

Enclosure No. 2 to Tokyo's No. 414 dated July 6, 1948.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
APO 500

AG 300.6 (18 Feb 48)CPC/CD  
SCAPIN 1845/1

18 February 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

SUBJECT: Application of Provisions of SCAPIN 26, 13 September 1945, and Ministry of Finance Ordinance No. 78, 20 September 1945, As Amended

1. Reference is made to:

a. Memorandum for the Japanese Government, file AG 091.112 (13 Sep 45)MG, SCAPIN 26, 13 September 1945, subject, "Protection of Allied and Axis Property;"

b. Japanese Ministry of Finance Ordinance No. 78, 20 September 1945, as amended;

c. Memorandum for the Japanese Government, file AG 300.6 (12 Jan 48)CPC/FP, SCAPIN 1845, 12 January 1948, subject, "Application of Provisions of SCAPIN 26, 13 September 1945, and Ministry of Finance Ordinance No. 78, 20 September 1945, As Amended."

2. Paragraph 2 of 1 c above is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

"The provisions of reference 1b above and paragraph 1 of reference 1a above, shall apply only to property of non-resident and repatriated Axis nationals, property of Axis governments, property of Axis juridical persons, and property of the following-named Axis nationals now resident in Japan:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Bergmann, Max E.	Kanagawa Ken, Yokohama, Bluff 46b
Broetje, Gerd Otto Clarita Dierk Intje	Hyogo-ken, Kobe-shi, Rokkusan West 11
Frei, Josef Beatrice Claudia Stephanie Inita Egor Marina	Hyogo-ken, Kobe-shi, Ikata-ku, Kitano-cho, 3-chome 42/6



LG 300.6 (18 Feb 48)CPC/CD, SC:PIN 1845/1

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Pawlenka, Arthur Hildegard Alexa Franziska	Hyogo-ken, Kobe-shi, Suma-ku, Shioya-cho, Tenjingahira 358
Meissner, Kurt Hans	Tokyo-to, Omori-ku, Magome-machi, Higashi, 1-chome 1363
Meissner, Hanni	Nagano-ken, Karuizawa 820
Franke, Rudolf Elfriede	Kanagawa-ken, Yokohama, Naka-ku, Shinyamo- shita-cho
Lissner, Ivar	Tokyo-to, Setagaya-ku, Kemi-Kitazawa-machi, 2-chome 893
Balser, Karl Marie	Hyogo-ken, Kobe-shi, Nada-ku, Shinohara, Obanoyama 96/131
Boltze, Erich	Shizuoka-ken, Atami, Koar-shi, Mitsui- besso
Marchtaler, Hans Else	Shizuoka-ken, Atami, Koar-shi, Mitsui- besso"

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 of reference 1a above remain in full force and effect.

FOR THE SUPREME COMMANDER:

*ag Rehe*  
for  
R. M. LEVY,  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.





THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*DC/*  
ACTION  
is assigned to

UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER  
FOR JAPAN

No. 786

RESTRICTED

DIVISION OF  
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

Tokyo, December 16, 1948.

DEC 29 1948

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*No action required  
NA (m)*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*file*

Subject: Purchase and Resale of Agricultural Lands Owned by Persons  
of Dual Nationality.

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEC 21 1948

DC/M  
FACILITIES BRANCH

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to this Mission's despatch No. 414,  
July 6, 1948 regarding application of the Japanese land reform pro-  
gram to United Nations nationals and to land owners outside of Japan.

In this connection there are enclosed copies of a directive  
from this Headquarters to the Japanese Government (SCAPIN 1911/1,  
December 4, 1948) authorizing the Japanese Government to treat as  
Japanese nationals persons so registered in the records of Japan and  
to notify owners when their land is purchased in accordance with the  
land reform program. It is also provided that owners shall have the  
opportunity to prove that they do not possess Japanese nationality.  
As stated in despatch no. 414, it has been decided that the land  
reform program should apply to persons of dual nationality one of  
which is Japanese.

The Japanese Government has been instructed to submit a report  
to this Headquarters describing the procedure it intends to follow  
in notifying owners of the purchase of their land. In the case of  
owners in Japan it is anticipated that the Japanese Government will  
notify them directly by mail or by publicity in the press concerning  
the sale of their land.

The procedure for notifying persons outside of Japan, however,  
has not yet been decided. Existing SCAP regulations prohibit  
communications by the Japanese Government to points outside of Japan  
and furthermore no Japanese are permitted to send abroad "papers of  
legal procedures". This Mission has taken the position, in the  
absence of a change in policy regarding Japanese foreign relations,  
that, because of the legal and diplomatic problems connected with the  
land reform program, communications from the Japanese Government to  
dual nationals or to presumed Japanese nationals resident abroad  
should be transmitted through this Headquarters. This position will  
be asserted when the time comes for a decision by this Headquarters in  
regard to the procedure for notifying owners abroad.

An ancillary problem now being considered by this Headquarters  
is that of the procedure to be followed in allowing the Japanese

RESTRICTED

Government

ACTION  
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COPIES  
TO:

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894.52/12-1648

FEB 6-1950

FILED

CS/A

SCAPIN 413?

*894.52/12-1648*

FOR REF Unit  
*[Handwritten notes]*



Tokyo's No. 786  
December 16, 1948  
RESTRICTED

- 2 -

Government to correspond with Japanese nationals abroad who wish to renounce their Japanese citizenship. Several Japanese-Americans in the United States have, in letters to the Japanese Government or to this Headquarters, indicated a desire to renounce their Japanese nationality, in one or two cases as a result of the hope that they can thereby prevent the application of the land reform program to their property in Japan.

*why not?*  
Existing SCAP regulations, as noted above, prohibit communications on such matters by the Japanese Government to points abroad. It is likely that this Headquarters will decide to permit communications between the Japanese Government and Japanese abroad in regard to renunciation of Japanese nationality, although such renunciation at this time would not affect the application of the land reform program to land in Japan.

Respectfully yours,

*W. J. Sebald*  
W. J. Sebald

Enclosure: *att K*  
Five copies of SCAPIN 1911/1

852  
RBFinn/eg

Original and  ozalid to Department.

RESTRICTED

*RRM*



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
APO 500

AG 004 (19 Jun 48 )CPC/FP  
SCAFIN 1911/1

4 December 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

SUBJECT: Purchase and Resale of Agricultural Lands Owned by  
Persons of Dual Nationality

1. Reference is made to memorandum for the Japanese Government, file AG 004 (19 Jun 48)CPC/FP, SCAFIN 1911, 19 June 1948, subject, "Application for General Permission to Dispose of Properties in Japan Owned by Persons Outside of Japan According to Law Concerning Special Measures for Establishment of Owner-Farmer," from General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.
2. In implementing reference 1 above, the Japanese Government is authorized to consider as Japanese nationals persons so registered in the records of Japan.
3. In cases in which there is doubt as to the correctness of the records with regard to determining nationality, the land may be purchased by the Japanese Government but will not be disposed of at this time. This procedure will afford an opportunity for the owner to submit proof that he does not possess Japanese nationality. When such proof is submitted, the purchase of the land will be cancelled.
4. The Japanese Government will notify owners when their land is purchased. A report of the procedure to be followed in notification of the owners will be furnished General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers within fifteen (15) days of the date of this memorandum.

FOR THE SUPREME COMMANDER:

*ag Rehe*  
for *A. M. LEVY*  
Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General.



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
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4 December 1948

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SCAFIN 1911/1

4 December 1948

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FOR THE SUPREME COMMANDER:

*W. M. Levy*  
for  
W. M. LEVY  
Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General



**DO NOT DETACH THIS FORM**

RECORD COPY

THE ATTACHED COPY OF A  DESPATCH  TELEGRAM  AIRGRAM  
HAS BEEN DESIGNATED THE RECORD COPY TO REPLACE THE ORIGINAL  
ACTION COPY WHICH WAS NOT RETURNED TO THE CENTRAL RECORDS BY  
THE ACTION OFFICE.

THIS COPY MUST BE RETURNED TO DC/R FOR FILING.

**FILE NO.**

894.52/12-1648

TOKYO

DESP.

786

FILED

AUG 30 1949

BB



FE

DEC 28 1948

UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER  
FOR JAPAN

No. 786

RESTRICTED

Tokyo, December 16, 1948.

Subject: Purchase and Resale of Agricultural Lands Owned by Persons  
of Dual Nationality.The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.Rec'd  
DEC 21

Sir:

ACTION  
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I have the honor to refer to this Mission's despatch No. 414, July 6, 1948 regarding application of the Japanese land reform program to United Nations nationals and to land owners outside of Japan.

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In this connection there are enclosed copies of a directive from this Headquarters to the Japanese Government (SCAPIN 1911/1, December 4, 1948) authorizing the Japanese Government to treat as Japanese nationals persons so registered in the records of Japan and to notify owners when their land is purchased in accordance with the land reform program. It is also provided that owners shall have the opportunity to prove that they do not possess Japanese nationality. As stated in despatch no. 414, it has been decided that the land reform program should apply to persons of dual nationality one of which is Japanese.

The Japanese Government has been instructed to submit a report to this Headquarters describing the procedure it intends to follow in notifying owners of the purchase of their land. In the case of owners in Japan it is anticipated that the Japanese Government will notify them directly by mail or by publicity in the press concerning the sale of their land.

