

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

894.9111 R.R./1-145 -- 12-3145 -47-48-49

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ACTION COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

LFG-1369 -W

PLAIN

ACTION - JA

Tokyo via War

INFO:

Dated November 14, 1945

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Rec'd 7 a.m., 15th

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Secretary of State

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Washington

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Summary editorial comment Japanese press November 6 through 12.

Continued emphasis critical food situation but vague and contradictory solutions presented. Headquarters directive (ZA-8892) dissolving Zaibatsu greeted favorable. Criticism of present government continued with call for decisive action on pressing problems. Liberal Party and former Japan Political Association attacked as inconsistent with true representative democracy. In addition to appeals for abolition of peerage, more cooperation from farmers and speedy labor organization individual editorials favored revival western sports, birth control, and abolition of Chinese characters.

Food. YOMIURI: Government must control prices, rationing establish freight transportation, make livelihood possible without black market. MAINICHI: Government must import 3 million tons food to maintain present ration. Riots will occur if food problem not solved. No freedom or democracy possible unless

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894.9111 R.R./11-1445

NOV 28 1945

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894.9111 R.R./11-1445

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-2-#130, 14th, from Tokyo via War

possible unless right of existence established. SANGYO-KEIZAI: Allies do not want Japanese to starve. Minimum food requirements must be met with Allied help. ASAHI: Government plans to solve food shortage lack public confidence. If Shidehara Cabinet leaves problem unsolved, will bring disaster to Japanese in same war that irresponsible action of Tojo Cabinet brought tragic war.

Economy. SANGYO-KEIZAI: Dissolution of Zaibatsu only one step; true democratization nations economy still remains great task. ASAHI: Removal controlling power of holding companies insufficient to destroy totalitarian monopoly of Zaibatsu. Recent directive has only removed one obstacle to democratic economy. MAINICHI: Construction of dams, highways desirable as unemployment relief projects. TOKYO SHIMBUN: Japan urgently needs buy or borrow 3 million tons shipping to meet coastal needs. SANGYO-KEIZAI: Financial economic circles have lost all initiative and spirit; economic organization must become active.

Government. TOKYO SHIMBUN: Government lacks initiative decision courage. TOKYO SHIMBUN: Frequent change cabinets not desirable

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-3-#130, 14th, from Tokyo via War

not desirable but Shidehara Cabinet has so completely lost confidence of people sooner it goes the better. MAINICHI: Civil service should be completely reformed with abolition examination system and institution of popular election of all local officials. ASAHI: Local autonomy necessary to establish democracy. YOMIURI: Police system must be reformed by education and salary increases.

Political parties. TOKYO SHIMBUN: Legalized Communists must change tactics fight constructively for their principles. Immediate objective should be solution food problem. YOMIURI: People watching calmly final stra old members Japan political association becoming active under mask of democracy. Motivated solely by personal desire for election, their political background and record means only they will attempt crush newly rising power of democracy. YOMIURI: Hatoyama's recent speech give impression Liberal Party actually Rightist in viewpoint since he stresses only absolute maintenance emperor system and fails completely understand or support democratic form government based on will of people. NIPPON TIMES: Liberal Party leaders in political democracy but indifferent to social and economic democracy. Standard supported by these ancient Liberals may be far short

standard

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-4-#13C, 14th, from Tokyo via War

standard of democracy demanded of Japan in fulfillment Potsdam Declaration.

Agriculture. ASAHI: Government must adopt positive policy to reclaim new land. KEIYO SHIMBUN: Farmers must awaken to situation where Japan may change from industrial nation. Establishment democracy requires abolition feudal land system. YOMIURI: City people starve while farmers prosper. Farmers must become more cooperative and realize their responsibility.

Labor. MAINICHI: Labor should adopt collective bargaining system successful in America to increase effectiveness. ASAHI: Organization of labor unions independent government control should be hastened.

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DEPARTMENT

OF STATE
SECTION: JA

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

PLAIN

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

Tokyo via War
 Dated November 28, 1945
 Rec'd 5:45 p.m., 29th

JA

DCR

Secretary of State,
 Washington



File

PRIORITY

165, November 28,

Editorial comment week Nov. 20 through 26.

Summary.

Low popular morale lack Government initiative pointed out by caution urged in order preserve independence and prevent racial suicide against reckless imitation foreigners or too rapid reforms in name democracy. Little faith expressed in present Diet described as reactionary but all papers urge passage land reform and trade union bills with some criticism details these measures.

Headquarters permission import food other articles welcomed but necessity measures prevent starvation, increase land efficiency pointed out. Only editorial discussing recent arrests war criminals urges Japanese Government take action investigate war crimes without awaiting Headquarters.

DCR - NE Unit

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-2-#165, November 28, from Tokyo via War

End of summary.

General political.

MAINICHI. Danger exists that people fallen to low ebb politically, socially may do nothing to raise country status. Japanese must win Allied good will but not forget fatherland or independence.

TOKYO SHIMBUN. People do not appear sufficiently enthusiastic for democratic reform but think only of approaching "Starvation Era".

YOMIURI. Blind, deaf, dumb Japanese suddenly see, hear speak but know nothing of meaning word "democracy". Old liberals like Shidehara and Yoshida out of step with times. Urgent need for peoples' enlightenment and emphasis on social rather than individualistic democracy.

ASAHI. Uncritical infatuation blind copying western culture as in Meiji days will result in suicide of Japanese race. Japan should endeavor recapture own equal status among nations, reform government, atone for crime to Allies but act on basis reason, science and reality.

