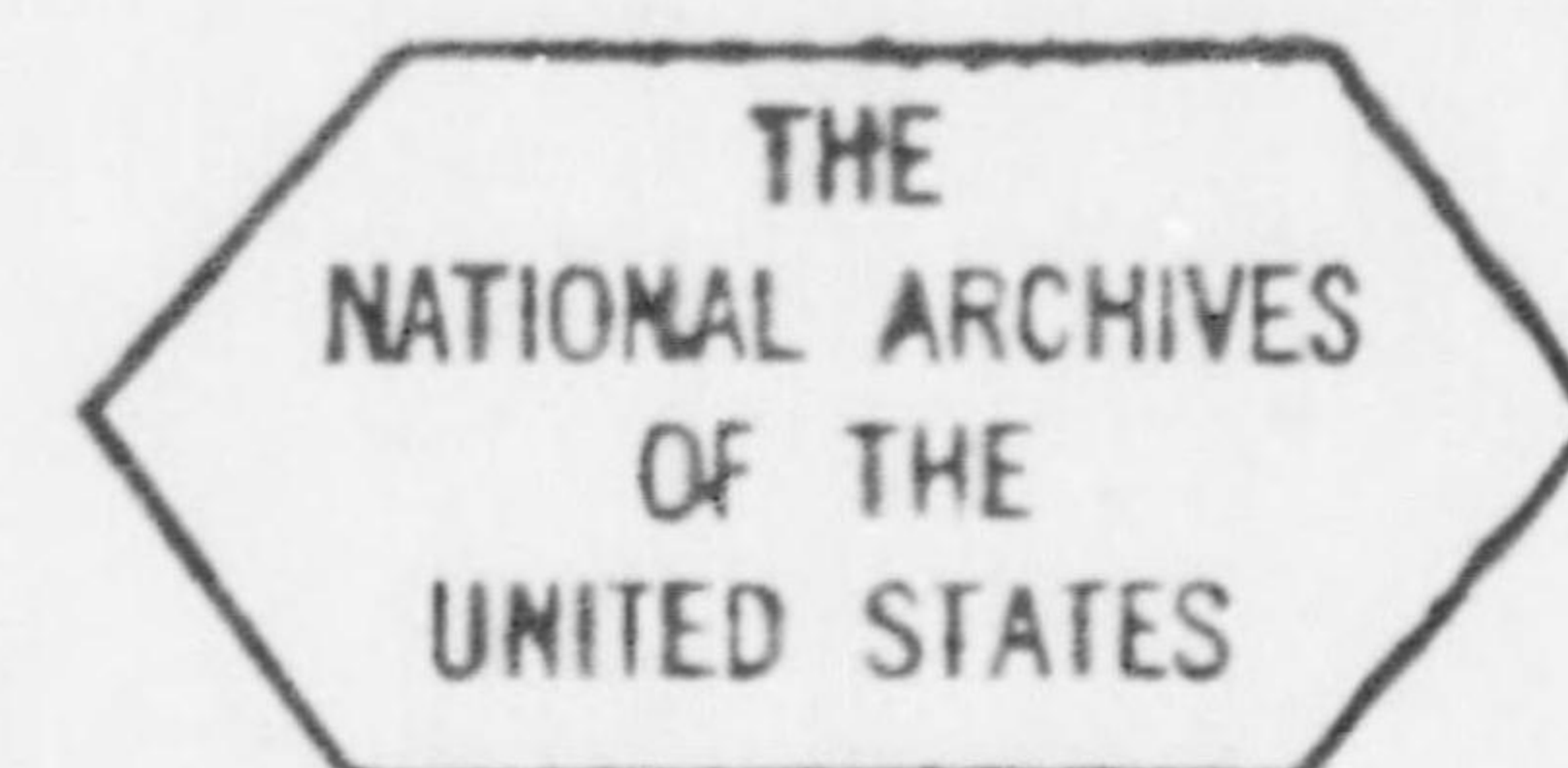


GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)  
Description of contents



- (1) Box no. 2032  
(2) Folder title/number: (38)  
Saitama Prefecture National Elections

(3) Date: Apr. 1947

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REPORT OF SURVEILLANCE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION  
(Report Control Symbol - QGS - E)