The procedure for notifying persons outside of Japan, however, has not yet been decided. Existing SCAP regulations prohibit communications by the Japanese Government to points outside of Japan and furthermore no Japanese are permitted to send abroad "papers of legal procedures". This Mission has taken the position, in the absence of a change in policy regarding Japanese foreign relations, that, because of the legal and diplomatic problems connected with the land reform program, communications from the Japanese Government to dual nationals or to presumed Japanese nationals resident abroad should be transmitted through this Headquarters. This position will be asserted when the time comes for a decision by this Headquarters in regard to the procedure for notifying owners abroad.

An ancillary problem now being considered by this Headquarters is that of the procedure to be followed in allowing the Japanese

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Government

894.52/12-1648



Tokyo's No. 786  
December 16, 1948  
RESTRICTED

- 2 -

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Respectfully yours,

W. J. Sebald

Enclosure:  
Five copies of SCAPIN 1911/1

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**ACTION**  
is assigned to

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC PROPERTY  
POLICY

*H. A. R. P. file*  
FEB 21 1949  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*2/23/49*

United States Political Adviser  
for Japan

Tokyo, February 11, 1949

No. 90

UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY  
Return to DC/R Files  
when ACTION is com-  
pleted.

*OFD*  
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Subject: Return of Personal Property to Members of Philippine  
Puppet Government

The Acting Political Adviser has the honor to enclose a copy of a press release issued by this Headquarters on February 4, 1949, announcing that the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers has approved the return, upon identification, of personal property, which had been impounded by the Civil Property Custodian of this Headquarters, to the families of Jose P. LAUREL, Bonigno AQUINO, Camilo OSIAS, and Jorge B. VARGAS, all of whom were members of the wartime puppet government in the Philippines.

The press release states that restitution at the present time will include the property of only the Laurel and Osias families and that the property of the others will be returned later.

894.52/2-1149

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
1949 FEB 18 PM 1 27  
FACILITIES BRANCH

Enclosure: *att*

Copy of Press Release  
dated February 4, 1949

236  
RBFinn:hh

Copy to American Consulate  
General, Manila

Original and hectograph ✓  
to Department

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FEB 25 1949

DMR

*P.B.O.*



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Enclosure to Despatch No. 90 of February 11, 1949 from the United States Political Adviser for Japan, Tokyo, subject: "Return of Personal Property to Members of Philippine Puppet Government."

COPY

Press Release by General Headquarters, February 4, 1949:

VALUABLE JEWELS RETURNED TO OWNERS

Jewels claimed by the Philippine government to be the property of Mrs. Jose R. Laurel, wife of the former president of the puppet government of the Philippines, were to be turned over Friday to the Philippine government, it was announced today by Brig. Gen. Patrick H. Tansley, SCAP's Civil Property Custodian.

An official statement as follows was made by the Chief of Staff: "SCAP has approved, upon identification, restoration of personal property of Mrs. Jose P. Laurel and her five children, and Mrs. Bonigno Aquino, Mr. and Mrs. Camilo Osias and Mr. George D. Vargas."

The restitution will include only the property of the Laurel and Osias families. Personal properties of Vargas and Aquino do not include jewels, and will be returned at a later date. Among the valuables to be returned will be at least a dozen diamond rings, one of which weighs in excess of eight karats. Several seven-karat diamond rings are also included. Insured value of the jewels was approximately \$100,000.

Former President Laurel served as leader of the Philippine government during the Japanese occupation and in May 1945 he and his family left the Philippines and fled to Formosa. Following the liberation of the Philippines, Ex-president Laurel was exonerated in a people's court of having collaborated with the Japanese. Vargas, who was ambassador from the Philippines to Japan during Japan's occupation of the islands, was also cleared of collaboration charges. The Philippine court which granted amnesty to the pair did so on the grounds that while members of the government during Japan's occupation, they acted under duress.

The jewels which are being returned to the Philippine government were the property of the Laurel and Osias families when they fled the Philippines, according to statements made by the present Philippine government which has repeatedly sought the return of the jewels on the basis that they are possessions of Philippine citizens.

Counter Intelligence Corps agents originally took possession of the jewels.

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*file*

DIVISION OF  
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS  
MAR 5 1949  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

United States Political Adviser  
for Japan

No. 154.

Tokyo, March 10, 1949.

UNCLASSIFIED

*Action Taken Mar 30, 1948  
in green.*

REC'D  
MAR 21

ACTION  
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Subject: Notification of Japanese Land Reform Program to  
Absentee Owners of Land in Japan.

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The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to this Mission's despatches  
no. 2 of January 3, 1949 and no. 786 of December 16, 1948,  
forwarding information concerning application of the Japanese  
land reform program to land owned by absentee owners and by  
persons of dual nationality one of which is Japanese. As  
indicated in despatch no. 786, the Japanese Government was  
directed to submit a report to Headquarters describing the  
procedure it intended to follow in notifying owners of the  
purchase of their land.

The Japanese Government has now requested General Head-  
quarters to transmit to governments of countries in which no  
foreign power represent Japan information of a general nature  
concerning the application of the land reform. Forwarded here-  
with is a copy of a memorandum of February 11, 1949, from the  
Foreign Office of the Japanese Government to General Headquarters,  
containing this request and enclosing the information which the  
Japanese Government desires to be conveyed to the Governments of  
Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela, as well as to the United States  
Government.

The Department's good offices both in appropriately pub-  
licizing in the United States and in transmitting to the Govern-  
ments of Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela the information contained  
in the enclosure to the Foreign Office's memorandum of February 11,  
1949, would be appreciated.

*done* →

Respectfully yours,

Enclosure:

*W. J. Sebald*  
W. J. Sebald

Copy of memorandum of  
February 11, 1949, from  
Foreign Office of Japanese  
Government to General Head-  
quarters.

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RBFinn:hh  
Parchment Mat to the Department.  
Unclassified

894.52/3-1649

FILED  
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APR 6 1949

ACTION COPY

RETURN TO DC/R FILES WITHIN 14 DAYS, WITH A NOTATION OF ACTION TAKEN.



UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure to Despatch No. 154 of March 16, 1949 from the United States Political Adviser for Japan, Tokyo, subject: "Notification of Japanese Land Reform Program to Absentee Owners of Land in Japan."

COPY

TO: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS.

THROUGH: Central Liaison and Coordination Office, Tokyo.

FROM: Foreign Office, Japanese Government.

SUBJECT: Purchase of Agricultural Lands in Japan Owned by Japanese Residents Abroad.

No. 12/CJ

11 February 1949.

1. Reference is made to -

a. C.L.C. Memorandum No. 4920 (RJ), 25 June 1947, subject: "Request for Forwarding Explanatory Note concerning New Farm Land Reform Law in Japan."

b. SCAP Memorandum, file AG 004 (19 June 48) CPC/FP, SCAPIN 1911, 19 June 1948, subject: "Application for General Permission to Dispose of Properties in Japan Owned by Persons Outside of Japan according to Law concerning Special Measures for Establishment of Owner Farmers."

c. SCAP Memorandum, file AG 004 (19 June 48) CPC/FP, SCAPIN 1911/1, 4 December 1948, subject: "Purchase and Resale of Agricultural Lands Owned by Persons of Dual Nationality."

2. Based on the authority given by the Memoranda, reference b. and c. above, the Japanese Government is going to purchase agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad, and accordingly it is desirous of making known universally among the Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection as explained in the enclosure herewith.

3. In the six countries, namely, the United States of America (mainland), Canada, Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, and Argentina, where no foreign power represents Japan in the matter of protection of Japanese interest, there is no means of making the necessary information universally available for the Japanese residents. Under such circumstances, therefore, the Japanese Government wishes to request the General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, kindly to forward the enclosed explanation to the authorities concerned of the respective countries with the request that all the Japanese residents may be duly informed of the matter.

FOR THE MINISTER:

(Eiji Wajima)

Director of Bureau of Control.

Enclosure: Explanation on the  
Purchase of Agricultural Lands  
in Japan Owned by Japanese  
Residents Abroad.

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Enclosure to Tokyo's  
Despatch No. 154 of  
March 15, 1949.

On the Purchase of Agricultural Lands in Japan Owned by Japanese  
Residents Abroad

The Japanese Government with the aim of establishing the democratization of the agricultural land system after the war, enacted the Law concerning Special Measures for Establishment of Owner Farmers, etc., on October 21, 1946, and decided to purchase the whole of agricultural lands owned by persons who do not live at the place where such lands are located and, in the case of owners living where their agricultural lands are located but not attending to the cultivation thereof themselves, the portion of such lands in excess of a certain area (4 "cho" in Hokkaido and averagely about 1 "cho" in the Metropolis and other prefectures), as of November 23, 1945, and to resell the lands so purchased to farmers actually engaged in their cultivation.

For the agricultural lands owned by Japanese residents abroad (including those of dual nationality), however, the application of the said provisions was delayed. But it has been decided this time that the agricultural lands owned by all Japanese residents abroad who are registered as Japanese nationals in the records ("koseki") of Japan, as of the date of enactment of the said Law concerning Special Measures for Establishment of Owner Farmers, namely, October 21, 1946, should be purchased.

It is provided, however, that persons who are registered as Japanese nationals in the records of Japan, as of October 21, 1946, but who had really lost Japanese nationality and become foreign nationals prior to the said date may submit applications for the cancellation of the purchase to the Japanese Government (Minister of Agriculture and Forestry) within a period of twelve months from the date of purchase, together with the documents issued by the official authorities concerned which are competent enough to prove the fact, and that the Japanese Government, on confirming such fact, will take the step of cancelling the purchase.