TOKYO SHIMBUN. Many Japanese, including so-called liberals,

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-3-#165, November 28, from Tokyo via War.

liberals, fail to realize Japan's present true situation and take no action without Allied directive. Need for recognition of total defeat and for initiative to found new Japan rather than reconstruct old Japan.

Government.

MAINICHI. Diet should consider emergency problems affecting peoples' livelihood, should not waste time criticizing Government which has lost popular confidence anyway.

ASAHI. Diet members represent old regime not present will of peoples. Their responsibility will be to start process toward peoples' legislature and avoid faults which have discredited Diet in past.

YOMIURI. People expect clear Government statement of policies, unremitting efforts Government officials to solve emergency problems and constructive Diet interpolations.

Economic problems.

ASAHI and SANGYO DIET KEIZAI. Allied approval imports welcomed but great need to increase rations, ease distribution food to provide fit labor to produce
export

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-4-#165, November 28, from Tokyo via War

export goods required.

NIPPON TIMES. Japanese public grateful for Pauley's reassuring statements of reparations but suspense on details reparations requirements partially causes lack of vigor in starting postwar economic program.

SANGYO-KEIZAI. Only salvation present abject Japanese poverty is continuous labor. Government should act without waiting directives Headquarters.

ASAHI. Finance Minister's arguments favoring payment indemnities to munitions manufacturers unsound.

TOKYO SHIMBUN. Most urgent present need increase civilian production yet unemployment increases, capitalists entrepreneurs lack initiative to start production. People and Government must cooperate overcome dangerous production sabotage.

MAINICHI. Shortage and inefficiency of labor principal cause coal shortage. Rations must be increased and excess labor including demobilized soldiers sent to mines.

TOKYO SHIMBUN. With present surplus 2,000,000
kilowatts

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-5-#165, November 28, from Tokyo via War

kilowatts electric power whole Japan should be electrified.

ASAHI. Every effort must be made utilize vacant factories, large estates, barracks to solve urgent housing problem.

Agriculture.

MAINICHI. Elasticity important in limitation land holdings; tenants should if possible purchase land with own funds; discredited agricultural associations should not administer law; 5 year plan too long.

SANGYO-KEIZA. Present land reform substitutes democratic for feudalistic practices but crux of agrarian problem is increased production to be achieved through mechanization.

Labor.

SANGYO-KEIZAI. Capital labor-cooperation not effected by pressure from above nor by mere compromise but by mutual confidence. Proposed labor union law more than guarantees laborer's rights, will be foundation stone new peaceful Japan.

YOMIURI. Labor union bill should be passed without revision. Attitudes progressive and liberal parties
on bill

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-6-#165, November 28, from Tokyo via War

on bill will reveal whether their names mean what they say.

YOMIURI. Present labor arbitration board cannot be expected to give labor fair deal. Chairman, Kawarada Kakichi, former Home Minister Director Imperial Rule Assistance Association, is collaborator of militarists, oppressor of proletariat. Labor movement will surpass arbitration board which like bureaucrats is at tail end peoples democratic forward march.

↓
War Guilt.

TOKYO SHIMBUN. Diet members and bureaucrats should realize war responsibility and resign from office permanently.

YOMIURI. Recent arrests 11 war criminals show war guilt not simply responsibility for Pearl Harbor but for breaking International agreements and for continental aggression since Manchurian incident. Japanese Government in faithfully carrying out Potsdam terms should consider as obligation not to await Headquarters action but assemble evidence and designate war criminals.

ATCHESON

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DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ACTION COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM

JA

ME-17

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PLAIN

Tokyo via War

Dated December 5, 1945

Rec'd 7:30 p.m., 6th.

Secretary of State

Washington

188, Fifth

JAPANESE EDITORIAL COMMENT NOVEMBER 26 THROUGH

DECEMBER 4.



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12/8/45
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894.9111 RR / 12-545

Shidehara's opening Diet speech criticized as lacking positive policy initiative. Disappointment expressed govt's failure solve pressing problems.. Political parties described as led by war responsible persons and as failing actually to represent philosophies suggested by their names. Editorials pointed out difficulties in important task of increasing production emphasizing present coal crisis. SCAP directive establishing war profit, other taxes, generally favored but difficulties in fair assessment and danger deflation suggested. Necessity for clarifying causes of war rather than of defeat emphasized in connection with establishment commission to investigate defeat. YOMIURI only paper to comment on arrest fifty-nine war criminals by SCAP; hails act as significant

DEC 12 1945

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-2- #188, Fifth from Tokyo via War.

step in bloodless democratizing revolution.

DEMOCRACY

YOMIURI: If Japanese people had possessed sovereignty, present war and defeat might never have occurred. Democracy impossible without sovereignty of people although there is no reason that Emperor system should be inconsistent with popular sovereignty.

MAINICHI: Extinction of Army and Navy Ministries on November 30 welcomed since these services nurtured fascism leading to China incident and Japan's eventual destruction.

TOKYO SHIMBUN: Although Japan's act necessitate Allied approval, nation should not remain inert lacking all policies.

DIET

ASAHI: In spite of its weakness, Shidehara's Cabinet must bear heavy burdens placed upon it by SCAP. However Prime Minister cannot win peoples confidence simply by enumerating these burdens. Present Cabinet is transitional and lacks executive power.

TOKYO SHIMBUN: Shidehara's speech revealed lack of understanding prevailing situation.

