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THE JAPANESE POLICE

(Translation of a SHUHO (Weekly Report) article dated 7 September 1938 issued by the Cabinet Information Board discussing the duties of the police during wartime especially with regard to the Economic Police, "Thought" Police and counter-espionage).

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The Police During the Incident (T.N. War with China)

Introductory Remarks

Modern warfare is not waged entirely upon the battlefield, but it goes without saying that the total fighting strength of countries at war is altered upon the battlefield. There are occasions when, if aircraft are employed, an entire country can be turned into a battlefield in an instant. Schemes against government, economics, and morale and acts of disturbance, may be regarded as a menace as great as actual warfare in fact, even greater.

It is essential to keep up an enormous supply of material for forces which have modern equipment. Consequently, a conversion of all phases of industry from peacetime conditions to wartime conditions is deemed advisable. Attendant upon this, many economics problems have arisen and a great influence has been exerted upon the life of the people. Under this sort of condition, the duties of our police force are important. Naturally, since the outbreak of the Incident, the primary duty of the police has been a positive maintenance of the public peace and order, but there have been many changes as a result of the incident.

The Organization of the Police

In the organization of the police, the Home Minister represents the central office and police business is handled under the Police Inspector General, the Head of the Hokkaido Government Office, and the Prefectural Governors. The Head of the Police Bureau in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Chief of Police of the provinces and prefectures assist in these duties. Sections devoted to crime prevention, preservation of public peace and order, foreign affairs, and books as well as economy security have been recently established in the Police Bureau and these handle the respective matters under their charge. Anti-air defense, is handled by the Air Defense Section of the Planning Bureau.

In the Provincial and Prefectural Police Bureaus there are the usual sections of Police Affairs, Preservation of Public Peace and Order, Criminal Cases, Secret Service, Sanitation, Factories, and so on. In the Metropolitan Police Bureau, there are departments such as the Secretariat, Police Affairs, Secret Service, Criminal Cases, Preservation of Public Peace and Order, Sanitation and Fire Prevention. Furthermore, there are police stations under the prefectural governors. A considerable portion of police matters are handled by these police stations and the people are very familiar with them. Police branch offices are set up in corporate towns and sub-stations in villages. They are charged with the maintenance of the public peace.

The number of police officials is at present about 75,000. The yearly police expenditure, national and local, reaches the enormous sum of about a hundred million yen. A great number of the above officials have been called to the Army or Navy since the outbreak of the Incident, and many have lost their lives in the defense of the fatherland. Of course, full attention has been devoted to their replacement, but there is a great shortage of personnel. It is difficult to efficiently carry out police duties increased by wartime conditions, with a police force smaller than that during peacetime. Police officers, mindful of the sufferings of men on the battlefield, literally don't sleep or rest. They carry on the administrative work, converted to a so-called wartime police organization, with wholehearted devotion. They are attempting to eliminate



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completely the evils of red tape, attention to trivial details, and useless conformance to formality. As a result of the pressing duties brought about by the Incident they are conquering the defects in the formal police organization by rationalization of morale and work. By attempting to carry out the work in a positive and thorough manner, they are pressing on towards a complete, over-all revision of police duties.

Crime Prevention

For a while after the outbreak of the Incident, crime was on the decrease, realistically reflecting the tension of the people. But, on the other hand, crime took on new forms - the peculiar phenomenon of wartime. Crimes of usury and fraud which trampled patriotism underfoot were perpetrated by exploitation of aid for families left behind by men departing for the front, and by exploitation of national defense savings.

In the case of crimes committed by youth, those crimes which reflect the influence of adult criminals have become more common than in peacetime. Recently, thefts have been on the increase, and there is a tendency toward increase of crime in general. The degree of brutality of murderers as may be imagined, has become remarkable. With crime prevention regarded as of prime importance, endeavors have been made toward having each prefecture, by crime prevention activity in response to conditions peculiar to the prefect, prosecute its own police work and impose penalties. In accordance with the National Morale Mobilization Movement, they handle delinquents, gamblers, and vagrants, contribute toward the reform of public morals labor toward the expulsion of crime on the home front, and require strict diligence by all police personnel. They have adopted a policy of dealing vigorously with foul crimes that sully the home front.