When the Japanese Government has purchased any agricultural lands owned by Japanese residents abroad, the writs of purchase of such lands will be sent direct to the owners of such lands by registered mail from the Governors of Tokyo Metropolis, Hokkaido or other prefectures concerned, as may be the case, together with inquiries whether or not those owners are holders of Japanese nationality. It is suggested, however, that the application for cancellation of purchase, as mentioned above, may be presented together with relevant documents, immediately instead of waiting for the arrival of the said writs of purchase.

It is to be added that the amounts paid as consideration for the agricultural lands bought by the Government will have officially to be deposited for safe-keeping.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

\* 1 cho = 2.5 acres.



DRAFT

TO: SA/M - Mr. White  
FROM: NA - Mr. Bishop

The Department of State has been requested by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, on behalf of the Japanese Government, to give appropriate publicity in the United States and elsewhere to the purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad.

Since the Japanese Government is about to purchase agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad, it is desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection as explained in the attachment to this memorandum.

The Department is transmitting this information to various governments. It is suggested that appropriate publicity might be given the matter in the United States through a press release based on the attachment herewith, as well as through letters which this Division proposes to send to the editors of leading Japanese language papers in the United States.

Attachment:

NA: MGreen:br  
3-30-49



MWB

*for clearance*D R A F T  
3-30-49

Identic notes to Cuba, Venezuela

The Department of State has been requested by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, on behalf of the Japanese Government, to transmit to the Government of <sup>Cuba</sup> ~~Colombia~~ as well as to other governments not represented in Japan certain information on the purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad.

The Japanese Government is about to proceed with the purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad, including persons of dual nationality one of which is Japanese. The Japanese Government is accordingly desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection as explained in the enclosure to this memorandum.

*Enclosure - memorandum of Japanese Govt.*

FE:NA:MGreen:br



*Sent to the Venezuelan Embassy*

*# 154 Tokyo  
894.52/3-1649*

The Department of State has been requested by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, on behalf of the Japanese Government, to transmit to the Government of Venezuela as well as to other governments not represented in Japan certain information on the purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad.

894.52/3-1649

The Japanese Government is about to proceed with the purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad, including persons of dual nationality one of which is Japanese. The Japanese Government is accordingly desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection as explained in the enclosure to this memorandum.

CS/A

Enclosure:

Memorandum of Japanese Government.

Department of State,

Washington, April 7, 1949

FE:NA:MGreen:clh

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APR 7 1949*

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*894.52/3-1649*

*ARA  
MC:W,MS  
FE*



*Sent to Colombian Embassy*

The Department of State has been requested by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, on behalf of the Japanese Government, to transmit to the Government of Colombia as well as to other governments not represented in Japan certain information on the purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad.

The Japanese Government is about to proceed with the purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad, including persons of dual nationality one of which is Japanese. The Japanese Government is accordingly desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection as explained in the enclosure to this memorandum.

894.52/3-1649

CS/A

DOE - ITP Unit

Encl. *UP*

Exp. *UP*

*ms*

Enclosure:

Memorandum of Japanese Government.

*216 CR*  
APR 7 1949

Department of State,

*AMND* Washington, April 7, 1949  
FE:NA:MGreen:clh *mg* 4/1/49

*FIE*

*NWC*  
*KY*

*ABA*

*894.52/3-1649*



*Sent to Cuban Embassy*

The Department of State has been requested by the  
 Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, on behalf  
 of the Japanese Government, to transmit to the Government  
 of Cuba as well as to other governments not represented  
 in Japan certain information on the purchase of agricul-  
 tural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad.

The Japanese Government is about to proceed with the  
 purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese  
 residents abroad, including persons of dual nationality  
 one of which is Japanese. The Japanese Government is  
 accordingly desirous of making known universally among  
 Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this  
 connection as explained in the enclosure to this memorandum.

894.52/3-1649

CS/A

Enclosure:

DOE - IEP Unit	
Anal.	<i>as</i>
Rev.	<i>as</i>
Gen.	<i>ms</i>

✓ Memorandum of Japanese Government.

Department of State,

APR 7 1949 Washington, April 7, 1949

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FE:NA:MGreen:clh

4/1/49

*A true copy of the original*

*DM CRB ARA*  
*FE*

*894.52/3-1649*



*RC/R*

April 4, 1949

Dear Sirs:

*Circular*

As you may know, the Japanese Government is about to purchase agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese abroad and is desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection. These facts are set forth in the enclosure herewith, which was prepared by the Japanese Government.

I am sending the enclosure to you informally with the thought that you may wish to give it notice in your newspaper.

Very truly yours,

*MWB*  
Max W. Bishop  
Chief,  
Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

894.52/4-449

PCR - TIP Unit	
<i>gjs</i>	
<i>EPH</i>	
Dist	<i>FDY</i>

Enclosure:

As stated.

Hokubei Mainichi,  
1471 Sutter Street,  
San Francisco, California.

*mg.*  
FE:NA:MGreen:br:clh  
4/4/49

*Certified*  
*P. M. [initials]*  
CS [initials]  
894.52/4-449



*W.C./P*

April 4, 1949

Dear Sirs:

As you may know, the Japanese Government is about to purchase agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese abroad and is desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection. These facts are set forth in the enclosure herewith, which was prepared by the Japanese Government.

I am sending the enclosure to you informally with the thought that you may wish to give it notice in your newspaper.

Very truly yours,

*Max W. Bishop*  
Max W. Bishop  
Chief,

Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

Northwest Times,  
304 Main Street,  
Seattle, Washington.

*MLA*  
FE:NA:MGreen:br:clh  
4/4/49*Certified:  
P. McK*



*alc/α*

April 4, 1949

Dear Sirs:

As you may know, the Japanese Government is about to purchase agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese abroad and is desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection. These facts are set forth in the enclosure herewith, which was prepared by the Japanese Government.

I am sending the enclosure to you informally with the thought that you may wish to give it notice in your newspaper.

Very truly yours,

*MWB*

Max W. Bishop  
Chief,

Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

Rafu Shimpo,

104 N. Los Angeles St.,

Los Angeles, California.

*Certified:  
P. MCK.*

*ML*  
FE:NA:MGreen:br:clh  
4/4/49



*WC/R*

April 4, 1949

Dear Sirs:

As you may know, the Japanese Government is about to purchase agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese abroad and is desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection. These facts are set forth in the enclosure herewith, which was prepared by the Japanese Government.

I am sending the enclosure to you informally with the thought that you may wish to give it notice in your newspaper.

Very truly yours,

*Signed*Max W. Bishop  
Chief,

Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

Hokubei Shimpo,

11 West 18th Street,

New York, N. Y.

*my*  
FE:NA:MGreen:br:clh  
4/4/49*Certified  
P. Mack.*



*BC/R*

April 4, 1949

Dear Sirs:

As you may know, the Japanese Government is about to purchase agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese abroad and is desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection. These facts are set forth in the enclosure herewith, which was prepared by the Japanese Government.

I am sending the enclosure to you informally with the thought that you may wish to give it notice in your newspaper.

Very truly yours,

*Max W. Bishop*

Max W. Bishop  
Chief,  
Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

Chicago Shimpō,  
1325 East 47th Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

*ml.*

FE:NA:MGreen:br:clh  
4/4/49

*Certified  
P. Sack*



*DC/R*

April 4, 1949

Dear Sirs:

As you may know, the Japanese Government is about to purchase agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese abroad and is desirous of making known universally among Japanese nationals residing overseas the facts in this connection. These facts are set forth in the enclosure herewith, which was prepared by the Japanese Government.

I am sending the enclosure to you informally with the thought that you may wish to give it notice in your newspaper.

Very truly yours,

*Max W. Bishop*Max W. Bishop  
Chief,

Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

Colorado Times,  
P.O. Box 296,  
Denver, Colorado.

*mq*FE:NA:MGreen;br:clh  
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P. M. CR*



*Copy to Tokyo? miss → HL*

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EMBAJADA DE CUBA  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DIVISION OF  
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

APR 18 1949

*MWB*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*894.52  
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ARA*

The Embassy of Cuba presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of note of April 7, 1949, transmitting, at the request of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan on behalf of the Japanese Government, a Memorandum containing certain information on the purchase of agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad.

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1949 APR 14 PM 4 56

RECORDS BRANCH

894.52/4-1349

In accordance with the request of the Department, said Memorandum has been transmitted to the Government of Cuba.

April 13, 1949.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
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DIVISION OF NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS  
EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA  
WASHINGTON

APR 22 1949  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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→ AK

The Colombian Embassy has been pleased

to transmit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Co-

lombia the information contained in the Department's

note of April 7, 1949, regarding the purchase of a -

gricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents

abroad, including persons of dual nationality one of

which is Japanese.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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RECORDS BRANCH

Washington, D. C., April 19, 1949

Department of State

Washington, D. C.