YOMIURI: Premier's speech lacks proper recognition facts. Government has done nothing on own initiative while

General

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-3- #188, Fifth, from Tokyo via War.

General Headquarters directives have been just and fair.

MAINICHI: Shidehara's announced policies are good but will they be put into effect?

TOKYO SHIMBUN: Government leaders absorbed in Diet issues such as election reform, labor unions but neglect vital problems of food, housing and clothing. Government administration must be speeded up in view present crisis.

YOMIURI: Next elections will be barometer of Japan's rate of advance toward democracy. Proportional representation should be effected. Diet responsible for fair progressive election law.

ASAHI: Present Diet has wasted time in interpellations which have little relation to livelihood of people.

MAINICHI: Diet members wrangle over war responsibility while people are starving.

TOKYO SHIMBUN: Lack of interest in politics due to retarded political education. Present Diet members have last opportunity to show good example of parliamentary politics.

POLITICAL PARTIES

ASAHI: Although Socialists and Communists lack unity and stability, present political atmosphere appears moving toward

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-4- #188, Fifth, from Tokyo via War.

toward predominance Socialistic parties.

MAINICHI: Progressive Liberal Socialist Parties do not live up to their names. People must watch them as Japan enters reconstruction period.

TOKYO SHIMBUN: With general elections approaching people want to know sources of party funds so they can judge true character of parties.

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

ASAHI: Obstacles to increased production are lack of Govt planning, continued control measures, passive attitude of capitalists and present status of watered capital. Political unrest caused by labor union laws and up surge of proletarian movement causing apprehension among capitalists who fail to understand present trends.

MAINICHI: Japan's future foreign trade must submit to controls under Allied direction. Efforts needed to avoid ineffective bureaucratic controls as during war.

SANGYO KEIZAI: Commerce Minister's application for foreign trade large compared 1937 and double 1944. Unusual efforts necessary stimulate peace industries to attain extended production. Abolition control measures of production, distribution and price desirable.

ASAHI: Elections and war responsibility of minor importance

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-5- #188, Fifth, from Tokyo via War.

importance compared far reaching tragic effects present coal crisis. Politics meaningless unless concerned with maintenance of life for people.

SANGYO KEIZAI: Coal shortage due government's mistaken labor policy which failed improve treatment Chinese and Korean miners.

FINANCE

YOMIURI: SCAP directive levying wartime profits tax, property tax and ending military pensions will act as positive force in Japan's financial reconstruction.

MAINICHI: Japan itself was unable undertake needed financial reforms now effected by Allied directive. Inflation may be replaced by deflation which in 1930-31 was able direct cause Manchurian incident and events leading up to present war. Inflation has gone out but "fierce deflationary wolf is at door".

KEIZAI: Evaluation of property for taxation will be difficult and evasion attempts may be expected. Calculation wartime profits difficult. Taxes should be collected within brief period and efforts made avoid any form social inequality and unrest.

ASAHI:

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-6- #188, Fifth, from Tokyo via War.

ASAHI: Allied financial directive desirable as correction inequality prevailing Japan today.

MAINICHI: (*) new tax measures properly enforced, national economy will be thrown into utter confusion. Present Finance Minister not prepared for this task and his policies will not contribute toward democratization nation's economic life.

WAR RESPONSIBILITY:

ASAHI: Little can be expected from newly established commission to investigate war defeat. Investigations should be concentrated on cause of war rather than reasons for defeat. Japan must not repeat mistake of Germany who investigated defeat and prepared for second war. Such misunderstanding should not be created among Allied Powers. Investigation should probe evidence before December 8, 1941 (*) Japanese Government.

YONIURI: Everyone recognizes Tojo and Konoye as big two among war criminals. Konoye is responsible for China War and Axis Alliance. People and government has responsibility to take action in regard war criminals. Government should undertake immediate thorough war criminal investigation and clarify to world Japan's stand in this matter. Arrest

fifty-nine

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-7- #188, Fifth, from Tokyo via War.

fifty-nine war criminals by MacArthur Headquarters represents advance in Japan's democratizing bloodless revolution. Significant coming at time when Diet tries camouflage own war responsibility. Disappearance of leaders from many circles represents step toward extermination Japan's reactionary elements.

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(*) Apparent omission

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DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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No paraphrase necessary
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Tokyo via War

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Dated December 11, 1945

Rec'd 3:11 p.m., 12th



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- PL
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Secretary of State
Washington
203, December 11

Some recent expressions in the press are encouraging as indicating that, while the Jap people as a whole still understand little of the meaning of democracy, a body of opinion is growing in Japan which not only supports but is actually proposing some of the measures implicit in the occupation directives of the American Govt. Recent press comments also suggest at least a new critical attitude toward past events and toward the Jap political structure, including the Emperor, increasing realization of Jap responsibility for the war, and a desire to wipe the slate clean.

88
12/14/45
HS (Hearty)

Common use of the expression "Emperor system" and public discussion of the desirability of its retention are unheard of in Jap annals. Probably the first caricature of the Emperor ever to be published in Japan has now appeared in the Communist newspaper. While only the Communists have openly and directly advocated abolition

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894.9111 RR/12-1145

DEC 20 1945

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-2-#203, December 11, from Tokyo via War

advocated abolition of the Imperial institution, the Emperor's war responsibility has been widely discussed in the press.