25 April 49

1. Name of Prefecture: SAITAMA
2. Number of Registered Voters:  
(Men - 524,437  
(Women - 577,283  
(Total - 1,101,720
3. Number of persons actually voting for  
House of Representatives candidates:  
(Men - 420,212  
(Women - 355,634  
(Total - 775,846
4. Number of persons claiming registration but  
found not to be on voting lists:  
(Men - 37  
(Women - 32  
(Total - 69
5. Number of surveillance teams on election day: 15
6. Number of polling places: 944
7. Number of polling places visited: 621
8. Number of ballot counting places: 332
9. Number of ballot counting places visited: 192
10. Candidates Purge Questionnaires were available at the offices of the  
Election Administration Committees and at the offices of the Screening  
Committees.
11. Once again the newspapers carried notices which urged people to examine  
the questionnaires so as to familiarize themselves with the candidates'  
qualifications. The number of signs posted throughout the prefecture  
on bulletin boards was increased, and the committees themselves were  
instructed to take all possible steps to make the public aware of the  
availability of the questionnaires.
12. Only twenty four (24) persons consulted the candidates' questionnaires  
prior to this election. Again, people either considered themselves  
too busy or believed that since all candidates passed the screening  
they are all acceptable.



13. Number of seats in House of Representatives from this prefecture: 13

a. Number of candidates by parties:

Liberals .....	13
Democrats .....	9
Social Democrats .....	9
Peoples Cooperatives .....	2
Communists .....	4
Minor Parties .....	3

b. Number of Independent candidates: ..... 4

c. Number of candidates actually elected by party:

Liberals .....	6
Democrats .....	3
Social Democrats .....	4

d. Number of Independent candidates elected: None

e. Total number of votes cast for each party:

Liberals .....	325,880
Democrats .....	183,141
Social Democrats .....	197,045
People's Cooperatives .....	8,797
Communists .....	37,685
Minor parties .....	3,755

f. Total number of votes cast for Independents: ..... 9,463

14. No women were elected to the House of Representatives from this prefecture.

15. Number of pre-election campaign meetings held throughout the prefecture by party:

Liberals .....	616
Democrats .....	384
Social Democrats .....	315
People's Cooperatives .....	52
Communists .....	94
Minor parties .....	49
Independents' campaign meetings .....	54

16. There was an adequate number of polling places.

17. Four (4) copies of the election bulletins are enclosed with this report.



18. Number of pre-election meetings held by Military Government Team:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number of Meetings</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Election Administration Committee	6	1,077
Officials	6	497
Candidates	3	44

19. Interest in the House of Representatives election was keen and a great deal more publicity was given. This publicity was generally in the usual form of street speeches, placards etc. Forty (40) of the candidates utilized allotted radio time and a huge number of candidates and their supporters used loud speaker systems either stationary or hand carts and trucks.

Military Government continued to exploit the news channels of the local newspapers, railway station loudspeakers, and CI & E bulletin boards. Also, working through the prefectural election committee, several thousands of copies of election letters were distributed down even to the local households. A copy of these letters is attached. In addition, every member of the Military Government Team interviewed at least four (4) Japanese, questioning these people in such a manner as to stimulate interest in the elections and to get these people themselves to encourage neighbors, friends, and relatives to vote and vote wisely on election days.

20. No violations of election laws were reported to election inspection teams on election day. One major violation and numerous minor cases were uncovered by Japanese authorities who are following them closely. The major offence was reported to SCAP.
21. In general, the House of Representatives election caused more interest, and was better conducted than preceding elections. No criticism was aimed at the conduct of activities of the Occupation Forces and the Japanese election officials cooperated whole-heartedly.

The voting percentage suffered in some areas because rationing was being carried on concurrently with the election. In certain rural areas, farmers found it necessary to spend the entire day in the fields in order to use the irrigation water which was released on election day.