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Dist.	<i>WAS</i>

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*file*

To: A-C-Mr. Martin

FROM: FE-Mr. Fearey

Subject: Agrarian Reform during the Occupation of Japan

Since sending members of the economic divisions copies of the enclosed paper, "Japan: Occupation Period: Agrarian Reform", I have had the benefit of Messrs. Dickover's, Williams', Johansen's and others' criticisms, which have led me to revise my views somewhat. I hope that your group will be able to consider this paper shortly in the light of the following changes and clarifications:

1. There should be no attempt at comprehensive agrarian reform in the immediate post-hostilities period, i.e. probably for six months or more. Only after a fair measure of economic stability has been achieved, and food production and distribution have been restored to satisfactory working order should the possibility of instituting a reform program be considered. This may mean the dissipation of part of the spontaneous pressure for reform likely to exist among the farming class, which pressure will probably be greatest immediately before and following surrender, but this would seem unavoidable. During this emergency period, however, the military authorities should, where possible, avoid suppressing spontaneous efforts of the farmers in their own behalf and, consistent with the effective production and distribution

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of foodstuffs, should not enforce regular payments of rents, interest, and other obligations should the peasantry refuse to meet these obligations.

2. At the end of the emergency period the occupation authorities should take note of any spontaneous movements for agrarian reform appearing among the Japanese farming classes (led, possibly, by university professors, government officials, political leaders and others, in addition to local or provincial farm leaders) and of the attitude of other classes of the population in the matter. If there is a reform movement of substantial proportions which is sympathetically received, or at least is not strongly opposed by other classes in the population, except the landlords, the military government, with the approval of the appropriate authorities in Washington,



-2-

should afford it its encouragement and support. Such encouragement and support might be in the nature of a "green light" to Japanese individuals and organizations pressing the cause of agrarian reform to draw up a reform program to be initiated with the approval and under the authority of military government.

3. In order that the occupation authorities may be in a position properly to appraise, and, if its advice is sought, guide the preparation of the reform program presented to it for approval and support, a tentative reform program should be drawn up by the State, Agriculture and, possibly, other Government departments and agencies for use at the time. This program, when completed, would not receive formal Government approval, but would simply be held in readiness until its proper use, if any, could be determined during the occupation period.

4. Japanese leaders desirous of instituting a program of agrarian reform would be told during the above mentioned emergency period that a program which appeared to be widely supported by the Japanese people would receive the blessing and support of the military government.

My personal preference would be for the military government to assume greater initiative in the matter. However, the important thing for the present, as I see it, is that the problem be thoroughly studied by the appropriate agencies of the Government and that we be prepared for whatever course may be decided upon later. I therefore propose that the above principles, which have been supported by those with whom I have discussed the matter in recent weeks, be accepted as the basis of approach to the problem.

Mr. Ladejinsky's Civil Affairs Guide "Food and Agriculture Program for Japan" was approved with certain changes at a meeting in the Agriculture Department last Monday, May 28. It was agreed however, that the section in the guide on land reform in Japan during the occupation period should be deleted. This was decided, however, with Mr. Ladejinsky's approval, only after I had assured the Committee that it was my understanding that the question of whether the matter of agrarian reform during the occupation period might profitably be studied in the Government was under consideration in the Department, and that a decision would be reached as soon as possible.

I hope



-3-

I hope you will not consider out of place my interest in this matter, which derives from the period when I was working primarily on Japan economic problems.

I have taken the liberty of sending you in another envelope copies of some of the papers I wrote during that period, certain parts of which may be of reference value in your work.

FE/R:RAF:11b





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Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Action Office Symbol NA

Name of Officer No. 377 in file

*WR*  
DIVISION OF  
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS  
Office of the United States  
Political Adviser for Japan  
Tokyo, June 13, 1949.  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 23 1949

REC'D Direction DC/RD File  
JUNE 21

894.52/6-1349

Subject: Headquarters Survey of Attitudes of Japanese Farmers.

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The Chargé d'Affaires ad interim has the honor to enclose two copies of a survey dated May 21, 1949, entitled "Attitudes of Farmers toward Rural Problems". This survey, which was prepared by the Civil Information and Education Section of General Headquarters, is based on interviews with 100 heads of farm households in each of thirteen rural villages scattered throughout Japan and is intended to represent a sample not of rural opinion generally but of the opinion of heads of farm households. The interviews were conducted during November and December of 1948 by officials of Headquarters together with an official from the United States Department of Agriculture.

The opinions recorded in the enclosed survey reflect uneasiness among all classes of farmers concerning the present economic situation and future prospects. A majority of the farmers interviewed felt that the land reform program had been beneficial. The enclosed survey also indicates that some of the farmers are not yet fully acquainted with various reforms and procedures instituted at the behest of the Occupation and that there is still a strong tendency on the part of farmers to think in terms of prewar social patterns.

The enclosed survey is a preliminary report by those officials who studied rural conditions in November and December 1948. A full report based on these studies is now being prepared.

Enclosure: *[Handwritten mark]*

Two copies of survey dated May 21, 1949, by Civil Information and Education Section, "Attitudes of Farmers toward Rural Problems".

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JUL 14 1952

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RETURN TO DC/R FILES WITHIN 14 DAYS, WITH A NOTATION OF ACTION TAKEN.

*[Handwritten initials]*



Enclosure to Despatch No. 377 dated June 13, 1949, from USPOLAD, Tokyo,  
R E S T R I C T E D subject: Headquarters Survey

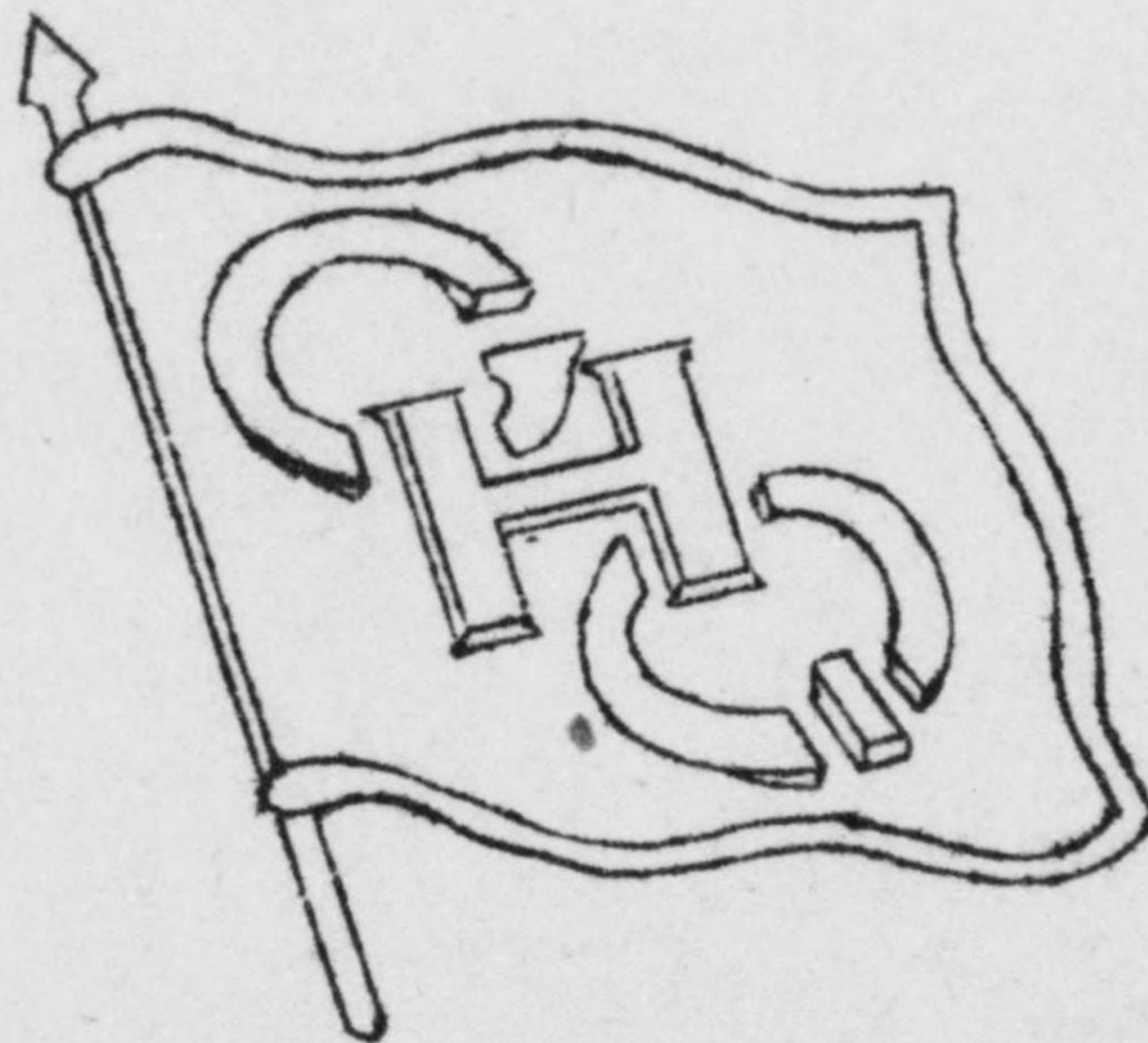
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of Attitudes of Japanese  
Farmers".