If there is insufficient assistance in either crime prevention or prosecution of crime, we can't get results. It is important for a neighborhood to be united in prevention of crime, and much can be done to prevent burglary, housebreaking, theft and so on, if the defendants, the neighborhood, and police spread out a net.

Especial care should be taken to watch the homes of families whose heads have gone off to war and neighborhood groups should make an effort to prevent harm from befalling such homes.

In the event that crime occurs, they should keep the actual site of the crime intact and assist in a wide-spread search. Countries participating in the Great European War have experienced a sudden increase in crimes like robbery, murder, and manslaughter, but we must stamp out any such tendency in our country.

Economic Police

The so-called economic police have an important duty given to them recently by the police for the purpose of achieving the Imperial War objectives. This has to do with the economic existence of the people from the standpoint of maintaining war materials, increasing productive power, and revision of international economy. Many laws regulating the above matters have been passed and executed, but it is necessary to maintain the enforcement and to elevate the whole organization from the standpoint of



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achievement of war aims and maintenance of internal peace. For these reasons the new Economic Police were organized. Of course, they are strict in cases of violations, but they are extremely careful to carry out their surveillance and warnings, and to abide strictly by the purport of the law.

However, if the objective of these regulations and laws is not grasped by the people, complete achievement of the aim is impossible. The understanding of the people is absolutely necessary for the execution of the national policy during war. Violations of the national policy are recognized as unpatriotic deeds which throw the policy into disorder. Care is taken to avoid precipitating dishonorable situations which involve punishment, in cases of violations. Aggressive remedial measures to combat job-quitting and job-jumping have been taken as a result of the enforcement of various rules and regulations, and the police are closely associated with this.

With regard to commodities which have a direct relation to the daily life of the people, official fixed prices have been set up. Measures have been taken to indicate the prices, and it is expected that the conditions existing before the outbreak of the Incident will be restored. All the people realize the importance of this matter and complete cooperation is anticipated.

Special Secret Service<sup>1</sup>

The duty of the Special Secret Service, popularly known as the "Thought Police"<sup>2</sup> is to repress and abolish all kinds of social movements that try to disturb the public peace and order and threaten the national existence. Even in peace time, the police are especially charged with maintenance of the public peace and order, but the importance of this function is all the greater during war.

In psychological warfare which is one phase of modern war, the Special Secret Service is greatly concerned with disturbances on the home front which foment anti-militaristic feelings, exaggerate the calamities of war, and spread rumors.

Since the outbreak of the Incident, there have been many cases of persons carelessly spreading rumors throughout the country - rumors based on enemy strategy - with the innocent intention of displaying themselves as well-informed, but among these are many cases of malicious intent and people just do not try to stop them. Moreover, this situation naturally offers ideal ground for the strategy of the enemy country to flourish. The police impress the Imperial aim and the meaning of the war on the people who perpetrate such deeds and urge self-control, but in the case of those who have malicious intent, they prosecute vigorously and crush them. As there are many rumors which should be dismissed with a laugh and regarded lightly, it is desirable that the people retain their self-respect and cooperate with the police.

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1) 特別高等警察 2) 思想警察



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Organ of Public Opinion

It is unnecessary to point out that the mission of an organ of public opinion and its influence bear considerable relation to the development of a national culture. However, this is chiefly a peacetime function, but an example of the dangerous influence they exert upon a country in wartime is clearly shown in the European War. Moreover it is a well-known fact that the newspapers, magazines, and other organs of expression played a very important role in the China Incident. Consequently, they must be handled with great care.