2 Incls:

Election Bulletins (in 4 copies)  
Election Letter



REPORT OF SURVEILLANCE OF HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION  
(Report Control Symbol - QGS - D)

20 April 49

1. Name of Prefecture: SAITAMA
2. Number of registered voters:  
(Men - 526,596  
(Women - 577,943  
(Total - 1,104,539
3. Number of persons actually voting  
for House of Representative  
Candidates:  
(Men - 390,416  
(Women - 302,291  
(Total - 692,707
4. Number of persons claiming registrat-  
ion but found not to be on voting  
list:  
(Men - 37  
(Women - 32  
(Total - 69
5. Number of surveillance teams on  
election day: 15
6. Number of polling places: 946
7. Number of polling places visited: 542
8. Number of ballot counting places: 332
9. Number of ballot counting places visited: 197
10. Candidates purge questionnaires were available at Election Administration  
Committee offices and at Screening Committee offices.
11. At least twice weekly the local newspaper carried notices that  
questionnaires could be examined at the designated offices. In  
many cases, loudspeakers at railroad stations were utilized to publish  
this fact also. Information on screening questionnaires was dis-  
seminated in such a manner as to put across to the Japanese people  
the idea that in the absence of personal knowledge of a candidates  
qualifications, the questionnaires should be consulted.
12. In spite of the publicity mentioned in paragraph 10 (above) only a  
very few persons examined the candidates questionnaires. Upon  
investigation, it was discovered that the Japanese people feel that  
since the candidates were screened and passed, they were all qualified,  
ipsofacto. Hence, they failed to see any necessity for examining  
such records.

*[Handwritten signature]*



13. Number of seats in House of Councillors from this Prefecture: 4

Number of candidates by party:  
Liberals ..... 2  
Democrats (Progressives) ..... 1  
Social Democrats ..... 1  
Communists ..... 1  
Number of Independent candidates ..... 1

Number of candidates actually elected by party:  
Liberals ..... 2  
Democrats (Progressives) ..... 1  
Social Democrats ..... 1  
Number of Independent elected: none

Total number of votes cast for each party:  
Liberals ..... 320,016  
Democrats (Progressives) ..... 97,564  
Social Democrats ..... 139,946  
Communists ..... 27,186  
Total number of votes cast for Independents ..... 41,149

14. No women were elected to the House of Councillors from this Prefecture.

15. Number of pre-election campaign meetings held throughout Prefecture by each party:

Liberals ..... 54  
Democrats (Progressives) ..... 15  
Social Democrats ..... 23  
Communists ..... 22  
Independents campaign meetings ..... 9

16. There was an adequate number of polling places.

17. Four election bulletins are enclosed with this report.

18. Number of pre-election meetings held by Military Government Team:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number of Meetings</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Election Admin. Committees	6	926
Officials	6	346
Candidates	3	6



19. A quite extensive publicity campaign was carried on by candidates and their supporters. In most cases, this was effected by loud-speakers, public meetings, street corner gatherings, handbills, posters and banners. Of the six candidates, five used the allotted radio time. In addition, the local newspapers daily contained advertisements and items on the election. To cut down abstention, election administrative officials placed signboards on public conveyances urging voters to turn out. Sirens and bells were rung at specified intervals to attract the voters' attention. All this was done in addition to posting the official bulletins and anti-abstention posters.

Military Government used the newspapers to a great extent issuing "open letters" and day to day notices. Continued use was made of the seventeen CI & E bulletin boards and of the loud-speakers at railway stations to urge the people to cast their votes. At several of the pre-election Military Government meetings, particularly those held in school halls, a very large number of representatives (1,895) of women's clubs, civic groups and even a number of the older school children were urged to turn their energies to getting out the vote of those persons who are indifferent to the new governmental changes.

20. No violations of election laws were reported to Military Government Inspection Teams.
21. No criticism was voiced in regards to occupation force activities. Military Government received splendid cooperation from the election administration committees who performed their duties efficiently.

At each polling place visited, the inspection team officer interviewed voters to get their reactions to the voting and Japanese government and politics in general. Some of the facts gleaned in these interviews are:

- 1) A printed ballot is in general, preferable, especially in the national elections.
- 2) The idea of so many candidates at large for the House of Councillors is not good. It is difficult to choose among them and many votes are wasted.
- 3) The variation in the number of seats in the House of Councillors is not desirable. The House of Representatives should be the only body whose prefectural representation should vary.



4

Military Government noted that in the course of the elections held thus far, a tremendous political 'inertia' exists. Those persons who are campaigning and those officials of the Japanese and the Military Government find that in many cases the general public is simply not interested in governmental politics and thus the speeches, posters, newspaper items etc. are largely ignored. Voters, particularly women, step up to the polling stations on election day and ask who is running for office. All this in spite of the election stimulus exerted by candidates, officials, and Military Government itself.

1 Incl:

Election Bulletins(in four copies)