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Civil Information and Education Section  
in conjunction with  
Natural Resources Section

## SURVEY SERIES

ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS



Public Opinion and Sociological Research Division  
21 May 1949

R E S T R I C T E D

**RESTRICTED**



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R E S T R I C T E D

## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Foreword	i
Introduction	ii
Summary	1
I General Economic Problems of Farmers	4
II Use of Appeal Procedures	10
III Attitudes Toward the Land Reform Program	13
IV Landlord-Tenant Relations	18
V Attitudes Toward the Local Land Commissions	22
VI Attitudes Toward the Village Agricultural Cooperatives	29
VII Attitudes Toward the Inheritance of Land	32
VIII Use of Information Media	35

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Enclosure to Despatch No. 377 dated June 13, 1949, from USPOLAD, Tokyo,  
R E S T R I C T E D subject: Headquarters Survey

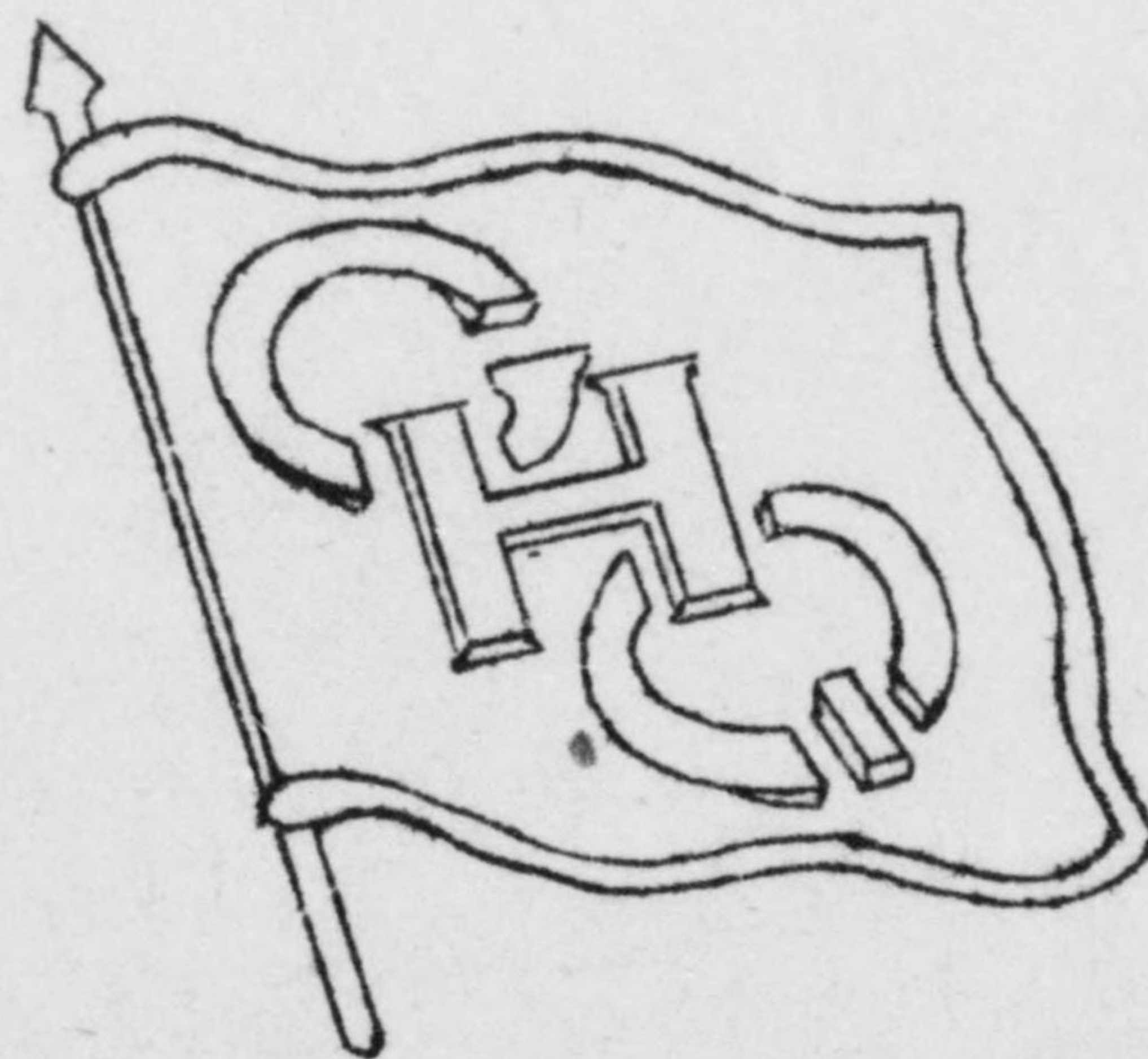
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of Attitudes of Japanese  
Farmers".

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Civil Information and Education Section  
in conjunction with  
Natural Resources Section

## SURVEY SERIES

ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS



Public Opinion and Sociological Research Division  
21 May 1949

R E S T R I C T E D

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Surveys published in this series represent studies conducted by this Division or by this Division in cooperation with other organizations. These studies are designed to provide information either requested by SCAP staff sections or by Eighth Army Military Government, or deemed to be of concern to them.

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## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Foreword	i
Introduction	ii
Summary	1
I General Economic Problems of Farmers	4
II Use of Appeal Procedures	10
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## FOREWORD

During November and December of 1948, Dr. Arthur F. Raper, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Natural Resources and the Civil Information and Education Sections of General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, conducted a survey of 13 rural villages in Japan.

The purpose of the survey was primarily to assess changes -- particularly those concerning the effects of the land reform program -- which had taken place in the villages since a similar survey made in May and June of 1947. A forthcoming report will present the general findings of the 1948 survey.

The present report contains only the materials obtained from a questionnaire submitted to heads of farm households in the villages. It is being published in advance of the complete report so that Military Government Teams, SCAP staff sections, and other organizations having an operational or a policy mission may have these findings at their disposal as soon as possible. For a detailed description of life in the villages, and for final conclusions and recommendations, the reader is referred to the forthcoming report.

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## INTRODUCTION

During a survey of 13 rural villages throughout Japan<sup>1</sup> conducted in November and December, 1948, a questionnaire was given to a sample of the heads of farm households in each village. The sample was not intended to be a representative cross section of the population of rural communities throughout Japan, but only a sample of the heads of farm households<sup>2</sup> of

---

1. A list of the villages surveyed follows:

Ebetsu, Hokkaido  
Mizuwake, Iwate Prefecture  
Yokogoshi, Niigata Prefecture  
Nobuta, Nagano Prefecture  
Karako, Saitama Prefecture  
Futomi, Chiba Prefecture  
Kawashiro, Shizuoka Prefecture  
Nikaido, Nara Prefecture  
Obie, Okayama Prefecture  
Aioi, Kagawa Prefecture  
Yoshida, Shimane Prefecture  
Suye, Kumamoto Prefecture

2. In each village, it was found that between five and 10 of the selected heads of farm households were unable to appear personally to fill out a questionnaire. In such cases, another member of the family (usually a wife or a son) filled out the questionnaire.

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the selected villages.<sup>3</sup> It is, therefore, a sample of a specialized group and should be interpreted as such.

3. However with respect to tenure status, the sample percentages correspond very closely to those found in the total rural population.

Tenure Status as of September 1946				
Category	The sample		All Japan*	
	Number of heads of households	Percentage of all respondents	Number of households	Percentage of all farmers
Tenants	599	46.08%	2,427,495	44.88%
Owner-cultivators	594	45.69	2,446,433	45.23
Landlords	93	7.15	535,412	9.89
Unknown**	14	1.08		
	1,300	100.00%	5,409,340	100.00%

\* Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Based upon number of registered voting households for the 1946 land commission elections.

\*\* Fourteen respondents failed to note their status on their questionnaire. The responses to these questionnaires were omitted in this analysis in all tenure status breakdowns.

Tenure Status as of November-December 1948				
Category	The sample		All Japan*	
	Number of heads of households	Percentage of all respondents	Number of households	Percentage of all farmers
Tenants	113	8.69%	**	8.3%
Owner-cultivators	1121	86.23		83.8
Landlords	52	4.00		7.9
Unknown	14	1.08		
	1,300	100.00%	5,909,227***	100.00%

\* Estimates only. Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

\*\* Exact figures for subtotals not available.

\*\*\* As of 1947. Source: Monthly Statistical Bulletin, No. 115, August 1948, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

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Because of time and staff limitations, the size of the sample in each village was limited to approximately 100 respondents. Exactly 100 heads of farm households were selected in each village, regardless of the total number of farm households. These individuals were selected from the Land Commission election registry for 1946. These registries contain information concerning all farmers in a village: the size of their family, the size of their holdings, the amount of land rented to or from others, and the location of their home. They were used in this study as the basis for selecting the sample partly because they are complete, accurate, and accessible, but largely because they contain information upon which a sample based upon tenure status prior to the land reform could be drawn. The 1946 entries in these registries were made current as of the date of the sample, i.e., death and other personal changes not related to land reform were taken into consideration. The sample, therefore, contains landlords, tenants, and owner-cultivators in proportion to their numbers in September 1946, and was so constructed in order to reflect the reactions of each group to the land reform program.

In each village the 100 cases were selected by the technique of stratified random sampling. That is, they were selected randomly from the registry in proportion to the number of landlords, tenants, and owner-cultivators in each village as of 1946. It is believed that this method of sampling has resulted in a sampling error ranging between one and seven percent per village, depending upon the proportion of responses in any given answer category.

School teachers were trained in each village to administer the questionnaire. The individuals selected for the sample came to the school building or the village office and filled out the questionnaire themselves. A small proportion of cases in each village sample were interviewed directly by the researchers in order to test the general validity and meanings of responses. Respondents were asked not to reveal their names and were urged to be completely frank and honest in their responses.

