.

AOKI used his position on the Manchuria Affairs Board to assist TOJO in perfecting his "gestapo" in Kwantung and to lay the foundation of TOJO's power. In the TOJO Cabinet AOKI was Minister of State without Portfolio and head of the Greater East Asia Ministry, 1942-44. For services rendered in the latter capacity, AOKI was decorated by the Emperor of Japan, 13 June 1944.

AOKI should be apprehended for his prominent part in assisting General TOJO and for contributing to the political and economic support of the Japanese war of totalitarianism and aggression.

He appears on the War Criminal list prepared by the State, War, and Navy Departments.

Arrested 12 December 1945 - Sugamo Prison.

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TOA KENKYUJO

TOA KENKYUJO
(East Asia Research Institute)

Established: 1 September 1938

Officers: President: KONOYE Fumimaro (Premier)
Vice President: OKURA Kimochi
Managing Director: KARASAWA Toshiki
Directors: ABE Genki
AOKI Kazuo (Cabinet Planning Board)
HARA Kanjiro (Vice Admiral)
HAYASHI Katsura
KIKUCHI Monya (Major General)
KODAMA Kyuichi
MUKAI Tadaharu (MITSUI)
OKADA Eitaro (OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA)
OKAMOTO Takezo
YAMAZUMI Katsumi (Finance Ministry)
YONEZAWA Kikuji

Aims: Research into Asiatic civilization, culture and natural science.

Background: The Institute was sponsored by the Cabinet Planning Board, which allowed an annual subsidy of two million yen. Other expenses were met by voluntary contributions from private banking, industrial and other groups using the Institute's facilities.

Activities: The Institute gave financial help to research institutes and individuals for the purposes of investigation, collection of specimens, etc. It also published reports on researches, issuing a monthly journal to contributors, which was also available to the public. The areas included in the Institute's sphere of interests were: Manchuria, China, Siberia, North Pacific, South Seas, India, Australia, New Zealand and Western Asia.

In 1941, for instance, the Institute carried on general investigations into:

1. South Seas Resources, legislation and races.
2. Southwestern Asia. Political, economic and social conditions of Indian and Burma; general conditions and religion in Western Asia.
3. Soviet Russia. Organization and activities of the Comintern; economic power of USSR; natural resources of Eastern Russia; general conditions in Outer Mongolia.
4. China. Political, economic and social conditions. In the same year, its special investigations concerned:
 1. Investments in China by Japan and other countries; national budget of China.
 2. The Yellow River. Utilization, etc.
 3. Chinese in the South Seas area.

4. Chinese habits and customs.
5. Meteorological conditions of East Asia.
6. Natural resources of East Asia.

Note: Prince KONOYE remained President of the Institute even after he resigned from the premiership. Its post was really an honorary one, however; the guiding spirit of the Institute was Baron OKURA Kimmochi, its Vice-President.

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NAME: AOKI, Masuo.

PRESENT STATUS: Confined in Sugamo Prison.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Father was first ambassador to the United States. Mother was a German princess. Since 1917 has occupied many important positions in Finance Departments of the Government. In 1936 to 1937 was Vice President, Manchurian Affairs Board; Vice President Cabinet Planning Board in 1937 and its President in 1939. Finance Minister in ABE Cabinet; member of the House of Peers; in 1940 to 1942 advisor to Hanking Government; in 1942 Minister of State without Portfolio; Minister of Greater East Asia in TOJO Cabinet.

Undoubtedly one of the military clique, took prominent part in planning and waging aggressive war. No recommendations regarding the final disposition of SUBJECT have been received from CIS/G-2, FEC.

REMARKS:

The positions held by SUBJECT in the Japanese Government, his connections with political organizations and the nature of his activities in these, show that during the period involved he took an active part in the

"planning, preparation, initiation or waging of war of aggression or a war in violation of International Treaties, agreements and assurances, or participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of the foregoing"

within the meaning and intent of paragraph 1.a. of reference A.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that SUBJECT be retained in custody as a Class A war criminal suspect and tried before an International Military Tribunal in Tokyo.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
LEGAL SECTION

30 March 1948

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Legal Section, SCAP
SUBJECT: AOKI, Kazuo

I. PRESENT STATUS:

Subject has been incarcerated in Sugamo Prison since 12 December 1945 as a Class "A" war crime suspect.

II. PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM:

This report is based on the oral request of the Chief, Legal Section, to examine all available evidence against the nineteen (19) Class "A" war crime suspects now held in custody to determine whether or not they can be indicted for "B" or "C" war crimes.

III. SOURCES OF MATERIAL EXAMINED:

1. All files and information available in Legal Section.
2. The complete G-2 report, dated 14 June 1947, with reference to subject.
3. All files, records and reports available at the International Prosecution Section of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

IV. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that subject be retained in custody for further investigation and possible indictment as a Class "B" or "C" war criminal.

Exhibit III

Memo: AOKI, Kazuo (Cont'd)

V. DETAILS UPON WHICH THE RECOMMENDATION IS BASED:

1. Pertinent curriculum vitae:

Vice-Chief, Cabinet Planning Board.	1937-1939
Finance Minister and concurrently Chief, Cabinet Planning Board.	1939-1940
Minister without Portfolio.	Aug 1942-Oct 1942
Greater East Asia Minister.	Nov 1942-July 1944

2. AOKI made a career out of government service, devoting most of his efforts to finance and economics. He was made a Minister without Portfolio in the TOJO Cabinet at the time the plans for the establishment of the Greater East Asia Ministry were being most fully developed in anticipation of the time when he would assume this ministry upon its establishment as part of the Cabinet.
3. The Greater East Asia Ministry removed completely from the Foreign Ministry the control and direction of policies, plans, and methods for the governing and exploitation of the occupied territories that made up Japan's so-called Greater East Asia sphere.
4. It is believed that "B" and "C" crimes can be definitely established against AOKI and his subordinates in the operation of this ministry. The existing narcotic trade in Manchuria and China was as much the responsibility of the Greater East Asia Ministry as it was of the Army. This ministry was also responsible for the implementation of the Chinese slave labor program and collection of this labor in China and its delivery to the Japanese mainland.
5. AOKI can be charged with responsibility for "B" and "C" crimes committed by members of the Japanese armed forces and civilian population during his tenure in the Cabinet.
6. It is believed that sufficient evidence exists to retain AOKI in custody for the purpose of making further and more detailed investigations of his activities.

L. P. B. LIPSCOMB
ATTORNEY, LEGAL SECTION

Memo: AOKI, Kazuo (Cont'd)

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ATTORNEY, LEGAL SECTION