Yomiuri Hochi comments that many non-Communists desire abolition of the Imperial institution or at least attach war responsibility to the present Emperor. MINPC, a new Tokyo daily, accuses Hirohito of war responsibility and urges his abdication. It does not however go so far as to suggest abolition of the Emperor system.

The Pearl Harbor anniversary was the occasion for emphatic demands by the Jap press for clarification of the causes for the war and punishment of those responsible. Asahi criticizes the Jap Govt for taking no independent steps toward arrest of war criminals and urges a thorough Jap Pearl Harbor inquiry as the starting point toward the nations rehabilitation. Yomiuri in an editorial entitled "The cursed Day" denounces Govt suppression of information and states the Jap people wished peace with China but would have been killed for suggesting it. Editorial concluded: "In order to insure that Japan will develop into a truly peaceful nation not only those who directly prosecuted

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-3-#203, December 11, from Tokyo via War

prosecuted the war but all persons connected with it must be completely eliminated. This is not a task to be left entirely to MacArthur's Headquarters. On this accursed day repentance with folded hands is not enough. People of the nation must raise up to try war criminals".

Conservative **MAINICHI** proposes elimination of all war leaders from public life. "War responsibility must be shouldered not only by those who led the nation to destruction, but also by those who committed errors, those who were onlookers, those who could not save the country. Militarists bureaucrats all Diet members must bear responsibility. Our objective should be permanent retirement without exception of all persons who have occupied positions of leadership up to the present notwithstanding among them may be some not deserving condemnation".

While it might be too optimistic to take these press comments as representative of any solidly formed public opinion they encourage the hope that the Japanese people though yet politically uneducated and inexperienced may eventually show the capacity for democracy.

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CHARGE SLIP

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12-2945	Hembree	1-2446	mP	Tel. # 2-2-6 La

894.911 RP
CHARGE SLIP

File No. 877-6363

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DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM

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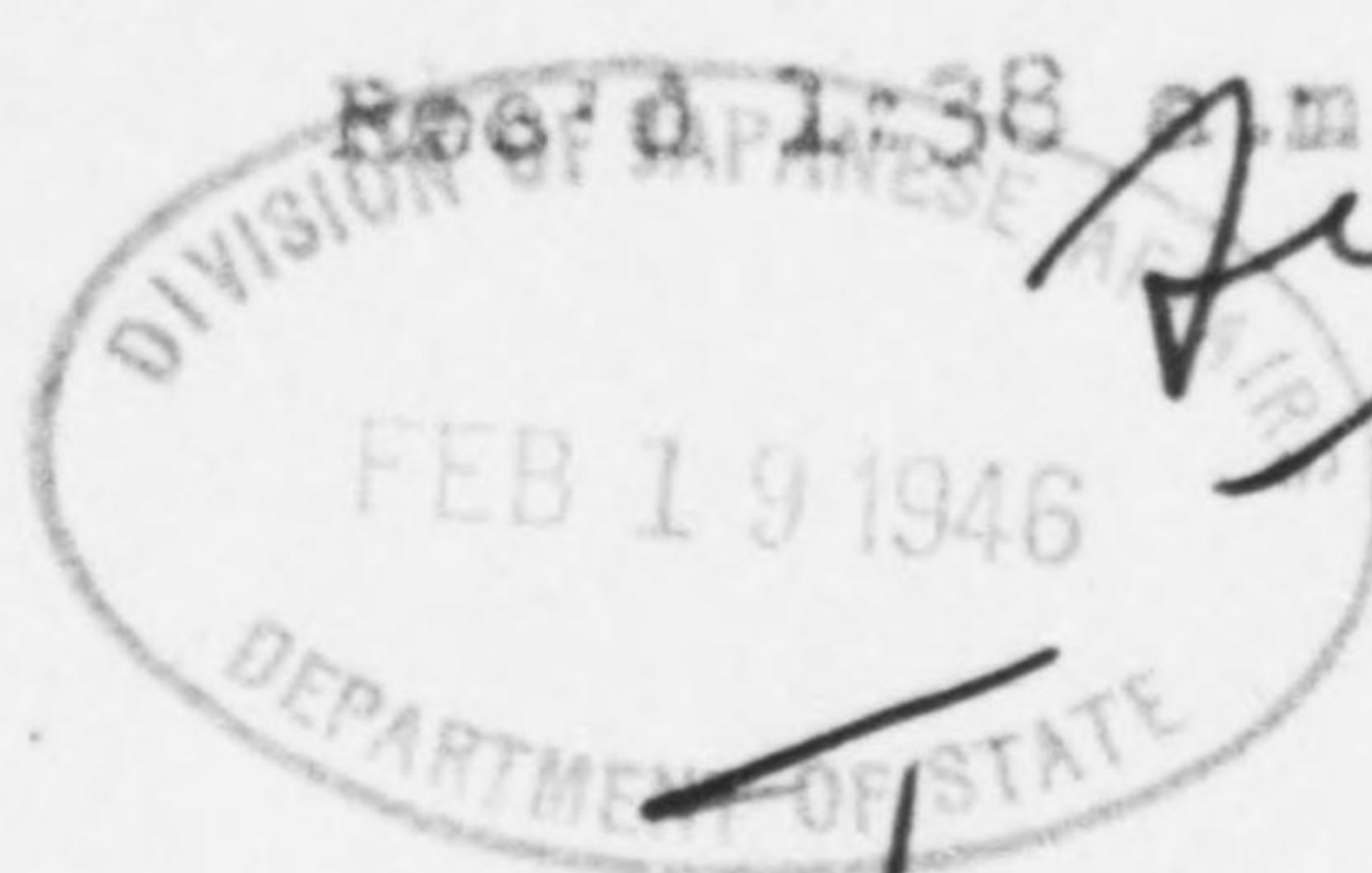
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PLAIN