Limitations of space do not permit the inclusion of all of the survey data obtained. Only those tabulations which seem to have the most significance have been included. For purposes of uniformity, all "no response" answers have been excluded from the percentage calculations, unless stated otherwise. Similarly, all representations by tenure status and all references to tenure status are on the basis of pre-land reform tenure status, unless otherwise stated. This has been done for two reasons. First, it results in a more accurate analysis of the opinions and reactions of the tenure groups most affected by the land reform program, the pre-land reform tenants and landlords, and second, it is a representation which reflects the criteria used in the sample design.

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It should be noted that the terms used to describe tenure status in this report may not always correspond to the commonly accepted definitions of the words, but rather refer to the definitions used in land reform legislation.<sup>4</sup> A tenant is defined as a person engaging in cultivation who either owns no agricultural land or who cultivates at least twice as much land as he owns; a landlord as a person who does not cultivate the land he owns or who owns at least twice as much land as he cultivates; and an owner-cultivator as a person who cultivates, but who does not belong in either of the previous categories.

The number of individuals or items represented by each 100 percent has been designated by the symbol "n."

Because of the scope of the survey of rural villages, the questionnaire contained a wide variety of questions. Some of them were intended to secure factual material concerning the lives of the farmers, and others to obtain opinions and attitudes. In this analysis the questions have been subsumed under eight chapter headings. Each chapter contains a brief background statement, and an analysis of the responses to the questions which pertain to the subject of the chapter. Space limitations have prohibited the presentation of all of the tabular materials, and only those representations which bear most directly upon the subject under discussion have been included. However, representations of the data which might conflict with the general interpretations made have not been excluded; the materials which have been excluded are those which offer only supplementary evidence.

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4. Agricultural Land Adjustment Law, Law Number 42, 22 October 1946.

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R E S T R I C T E D

## SUMMARY

General Economic Problems of Farmers

There is evidence of considerable and widespread uneasiness among all classes of farmers concerning their current economic situation and their prospects for the near future. A majority of all farmers felt that their living conditions had worsened in the last year. Income taxes, the clothing shortage, and the general high prices are frequent sources of hardship. Most of the farmers either definitely expect an agricultural depression or are afraid that one may come.

Use of Appeal Procedures

A majority of the farmers in all tenure groups were aware of the fact that appeal procedures are available. More farmers knew of income tax appeal procedures than knew of grain quota appeal procedures, and about one-quarter of the farmers actually had made an appeal. There was great variation in the village-by-village results, reflecting local conditions, but in 10 of the 13 villages, the number of appeals to the income tax assessments was significantly and in some cases markedly higher than the number of appeals to grain quotas.

Attitudes Toward the Land Reform Program

One-half of all the farmers and over two-thirds of the tenants felt that the land reform program had benefited their families, and more than one-half of all the farmers and exactly two-thirds of the tenants felt that the program had been beneficial to their village. The program was generally unpopular among landlords. Fifty percent of all the farmers felt that landlords should not be allowed to retain land other than that which they cultivate themselves. While the general level of satisfaction with the land reform program seems to be high, many specific complaints were voiced by farmers. The most frequently mentioned points of dissatisfaction were that landlords should not have been permitted to retain so much land cultivated by others, that land purchase was unduly complex, and that forest, meadow, and unreclaimed land should have been included in the program.

Landlord-Tenant Relations

At the time of the survey, eight percent of all farmers renting land from others reported that they had a written tenancy contract for all of the rented land, 22 percent reported that they had a contract for part, and 70 percent reported that they had no written contract. The same proportions were found among persons renting land to others. However, a majority of all tenure groups felt that a written contract is necessary,

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SURVEY SERIES

and an even larger majority felt that the conditions of the contract should be written in detail. Sixty-two percent of all the farmers preferred payment of rent in cash rather than in kind. A majority of all tenure groups felt that tenants should not be allowed to sublet land without the consent of the owner.

Attitudes Toward the Local Land Commissions

A large majority of the farmers stated that they had voted in the land commission elections of 1946. Nearly two-thirds of them thought that their local commission members were the best persons for the job.

The method used by the land commissions to determine individual eligibility to purchase land was approved by a majority. Higher percentages of owner-cultivators, people who felt that the land reform program had been beneficial to their family, and people cultivating larger plots of land, than of the respondents as a whole, approved of the method used.

A majority stated without qualification that they thought that those villagers who had bought land during the program were satisfied with the handling of their cases by the land commission and that they themselves were satisfied with the handling of their own cases.

The principle of price controls for the sale of land, administered by the local land commissions, was favored by a majority, although one-fifth of all farmers thought that the matter was one to be settled either by the commission or by the concerned parties, depending upon the circumstances.

When asked to select the proper method of settling problems arising from delay in paying rent on the part of a tenant, 78 percent of the farmers replied that the land commission should settle the issue in some or all circumstances. Tenants tended to favor settlement by the land commission and landlords settlement by consultation between the concerned parties.

Attitudes Toward the Village Agricultural Cooperatives

The village agricultural cooperatives are visited often by two-thirds of the farmers, although 13 percent of the post-land reform landlords reported that they never go to the cooperative. A majority of all tenure groups expressed qualified confidence in the present officials of the cooperative and over one-quarter expressed full confidence. About a third of the farmers expressed a favorable attitude toward the inclusion of women among the officials, while 43 percent thought that it would make no difference.

Attitudes Toward the Inheritance of Land

Over three-quarters of the farmers whose families had previously possessed land reported that primogeniture has been the custom in their family in the past, and only four percent reported that the land has been equally divided among all sons.

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## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

3

Presented with a hypothetical situation in which they had two sons and one daughter, and could act as they pleased, only 16 percent of the farmers stated simply that they would give their land to the eldest son. Almost half of the farmers wished to give the land to the son who would become a farmer.

When asked if they thought that the eldest son should be excused from his traditional duties to the family if the land were divided equally, farmers of all tenure groups expressed divided opinion: 40 percent said "yes," 50 percent said "no," and 10 percent were undecided.

Two-thirds of the farmers thought that if all the sons and daughters were given land equally the family would be unable to get along.

Use of Information Media

A large majority of the farmers reported that they take a newspaper. Subscriptions are almost evenly divided between a national paper and a local or a regional paper. Over 80 percent of the subscribers were satisfied with their present newspaper, and only 12 percent wanted to change.

Radio ownership averages 64 percent, and appears to have risen in the past 18 months. Higher percentages of owner-cultivators, landlords, and cultivators of the larger tracts of land own radios than do tenants and smaller operators. A majority of all respondents reported that they listen both to the "Early Bird" and the "New Farm Village" radio programs.

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Chapter I

GENERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF FARMERS

There is evidence of considerable and widespread uneasiness among all classes of farmers concerning their current economic situation and their prospects for the near future. This underlying anxiety affects all farmers, whether or not they feel that they have been benefited by the land reform program.

The majority of all tenure groups, including tenants (a large majority of whom have become owner-cultivators under the land reform program), felt that their living conditions had worsened in the last year. Only 13 percent felt that there had been an improvement. The prevailing pessimism seems to be independent of experience with the land reform program, as there was no appreciable tendency for farmers who felt that the land reform program had not been beneficial to their family to feel that living conditions were now worse than last year. The grievances most frequently mentioned by all tenure groups are high income taxes, the scarcity of clothing, and the general high prices.

Question: How are living conditions in your family as compared with last year?

<u>All respondents</u>	
Better	13%
Same	33
Worse	51
Don't know	<u>3</u>
	100%
	n = 1,298

These percentages thought that living conditions compared with last year were:	<u>Of those farmers who thought that the land reform program had</u>			
	<u>All respondents</u>	<u>Been beneficial to their family</u>	<u>Not been beneficial to their family</u>	<u>Made no difference</u>
Better	13%	14%	7%	11%
Same	33	33	34	34
Worse	51	52	55	53
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	N = 1,298	n = 621	n = 168	n = 366



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## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

5

Question: What are the greatest difficulties in your living conditions at the present time?

<u>Item causing difficulty</u>	<u>Percentage of respondents who mentioned the item</u>
Income tax	31%
Clothing	25
High prices	19
Food	12
Quotas	11
Money	6
Shortage of fertilizer	4
Shortage of labor	1
Others	<u>4</u>
	*

\* These percentages add to more than 100 percent, as a total of 1,195 farmers (92 percent of the sample) supplied 1,364 answers to this question. Some farmers gave more than one answer.

Not only do farmers feel that living conditions have become worse during the past year; a majority of them reported a feeling of pessimism over the economic prospects for the coming year. Most of the farmers either definitely expect an agricultural depression or think that one may come. Only seven percent of the farmers felt definitely that there was no prospect of a depression.

Question: Do you think a severe depression will come during the next twelve months?

<u>All respondents</u>	
Yes	42%
Maybe	36
No	7
Don't know	<u>15</u>
	100%
	n = 1,281

The expectation of an agricultural depression was to some extent conditioned by the farmer's estimate of his current economic situation as compared with last year. A farmer who felt that his living conditions

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6

## SURVEY SERIES

had worsened was more likely to expect a depression than a farmer who had experienced some improvement in conditions.