Besides the peacetime matters of customs and manners, and public peace and order, the authorities are exercising great care in the treatment of military items, especially, and affairs which are diplomatic secrets. (Publication of articles on these items has been restricted respectively by the Army, Navy, and Foreign Affairs Ministries). Fortunately, the right attitude by the people toward the Incident fanned their zeal toward cooperating in the furtherance of the National policy, but one often comes across persons who improperly introduce gay fashions which are in violation of the conservation and economy spirit, or who relate, in a sensational vein, stories of amusements and entertainments. Even in matters relating to the public peace, they foment a pacifistic attitude and undermine the indomitable spirit of the people. Even though there may be no malicious intent, there are often instances of the revelation of military and diplomatic secrets. In short, the cardinal point in the handling of such matters is a very rigorous control of subversive discussions, and, the encouragement of discussion which contributes to the establishment of pro-Japanese civilization. Since the Incidents, magazine and newspaper editors have avoided careless slips in their editorials, and have veered away from unnecessary discussions of contentious points

Now, the importance of the aim of an organ of expression is increasingly deepened by the nature of the current state of things. Fitting and reasonable discussions will clarify the meaning of His Imperial Highness' war and will, furthermore, make the people strongly aware of the firm position held by our country in the Orient.

Anti-Air Defense

That an air raid entails frightful calamity is frequently felt. "Air Raid Regulations" were earlier enacted in order to complete the protection of the country, by preventing the destruction of resources and by protecting lives from air attack.

With regard to air defense observation, communication, air raid warnings, fire control, fire-fighting, anti-gas measures, etc. frequent training is given and we are happy to state that good results are gradually being attained.

The essential objective of the peoples' anti-air program is achieved by unanimous cooperation of the central government, prefecture, town, villages, and individuals. The people who have suddenly become national defense "soldiers" say about their posts, "We defend our land with our own hands". Recently, a home fire-prevention squad was formed, based upon a spirit of neighborly helpfulness and this squad cooperates with the police and related organizations. It is fervently hoped that adequate results will be attained in such activities as fire-fighting at the time of air raids, anti-gas procedures, and other such emergency measures.



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Going further, it is hoped that control of fire shelters, and first aid will be effective.

Also, there are many cases when the police will direct and carry out air raid measures; they have set-up detailed plans for preserving the public peace and order at times of air attack. So as it is expected that they will accomplish their work perfectly even in the worst times, follow their leadership with a calm attitude.

Counter-Espionage

Counter-espionage involves defense of the country against fifth column activity as well as protection against intelligence activity of foreign countries, and constitutes an important factor, both in peace time and war-time .

Since all types of fifth column activity bear a direct relation to the prosecution of the war and the safeguarding of state secrets, police work in counter-espionage is naturally of special importance.

Due to the recent urgent turn taken by the international situation, the development of our national power, and the flare-up of the Incident, various foreign countries are all the more on guard against us. Actually there is great activity in dissemination of reports which place our country in a disadvantageous light, estrange us from friendly nations, and cause disturbances on the home front. Their intelligence organizations are concerned not only with military intelligence, but with the collection of all kinds of governmental and economic data. Moreover, as we mentioned earlier, the outcome of the current war will not be decided solely by military might, but upon the collective national strength, in which a nation's science, its natural resources and patriotism play an important role. The sphere of intelligence activity has enlarged so that it extends into every possible department, and intelligence methods have made singular progress. Consequently, by ceaseless research and striving, the police are confident of maintaining internal order and guarding state secrets, and will endeavor to discover and expose the intelligence agencies of foreign countries.

Counter-espionage requires above all, the awareness of the people and their cooperation. For this reason, displays and exhibits illustrating counter-espionage, and printed matter explaining the subject are made available in an attempt to rouse the people. Important state secrets leak out as a result of careless speech and behavior. On the other hand, actual instances of a little caution being effective in prevention of espionage are not rare. It is hoped that the officials and the people will be united in understanding and will get results in counter-espionage. As it is indeed undesirable to give an unfavorable impression toward well-intentioned tourists by treating them like foreign spies, we must be very prudent in this regard.

Regulations on manners and customs, maintenance of customs, fostering good character, and the establishment of moral principles form the foundation of national development. But now it is said that a changeover in mode of living to one of endurance and perseverance to conform with the present emergency is contemplated, and it is necessary to revolutionize the trend of public opinion. In short, the pressure of a long war is recognized as the reason for the above.