Tokyo via War

Dated February 13, 1946

Rec'd 1:38 am. 16th



Secretary of State

Washington

100, Thirteenth

Summary press comment February 6 through 12

Govt measures to implement purge required by January 4 directives (ZAX17443) arouses most interest, with much speculation effect on coming elections. Concern over inflation mounted (Sent Dept ; repeated Chungking as , Moscow as 10)

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2/18/46
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Govt Shidehara Cabinet attacked; by ASAHI 8th for anti-labor attitude; by MAINICHI 7th for sluggishness in enforcing and executing anti-inflationary measures; by NIPPON TIMES 9th for failure to formulate anti-inflation program; by NIMPO 6th for conservatism of proposed constitution revision. However, TOKYO SHIMBUN 11th defended Cabinet and claimed govt critics lacking in sound alternative proposal.

Political parties. MAINICHI 11th indicated surprise and veiled criticism of large number of diet candidates disqualified by purge; ASAHI 10th feared inferior replacements. YOMIURI 11th demanded further "political" purge of associates and supporters of militarists.

YOMIURI and JIJI SHIMPO 6th criticized Right Wing Social Democrat opposition to popular front.

MAINICHI 9th considered quality diet candidates low; ASAHI 12th claimed excessive number independent candidates low; ASAHI 12th claimed excessive number of independent candidates harmful to creation party form govt and urged voters support of party tickets.

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894.9111 RR/2-1346

PLAIN

-2-#100, Thirteenth from Tokyo via War

Economic. Much fear of inflation expressed, with usual conclusion that solution is increased production. SANGYO KEIZAI 6th suggested curtailment production costs to check inflation spiral. TOKYO SHIMBUN 8th urged consumer unions.

Cotton imports unanimously hailed as harbinger trade revival by SANGYO KEIZAI 8th and NIPPON TIMES 8th cautioned that substantial cotton textile exports necessary

MAINICHI 12th regarded govt plan to permit corporate reorganization as inducement to production.

Four minister statement intention support property rights against strikers generally viewed by press as legalistic and possible dangerous; ASAHI 8th and TOKYO SHIMBUN 6th believed temporary management participation necessary if owners fail to revive production.

War crimes. JIJI SHIMPO 8th MAINICHI 9th YOMIURI 10th emphasize enormity of crimes and strict fairness revealed in YAMASHITA trial.

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DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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- DCR

Control 4149

Rec'd December 13, 1947
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS 12:49 p.m.

FROM: Tokyo

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 312, December 12

Office of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEC 15 1947
DIRECTOR
Department of State

FROM GHQ SCAP (SEBALD) TOKYO JAPAN TO DEPT OF ARMY FOR DEPT OF STATE INFO DEPT OF ARMY (COS) No. CX 57285.

YOMIURI, non-partisan Tokyo paper whose editorials reflect anti-Socialism anti-government policy point out December 7 that France is now embroiled in strikes principally because Communists control 6 million members GCT and 25 per cent traditionally conservative French farmers supported Communists; paper deplored fact that France lacks political veterans who are able oppose Communists by uniting anti-Communist factions.

KANOKU SHIMPO, politically middle-of-the-road prefectural paper at Sendai, editorialized 5 December that grave crisis in French political situation caused by stagnant condition French capitalism, poor administrative efficiency, and special nature French political structure. Added French people have deep-rooted antipathy to dictatorial power stemming from national character of individualism and experience of dictatorships under Bourbons and Bonapartes. French Communists and Socialists have attempted to use this national sentiment against dictatorial government for their own political aims. De Gaullist's recent municipal election victory does not indicate popular support his platform but strong French antipathy toward Communists. Paper adds that Communists are provoking sabotage and riots in industry as their weapons and their struggles are becoming more and more of political rather than economic nature. However, outcome depends Kremlin's world policy not policy French Communists.

Today France

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JAN 13 1948

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894.9111 RR/12-1247

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 15 1948
LIAISON OFFICE

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-2- #312, December 12, from Tokyo

Today France is but an element of world policy of Kremlin which aims at world revolution.

NIGATA NIPPO, another middle-road prefectural paper, December 5 stated present state affairs France Italy is miniature of world political situation, competition between American and Soviet Union becoming keener daily and Soviet Union is bent on expansion its sphere influence. As France and Italy last European countries where Western civilization prosperous, Communist activities there have become extremely acute. Paper doubts countries inside "iron curtain" will remain Soviet satellites if Marshall Plan is realized, although its speedy realization will intensify offensives of Communists France Italy.

SEBALD

MHD:LV

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DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS
TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Control 5431

Info:

Rec'd August 13, 1949
6:59 a.m.

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DCR

FROM: Taipei

TO : Secretary of State

NO : 371, August 10.

Local press statements:

Commenting Acheson's statement US China relations
Tao Hsi Sheng Vice Minister Information in signed
article published local CENTRAL DAILY NEWS yesterday
expressed disappointment over the "wait and see"
China policy of State Department which prompted
release White Paper which he described as an alibi.
He urged for new and positive US policy on China.