These percentages thought (concerning the probability of a severe depression during the next twelve months) that:	All respondents	Of those farmers who thought that living conditions in their family compared with last year were:		
		Better	Same	Worse
It would come	42%	38%	32%	50%
Maybe it would come	36	34	46	31
It would not come	7	12	9	4
Didn't know	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,281	n = 157	n = 427	n = 669

Similarly, the farmer's evaluation of his current condition was influenced strongly by his view of future prospects. Farmers who felt that a depression was bound to come were much more pessimistic about their living conditions than farmers who were not anticipating a depression.

These percentages thought that living conditions in their family compared with last year were:	All respondents	Of those farmers who thought (concerning the probability of a severe depression coming during the next twelve months that):		
		It would come	Maybe it would come	It would not come
Better	13%	11%	12%	22%
Same	33	26	42	46
Worse	51	62	44	31
Didn't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,298	n = 533	n = 464	n = 86

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## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

7

The income tax seemed to be of predominant concern to farmers. While there is evidence on this point independent of the findings of the questionnaire, 31 percent of the respondents spontaneously mentioned income taxes as one of their greatest difficulties at the present time. Furthermore, a plurality, 49 percent, of those farmers who had been assessed for an income tax felt that their own tax was unfair compared with that of others. One-half of the farmers felt that the grain quotas and the income taxes were equally difficult to bear; of the other half of respondents, a larger proportion felt that the taxes were more difficult than the grain quotas.

Question: (To those who were assessed for an income tax) Do you think your income tax assessment is fair as compared with that of others?

Fair	24%
Unfair	49
Don't know	<u>27</u>
	100%
	n = 1,198

Question: (To those who were assessed for an income tax and had grain quotas to meet) Which do you find harder to bear, the grain quota or the income tax?

Grain quota	15%
Income tax	25
Equally hard	57
Don't know	<u>3</u>
	100%
	n = 1,136

While not mentioned as the most burdensome by as many farmers as the income tax, the grain quota is nonetheless a serious grievance. Thirty-eight percent of those farmers who had quotas to meet felt that their quota was unfair compared with that of others (in contrast to 47 percent who thought that their quota was fair).

Question: (To those with grain quotas to meet) Do you think your grain quota is fair as compared with that of others?

Fair	47%
Unfair	38
Don't know	<u>15</u>
	100%
	n = 1,172

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8

## SURVEY SERIES

As a consequence of the large number of new village projects in a period of inflation, there has been a substantial increase in local assessments and contributions of all kinds. The majority of the farmers feel some of them to be a burden.

Question: How do you feel about the village assessments and contributions?

	<u>All respondents</u>
Reasonable	15%
Some reasonable, some difficult	68
Difficult	10
Don't know	<u>7</u>
	100%
	n = 1,279

As many farmers feel that their own assessments are unfair as feel them to be fair.

Question: Do you think your village assessments are unfair as compared with those of others?

	<u>All respondents</u>
Fair	37%
Unfair	36
Don't know	<u>27</u>
	100%
	n = 1,261

Nearly one-fourth of the respondents complained about the excessiveness of village assessments and contributions and about the nature of the system itself. Many specific complaints were made concerning assessments for particular purposes.

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ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

Question: What kinds of village assessments and contributions do you find difficult?

<u>Kinds of assessments</u>	<u>Percentage of respondents who mentioned this kind</u>
(General complaints concerning excessiveness and the nature of the system itself)	24%
Ones for schools	5
Ones for "unknown purposes"	4
Ones for temples and shrines	4
Ones for the Community Chest	3
Ones for local entertainments	2
Ones for lotteries	1
Ones for t e police office	1
Ones for village organizations other than the above	<u>6</u>
	*
	n = 644
* These percentages add to less than 100 percent as a total of 612 farmers (47 percent of the sample) supplied 644 answers to this question. Some farmers gave more than one answer.	



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## Chapter II

## USE OF APPEAL PROCEDURES

In order to minimize injustices, appeal procedures have been established. These enable farmers who feel that their crop quotas or their income tax assessments are too high to register an official appeal to their agricultural cooperative or their local tax office. A majority of the farmers in all tenure groups were aware of the fact that appeal procedures were available. More farmers knew of income tax appeal procedures than knew of grain quota appeal procedures.

Question: (To those with grain quotas to meet) If you consider your grain quota unfair, is it possible to appeal it?

Yes	64%
No	22
Don't know	<u>14</u>
	100%
	n = 1,262

Question: (To those who were assessed for an income tax) If you consider your income tax assessment unfair, is it possible to appeal it?

Yes	72%
No	14
Don't know	<u>14</u>
	100%
	n = 1,269

About one-quarter of the farmers not only knew of the existence of appeal procedures, but had actually made appeals. This is true of all three tenure groups. Village-by-village responses, presumably reflecting local conditions, show great variation. In Nikaido, for example, only 17 percent of the farmers reported that they had appealed a grain quota, while 38 percent reported that they had appealed an income tax assessment; in Honami, 36 percent reported that they had appealed a grain quota and 46 percent that they had appealed a tax assessment. In 10 of the 13 villages, appeals to the income tax assessments were significantly and in some cases markedly higher than appeals to grain quotas. The percentages of farmers who had appealed their assessments and quotas, and who also thought them unfair, was twice that of those who had not appealed and thought them to be fair.

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ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

Question: (To those with grain quotas to meet) Have you ever appealed a grain quota?

Yes	25%
No	<u>75</u>
	100%
n = 1,195	

Question: (To those who were assessed for an income tax) Have you ever appealed an income tax assessment?

Yes	30%
No	<u>70</u>
	100%
n = 1,217	

These percentages thought (concerning a comparison between their grain quotas and those of others) that theirs was:	Of those farmers who had a grain quota to meet and reported that they:		
	All respondents	Had appealed it	Had not appealed it
Fair	47%	30%	54%
Unfair	38	64	30
Didn't know	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>
	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,172	n = 291	n = 904



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12

## SURVEY SERIES

These percentages thought (concerning a comparison between their tax assessments and those of others) that theirs was:	Of those farmers who were assessed for an income tax and reported that they:		
	All respondents	Had appealed it	Had not appealed it
Fair	24%	14%	28%
Unfair	49	74	38
Didn't know	<u>27</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>34</u>
	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,198	n = 369	n = 848

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## Chapter III

## ATTITUDES TOWARD THE LAND REFORM PROGRAM

In the early days of the land reform, critics expressed some doubt concerning the reaction of Japanese farmers. However, at the time of the present survey, the greatest part of the farmers, especially of the former tenants, was satisfied with the land reform program. One-half of all the respondents, and over two-thirds of those who had been tenants prior to the land reform program, reported that their families had been benefited. More than one-half of all the respondents and exactly two-thirds of the tenants felt that the land reform program had been beneficial to their village. As expected, the program was unpopular among the former landlords. The majority of them reported that the program had not been beneficial to their family, and only 37 percent stated that the program had been good for their village.

Question: Do you think the land reform program is good for your village?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner- cultivators	Land- lords
Yes	57%	66%	50%	37%
No	5	4	5	16
Both good and bad	28	20	35	37
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,276	n = 597	n = 586	n = 93

Question: Was the land reform program beneficial to your family?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner- cultivators	Land- lords
Yes	50%	68%	38%	8%
No	14	4	16	61
Made no difference	29	22	39	27
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,231	n = 583	n = 562	n = 86

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14

SURVEY SERIES

In addition to the general finding that the land reform program had been beneficial, it was found that 39 percent of all of the farmers interviewed, and 47 percent of the tenants, felt positively that without the land reform, conditions would have been worse than they are at present.

Question: If there had been no land reform program, how do you think living conditions in the village would have been?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner-cultivators	Land-lords
Better	8%	8%	7%	12%
Worse	39	47	34	21
No different	37	30	43	51
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,278	n = 598	n = 587	n = 93

The farmers' evaluation of the land reform program seems to be based largely upon the actual benefits they have themselves derived from it, rather than upon more theoretical considerations. For example, a majority of those farmers who felt that conditions in the village would have been worse without the land reform program thought that the program had been beneficial to their family, while less than one-fourth of them thought that the program had not been beneficial to their family.

These percentages thought that if there had been no land reform living conditions in the village would have been:	All respondents	Of those who thought that the land reform program had:		
		Been beneficial to their family	Not been beneficial to their family	Made no difference to their family
Better	8%	9%	9%	4%
Worse	39	57	24	23
No different	37	23	56	57
Didn't know	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,280	n = 616	n = 167	n = 365

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## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

15

The correlations between pre-land reform tenancy status and post-land reform attitudes deserve special emphasis. Tenants, for whose betterment the program was initiated, expressed the greatest enthusiasm. Only eight percent of them thought that conditions in the village would have been better had there been no land reform, while 47 percent thought they would be worse, and 30 percent that they would not have been different. Landlords, on the other hand, were more critical. That numbers of them are able to be objective concerning general village conditions is attested to by the fact that a large majority of them felt that the land reform program had been either good or both good and bad for the village, while only 16 percent of them thought that it had definitely been bad. However, only eight percent of the landlords felt that the program had been beneficial to their own family, and a majority of them, 61 percent, thought definitely that it had not. The distinction that landlords seem to make between "good for the village" and "good for my family" is demonstrated by several facts. Only a slightly higher percentage of landlords than of other groups thought that living conditions in the village would have been better had there been no land reform, and 21 percent of the landlords expressed the belief that conditions would have been worse.