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While of course, in many cases people exercise self-restraint because of education and culture, it is also necessary that the police control manners and customs to a certain extent by exercising their authority. Since the outbreak of the China Incident, a policy of eventually regulating the customs and manners of each district has been intensified and unification of the whole country has been the aim. Other points are as follows:

(1) Among the businesses which have /a direct effect/ on public morals, there are 32,813 bars and cafes; 61,742 RYORITEN<sup>TN1</sup>:158,236 INSHOKUTEN<sup>TN2</sup>:24,162 amusement places; 3,676 houses of assignation; 9,238 brothels; (figures for the close of 1937). All of these seem to be quite busy at present but business fluctuates. There are not a few which corrupt public morals, because of competition. No policy which fosters the increase of this type of business is recognized. Except for cases involving a special reason, business people who are undesirable from a point of view of public morals will not be recognized for purposes of setting up new establishments, expanding, etc.

(2) Cafes, bars, and amusement places in the vicinity of schools are naturally injurious to students and, from the educational standpoint, exert a very bad influence, consequently necessary measures for cleaning up school neighborhoods have been devised.

(3) Business hours vary, depending on the locality, but they all have long hours and so the closing time will be moved up as far as possible. Further necessary restrictions will be imposed upon songs, dancing, music, advertisements and signboards.

(4) Dancing is not in keeping with the national emergency. Since it sullies womanhood, makes students frivolous, and exerts a very detrimental influence on public morals, students are forbidden to date and other restrictions will be rigidly enforced.

It is very difficult to plan for a reform in public morals, by employing police enforcement, alone. It is feared clashes will occur and so the school authorities, public bodies, and all kinds of social and cultural organizations should cooperate under suitable direction. The central and local governments are cooperating, and endeavoring to leave nothing undone.

Support on the Home Front

Support on the home front has been maintained and that the home front is grievously concerned over the men in the front lines goes without saying. The military relief system set up earlier by the government is one of the concerns of the National Total Morale Mobilization Movement, and perfect cooperation between the officials and the people in home front support is expected. Distributing military aid in a convenient and impartial manner is, like the police system, directly associated with the daily life of the people. Moreover, there are many cases in which organizations which maintain branch offices and smaller units, cooperate and participate in giving aid.

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TN<sup>1</sup> Bonafide restaurants

TN<sup>2</sup> Restaurants which are primarily amusement places, where liquor is served and where food is secondary.



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Social welfare commissioners of town, villages and districts endeavor to make no oversights in rendering decisions on cases requiring medical treatment, employment, and help to meet daily needs. Assistance to families of servicemen is dispensed, especially in the agricultural villages, by three individuals - the village headman, the principal of the elementary school, and the local policeman. It is not a matter of material aid, only. A door-to-door canvass is made, families of servicemen at the front are visited, and inquiries made. Advice on domestic matters is given. If the family trusts them to do so, often a letter will be written to battle areas, for the family. Other duties, which people on the home front have, are: - seeing off men departing for the front; looking out for the welfare of men wounded in battle; expressing gratitude to returning veterans. The important duty of the police at present consists in giving as much cooperation and leadership as possible, effecting the Emperor's war aims, and maintaining an unflagging zeal in a long war.

Conclusion

The duties of the police during the Incident, as related above, have increased in volume and have increased in scope. Now that we have embarked upon a lengthy war, many more important duties will be added. The persons in charge of the Police Bureau carry out their duties as efficiently as possible. Along with ensuring public peace and order, they maintain close contact with various related organizations. Perfect handling of these various duties during the Incident is desired. Police duties bear a direct relation to the daily life of the people, and if the basic mission of the police is thoroughly understood by the people it is hoped the people will cooperate with the police in their duties. Thus, with officials and the people cooperating in aggressive protection of the home front, with perseverance, and overcoming of all sorts of difficulties, we must strive for realization of the great objectives of this holy war, which is an attempt to build an everlasting peace in the orient.