American China policy has prior 1945 considered Govt
Communists strife as (1) just a civil war and (2)
Chinese Communists just agrarian reformers not a
branch of the Soviet Internationale. State Department
finally realized Chinese Communists integral part
Communist Internationale and their expansion Far East
is identical with aggressiveness of Soviet Russia.
Instead revising its "wait and see" policy to one
positive aid the State Department suddenly released
White Paper to justify policy, but what has happened
in the Far East is beyond merely making an alibi.

However, as freedom-loving people we cannot but admit
candid criticisms in the White Paper to our party and
on our government. We should be benefitted by such
criticisms, but mere criticisms and slow reforms cannot
save China today. Situation so grave that what China
needs are firm steps to tide over her military danger
and new and positive American policy towards China.

Sent Department; repeated EMBOFF Canton.

MACDONALD

DU:HC

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894.9111 RR/8-1049

SEP 10 1949

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NOTATION OF ACTION TAKEN.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

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OCT 11 1949

FROM: USPOLAD, Tokyo

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Action: *NA* Dated: October 6, 1949.
Machine Date of Mailing: October 7, 1949.

UNCLASSIFIED Rec'd: Oct. 10, 1949 11:24 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

File
Oct 11-49

A-255, October 6, 1949.

OFFICE OF
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
OCT 11 1949
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Department of State

There is quoted below the text of a United Press interview with Premier Shigeru YOSHIDA which was published in the Pacific Stars and Stripes of October 14, 1949:

"Premier Shigeru Yoshida hopes that the Allies will sign a peace treaty with Japan as soon as possible, but if it occurs during the next year he does not see how American occupation forces can be withdrawn quickly without leaving Japan defenseless and in chaos.

"The Prime Minister made these statements during an hour's interview with the United Press at his home today, when he also made the following points about China, communism and war:

"1) The best advice he could give anybody about China would be to 'leave the Chinese alone. The British interfered with them too much during the last century,' he added. 'The Japanese interfered too much this century, and I think that Soviet Russia will find too much interference unprofitable also. Chinese Communists have gained control with the help of Russian influence, but ill feeling is already developing in rural areas as the real nature of communism becomes clear.'

"2) As to American policy in China, Premier Yoshida says merely. 'The Americans do not understand the Chinese.' He says that the government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Japan's old enemy, 'did not try hard enough' to bring about the internal reforms which Americans urged.

"3) 'As to communism in Japan,' the Premier continued, 'I dare say that a Communist China would affect us in time, but not immediately. It took the Buddhist religion two hundred years to spread to Japan after it became established in China. I think it would take a generation or two for Communism to spread from China to Japan.'

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"4) The Premier

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Tokyo's
A-255, Oct. 6, 1949

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"4) The Premier would only say, 'I hope so,' when asked if he thought a third world war would be avoided. His hope, he explained, lies in the increasing power of world public opinion. 'We have had enough war,' he added; 'nobody wants another one.'

"5) Japan's 'austerity budget' for the next fiscal year, which begins in April, will be balanced for the first time in some fifteen years. To attract foreign capital for reconstruction, some of the tax levies will be even lower than those recommended by the recent Shoup tax reform report.

"6) 'Before you ask any questions,' Yoshida told the correspondent, 'I want to express my gratitude to the United States and to General MacArthur. In 1945 we thought we would starve unless we got from three to three and a half million tons of food. Well, nobody starved, and the Japanese people are psychologically very much relaxed since then. We do not intend to abuse the situation, and that is one reason why we intend to follow an austerity program. We have worked very hard on the new budget, and have just finished it.'"

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INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

Handwritten: HHTM file 1019

DIVISION OF
NORTHEAST ASIAN AIRGRAMS

119

DEC - 6 1949

Action Assigned to *NA*
Action Taken *No action me*

FROM: USPOLAD, Tokyo.

Date of mailing: November 25, 1949.

Date recd.: Dec. 2, 1949 8:18 a

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Secretary of State
Washington
A-320, November 25, 1949
Direction to *1216*
Date of Action *1216*
Action Office Symbol *NA*
Name of Officer *Jimmy Field*

OFFICE OF
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEC 6 - 1949
Department of State

Article by L. R. WIGLARI appeared in Nippon Times of November 23, 1949, reporting that Bangkok conference may make major decision to coordinate India's "flow of moral force in Asian affairs with Japanese technological ability to help development of backward areas". This view is attributed by writer to Amiya C. CHAKRAVARTY, a visiting professor at Howard University, said to have been associated with Prime Minister NEHRU during his United States tour. Occasion for interview with Mr. Chakravarty was his transit through Japan from United States to attend pacifist congress in India.

Mr. Chakravarty reportedly stated that Ambassador Philip JESSUP's decision to call on SCAP is designed to impart favorable impression which Nehru's tour of United States has had on American opinion and Department.

Writer also states that former Under Secretary for War William DRAPER called on Nehru and discussed United States aid questions as well as Japanese situation, and that added significance is therefore attached to Dr. Draper's visit to Japan.

In struggle against communism in Asia, Mr. Chakravarty reportedly stated that Bangkok conference will make decisions which will allot major roles to India and Japan.

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Copy to American Embassy, New Delhi.

Copy to American Embassy, Bangkok.

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INCOMING AIRGRAM

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

Action Assigned to NA

DIVISION OF
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

296

Action Taken no action required

JAN 5 1950
OSLO, Norway

Date of Action Jan 5, 50

DEPARTMENT OF STATE December 27, 1949.
Mailing:

Action Office Symbol NA
Name of Officer M. G. ...

Rec'd: Jan 4, 1950 10:24 am

Direction to DC/R file
Secretary of State,
Washington.



593, December 24, 1949.

Summary of the Japanese press for the week December 16-23, 1949. The Japanese press has concentrated attention during the past week in both news coverage and editorial comment on three principal issues: the handling of the question of repatriation of Japanese from Soviet territories before the Allied Council for Japan on December 21; LAO Tse-tung's visit to Moscow; and Diet deliberations on year-end allowance for public workers and wage increases for railway workers.

Other developments prominently featured included the question of American policy toward China, centered around Ambassador Jessup's San Francisco speech, civil service examinations for higher Japanese officials, Consul-General Ward's arrival in Japan, SCAP approval for easing the income tax rates set by the Shoup Mission recommendations, and the possible fate of Formosa.

Repatriation question. In its issues of December 23 the Japanese press gave major attention to the Allied Council meeting of December 21 (this mission's telegram no. 585 of December 22). The same morning issues also carried editorials on the subject, indicative of the importance the Japanese attach to the repatriation question. While the Soviet member's walkout was given headline play, the press also described at length the Chairman's statement indicating that some 370,000 Japanese may have perished while in Soviet custody, and the British Commonwealth member's strong criticism of the Soviet position and attitude on the question. Editorial comment was critical of the Soviet walkout, but expressed hope that the Soviet authorities will heed Japan's pleas and at least provide the names of those dead or still detained. In general, the press received the news of the possibility

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FORN. AFF. DIV.,
December 21, 1945.

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In connection with the repatriation issue, the Japanese press also devoted considerable space and photographs to attempts of various delegations to call on the Soviet Ambassador and receive some information on the fate of Japanese still unaccounted for. Most newspapers gave accounts of the Soviet Ambassador's letter to SCAP of December 21 accusing the Supreme Commander of encouraging a fascist revival in Japan. Only Kohatsu and Nippon Times, however, published the text of the letter. The communist paper treated in a brief and casual fashion the proceedings at the Allied Council, but Nippon Times gave the full text of the Chairman's statement.

Chou Tse-tun's visit to Moscow. The December 17-18 issues prominently featured Chou's visit, Asahi, Mainichi, and Yomiuri speculating on the real motives behind it. They generally agreed that the visit portends closer Sino-Soviet relations, probably resulting in a new treaty to replace the 1945 agreement. The consensus is that Chou will not become another Tito. Discussion of the visit in the American press also received considerable space. Yomiuri's editorial of December 19 expressed the belief that a new Sino-Soviet treaty will have "much bearing on the Japanese peace problem."

Year-end bonus question. Difficulties faced by the Yoshida Cabinet in resisting Opposition pressure for year-end allowances and pay increases for public workers and railway employees has been a major news item during the past week. The Cabinet's decision to let the Diet settle the issue has not relieved the Prime Minister from pressure. Yomiuri urged the Government to meet the issue squarely by raising the basic wages of government workers next year. Asahi took the Cabinet to task in an editorial on December 20 for disregarding the wage level adjustments recommended by the National Personnel Authority after the Cabinet has decided on bonus figures about one half below the level recommended. Asahi, however, warned labor to exercise caution in its struggle over the issue. Mainichi expressed hope for an over-all, long-range wage settlement rather than a temporary expedient to relieve year-end pressure. Nihon Keizai regarded hunger strikes by workers in connection with the dispute as "just within the border of lawful action." Jiji Shimpo charged the Yoshida Cabinet with "evading its responsibility" by substituting a year-end bonus for the wage increase

Tokyo's -293,
December 31, 1944.

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recommended by the Arbitration Board. At the same time, Jiji expressed hope that "the rigor of the Dodge Line may change its severity with the turn of the year" to permit a wage boost. Despite strong opposition procedure dramatized by hunger strikes of workers, the Lower House passed the Cabinet's wage bills on December 31. No real opposition is expected in the House of Councillors.

Fate of Formosa. During the week the press has shown a keen interest in the possible fate of Formosa. While no views have been expressed, the attention given to the subject suggests a hope that the United States adopt a more positive attitude toward the Formosan problem.

Other territorial issues. A number of articles have appeared concerning the ultimate disposition of the southern Kuril Islands, the Rabonai Group, Shikotan, Okinawa, the Bonin Islands, and Iwojima. The press has, however, refrained from treating these questions editorially, but the prominent place given news articles on the subject plainly indicates keen interest in the possibility that Japan may recover some of these outlying islands in a peace settlement.

The possible rearmament of West Germany has received some attention, including editorial comment. This question has proved of interest to the Japanese because of widespread discussion in Japan of the necessity to increase and better equip the Japanese police force. Editorials on the subject, however, have been guarded.

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INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DIVISION OF
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

Action Assigned to HP

Action Taken -----

no action

Date of Action 1/1

Action Office Symbol NA

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Direction to DC/R Feb

Washington.

A-400, December 30, 1949.

The following is a summary of Japanese press reactions during the week December 24 to December 30. The press gave particular prominence to six subjects of current interest in Japan: the issue of the repatriation of Japanese held in Soviet territory, the progressive decontrol and normalization of the Japanese economy, the amnesty granted Christmas Day by General MacArthur to 46 minor war criminals, the possible realignment of political parties as a result of the prospective absorption of the Imukai faction of the Democratic Party into the Democratic Liberal Party, the drafting of the peace treaty for Japan and the possibility of Japanese recovery through the peace treaty of southern Sakhalin, the southern Kuril Islands, Okinawa, Iwojima, and the Bonin Islands, and the hostility of the Philippines towards Japan.

Repatriation Issue

This week's developments on the question of the repatriation of Japanese prisoners in Soviet territory consisted briefly of General MacArthur's request to Washington that a disinterested third party conduct an investigation, the simultaneous publicizing by Moscow of the Khabarovsk trial of alleged Japanese war criminals, and the branding by the Chairman of the Allied Council for Japan of the Khabarovsk trial as a smoke screen to divert the world's attention from the repatriation problem.

The Japanese press played up General MacArthur's announcement, the sit-down strike of Japanese supplicants before the Soviet Embassy building, the Swiss refusal to act without complete approval of all parties, the Department's reported suggestion that direct negotiations might be the best initial step, and the ACJ Chairman's intimation that the bona fides of the Khabarovsk trials are suspect. Only Akahata, the Japan Communist Party organ, gave full Moscow details on alleged Japanese

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JAN 11 1950
AIRGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
751
JAN 11 1950
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM: USPOIAD, Tokyo
Dated: December 30, 1949
Date of Mailing: January 4, 1950
Rec'd: Jan 10, 1950 10:05 am

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Tokyo's A-400
December 30, 1949

warfare activities. General Derevyanko's statement December 28 to a Japanese delegation that a Soviet answer would be forthcoming January 15 (issued at the same time as the ACJ Chairman's statement on the germ warfare trials) only got back page treatment. Akahata's editorial of December 29 condemned the indicted Japanese. Tokyo Shimbun which appeared later the same day, while observing that the prisoners were reported by Tass to have admitted guilt, regarded it strange that none of the returning servicemen have mentioned even the existence of the alleged experimentation by bacteriologists on human beings. Tokyo Shimbun further observed of the alleged bomb carrying germ-laden fleas that "Our common-sense tells us that bacteriological warfare could not be conceived in such a childish fashion and scientists are agreed that there was no possibility of such experiment succeeding even if tried." If the trial "is merely a ruse ... we must say that the matter is too serious to be treated lightly."

Decontrol and Normalization of Japanese Economy

There were four phases to the normalization process this week: decontrol of 18 basic and numerous other commodities, announcement by SCAP of reopening of private importation with only limited controls effective January 1, SCAP approval of a modest Japanese shipbuilding program, and SCAP approval of private exports. Tokyo Shimbun, while welcoming the announced decontrol of commodities as "another step forward on the road to a democratic industrial setup", averred that the remaining controls "still make free production impractical." All papers praised the move to put importation on a freer basis but expressed a note of caution. Asahi felt "there seems still to be some nervous feeling abroad regarding Japan's trade" and advised against creating any suspicion of dumping. Mainichi, while noting the removal of trade red tape, balanced this development against the thought that "Japan has now been launched on the rough seas of free competitive world markets." Yomiuri declared the move had increased the responsibility of the Japanese people for the proper working of their economy: "The Government and people must equally tighten their belts." Regarding shipbuilding, Nippon Times said the proposed fleet constituted no competitive threat but was too large for present trade requirements.

Christmas Day Amnesty

Half the evening papers December 25 and all morning papers December 26 gave their best news space to General MacArthur's announcement of amnesty for 46 minor war criminals in Sugamo Prison. Especially significant was the announcement of a systematic parole plan.

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Tokyo's A-400
December 30, 1949

Political Party Reshuffle

The proposed entry of Ken INUKAI with his "Coalition" Democrats into the Yoshida fold, long debated but now about to materialize, has set off speculation about the possibility of a large-scale reshuffle that may cut down the number of fractional parties. As the only stage of Japanese political activity, this item has aroused a disproportionately heavy barrage of editorial comment, the papers playing up every move on and off the scenes with gusto.

Japanese Bid for Neighboring Islands

Last week spokesmen in the Diet expressed the feeling of the Japanese Government that certain neighboring islands to the north and south of Japan should remain Japanese as they were not gained through violence or greed, and the Prime Minister's opinion that the Yalta agreement is not binding on Japan was also aired. This week Akshata in an editorial attacked Prime Minister Yoshida for such views. There were no other editorials, but the wide publicity given in the press on December 27 and 28 to the UP report from Washington that the Department is sympathetic with Japanese hopes in this regard indicates Akahata has few supporters. Secretary Acheson's statement last week that final disposition of the islands would depend upon the peace treaty was given wide publicity and provided further fuel to Japanese eagerness to see the treaty appear. Papers on December 29 and 30 gave chief space to a Washington report that the first treaty draft would be ready in January and that the peace conference would be called by July.

Philippine Hostility Towards Japan

Articles about Philippine hostility towards Japan have appeared occasionally in the Japanese press. On December 29 Asahi Shimbun gave chief news space to report of a Chinese correspondent's interview with President Quirino. At the same time most papers reported Philippine U.N. representative Carlos P. Romulo's flat refusal of ex-Ambassador Grew's request for help in campaigning for funds for Japan's new International Christian University. Jiji Shimpō in an editorial of same date commented pungently that while Romulo had adequate grounds for his grudge against Japanese, Mr. Grew had equally good grounds for disliking the Japanese, but while the Japanese ought to reflect upon the hatred their cruel conduct has aroused, if Japan were forever ostracized and attempts made "artificially to stop the natural growth of Japan's industries", it would "only cause Japan to fall prey to Communism." Mr. Grew obviously understands this, Jiji concluded.

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