The land reform program did not seek to destroy tenancy completely, but rather to reduce it to a minimum and to eliminate its evils. Although absentee landlordism was totally eliminated, resident landlords were permitted to retain a certain amount of land for tenant cultivation under conditions specified by law. In April 1949, the total area thus retained and cultivated by tenants was about 600,000 cho, or approximately 10 percent of the total arable land in Japan. Critics of the land reform program have contended that these retention provisions are inimical to the stated purpose of the legislation, and are an invitation to the landlords to maintain their traditional control in the rural community. Supporters of the law have replied that the margin of permissible tenancy which these provisions allow is sound for farm management reasons, as it permits that measure of flexibility required to adjust tenure conditions to the changing social and economic requirements of individual farm operators. In the present survey, all respondents were asked how they felt about this much discussed point. Thirty-four percent of them thought that this retention should be permitted, 50 percent thought that it should not, and 16 percent stated that they did not know. As might be expected, tenants were the most critical of the provision, although 20 percent of them favored the law as it stands.

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**SURVEY SERIES**

16

Question: It has been argued that a landowner should not be allowed to retain any land other than that which he actually cultivates himself. How do you feel about this?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner-cultivators	Landlords
He should	34%	20%	45%	70%
He should not	50	63	40	21
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,279	n = 595	n = 591	n = 93

Of the farmers who reported that the land reform program had been beneficial to their family (a majority of whom were tenants prior to the land reform), nearly two-thirds thought that landlords should not be allowed to retain the excess land, while of those who reported that the program had not been beneficial, nearly two-thirds thought that landlords should be allowed to retain the land.

These percentages thought (concerning a land-owner's being allowed to retain any land other than that which he actually cultivates himself) that:	All respondents	Of those who thought that the land reform program had:		
		Been beneficial to their family	Not been beneficial to their family	Made no difference to their family
He should	34%	25%	64%	40%
He should not	50	64	28	42
Didn't know	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,279	n = 616	n = 167	n = 365

1. This issue seems to be a critical one in the lives of the farmers. When respondents were asked directly what points of dissatisfaction they had with the law, the most frequently mentioned specific complaint was that landlords should not have been permitted to retain so much land cultivated by others. (See next paragraph)



**RESTRICTED****ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS**

17

While the general level of satisfaction with the land reform program seems to be high, many specific complaints concerning inadequacies of the program, local conditions, and unfairness were voiced by farmers. Twenty-four percent of the farmers interviewed offered specific observations. The most frequently mentioned points of dissatisfaction were the following: landlords should not have been permitted to retain so much land cultivated by others; land purchase was unduly complex; and forest, meadow, and un-reclaimed land should have been included in the program. Many of the points relate to local conditions or individual cases, for example, claims of unfair treatment by the land commission. Others, however, such as the suggestion that other lands be included within the categories of land subject to reform, touch on broader problems. The release of forest land, for example, is considered by some farmers to be a pressing problem in mountainous areas.

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## Chapter IV

## LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONS

Before the land reform program was put into effect, the Japanese tenant farmer was substantially at the mercy of his landlord. Contractual arrangements were rarely formal and explicit, and in cases of doubt the landlord's interpretations generally prevailed. A majority of these arrangements were oral. Under traditional tenancy, the land rental was commonly paid in kind, rather than in cash. This arrangement was frequently a burden upon tenants, for the rent was usually a stipulated amount of grain, set by the landlords, and determined before the harvest on the basis of yields harvested during good seasons. In the event of a bad harvest, a tenant had to turn over a majority of his total crop to his landlord as rent, and buy food to eat at the high prices common during a bad harvest year.

The provisions of land reform legislation stipulated changes in these conditions. In order to provide tenants with security of tenure and protection from dishonest landlords, the legislation provided that all tenant-landlord agreements be written, and that all written contracts be registered at the village office. It was also stipulated that contracts would specify the amount of farm rent, the terms of payment, the period of tenure, the conditions which would warrant rent reductions, and the provisions under which certain expenses incurred by the tenant would be shared by the landlord and under which remuneration for immovable improvements would be granted tenants in case of lease termination.

At the time the survey was made, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's program for promoting tenancy agreements had been in effect only six months. Nevertheless, eight percent of all farmers renting land from others reported that they had a written tenancy contract for all of the land, and 22 percent reported that they had a contract for part of their land, while 70 percent reported that they had no written contract for the land they rented from others. The same proportions were found among persons renting land to others.

Question: Do you have a written contract on leased land?

	<u>Persons renting from others</u>	<u>Persons renting to others</u>
All	8%	8%
Part	22	22
None	<u>70</u>	<u>70</u>
	100%	100%
	n = 570	n = 289

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20

## SURVEY SERIES

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner- cultivators	Land- lords
Payment in kind	18%	6%	24%	63%
No difference	14	11	18	15
Payment in cash	62	77	51	20
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,280	n = 598	n = 592	n = 90

Preferences differed widely according to the extent to which the respondents thought that the land reform program had been beneficial to their family. A large majority of those farmers who thought that their family had been benefited by the program also favored the payment of rent in cash. A plurality of the respondents who felt that the program had not been beneficial to their family favored the payment of rent in kind, while nearly four out of every five who thought that land reform had been beneficial to their family favored payment in cash. This might be expected, as the majority of those who benefited were tenants.

Question: Was the land reform program beneficial to your family?

These percentages preferred pay- ment of rent	All respondents	Of those who felt that the land reform program had:		
		Been bene- ficial to their family	Not been beneficial to their family	Made no difference
In kind	18%	7%	49%	24%
In cash	62	79	29	52
Made no difference	14	10	18	18
Didn't know	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,280	n = 616	n = 167	n = 365

There has been a good deal of discussion about the right of tenants to sublet their land without the consent of the landlord. Most of the farmers felt that this is wrong, although there was a higher percentage of objections from landlords than from tenants.

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ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

A majority of all tenure groups felt that a written tenancy contract is necessary, and an even larger majority felt that if tenancy contracts were concluded, the conditions of the contract should be written in detail.

Question: Do you think it necessary to exchange written tenant contracts when you lease or lot land?

	<u>All respondents</u>
Yes	54%
Depends upon the man and the circumstances	33
No	4
Doesn't matter	5
Don't know	<u>4</u>
	100%
	n = 1,269

Question: Do you think it necessary to write all the conditions in detail in a tenancy contract?

	<u>All respondents</u>
Yes	76%
No	10
Doesn't matter	10
Don't know	<u>4</u>
	100%
	n = 1,273

Sixty-two percent of all respondents preferred payment of rent in cash rather than in kind. As might be expected, tenants and landlords differed widely in their preferences, and owner-cultivators tended to support the tenant point of view. Seventy-seven percent of the tenants preferred payment of rent in cash, as did 51 percent of the owner-cultivators, while 63 percent of the landlords favored payment in kind.

Question: Without regard to whether prices are high or low, which do you think is better; payment of rent in cash or payment of rent in kind?

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ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

Question: Do you think that it is all right for a tenant to sublet leased land without the landlord's consent?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner- cultivators	Land- lords
Yes	10%	14%	8%	2%
No	82	78	85	94
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,282	n = 599	n = 591	n = 92

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## Chapter V

## ATTITUDES TOWARD THE LOCAL LAND COMMISSIONS

Land reform legislation provided for the election of a local land commission in every city, town, and village in Japan to administer the program. As the executive organs of the land reform program, the local land commissions drafted the purchase plan for each village, determined the suitability of lands to be purchased, established prices within legal limits, verified the eligibility of purchasers, decided cases requiring unusual or special treatment, and effected the actual purchase and resale of land. Each local commission is composed of five tenants, three landowners, and two owner-cultivators, who were originally elected to serve for a two-year term. Elections were held during December of 1946. In only 52 percent of the cases, among the 10,777 local commissions, was it necessary to hold elections, since, in the other cases, the number of candidates equalled the number of positions to be filled.<sup>1</sup> The lists of the electors were open to public inspection. Persons eligible to vote in the elections were those who were at least 20 years of age and members of households cultivating one tan or more of land in Japan proper and three tan in Hokkaido. It is assumed in this analysis that many of the respondents who said that they had voted in the elections actually meant that they participated in the selection of a buraku nominee.<sup>2</sup>

A large majority of the respondents stated that they had voted in the land commission elections. Nearly two-thirds of them thought that their local commission members were the best people for the job, although one-fifth

1. In the majority of those villages in which commissions were seated by proclamation, nominees were selected by democratic means in each of the buraku of the village. In accordance with Japanese law, whenever the number of nominees equalled the number of positions open, no elections were held, and the mayor simply seated the candidates by proclamation.
2. On the basis of the results of field investigations conducted from 6-15 January 1947, Occupation authorities believe that from 75-80 percent of the land commissions were accepted as satisfactory by their constituents, and that in the majority of cases in which no elections had been held the selection of candidates had been accomplished according to democratic procedures. However, a few instances have been discovered in which there was evidence of voting controlled by vested community interests. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry took immediate steps to inform farmers of their rights under the law to recall commissioners who did not represent them. As a consequence, recall elections were held in many villages.

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## \* ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

23

thought that while the members were good, there were others who were just as good. A higher percentage of tenants than landlords expressed confidence in the land commissions.

Question: Did you vote in the land commission elections?

All respondents	
Yes	80%
No	20
100%	
n = 1,257	

Question: Do you think the members of the land commission in your village are the best persons for the job?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner-cultivators	Landlords
Best	61%	64%	59%	46%
Good, but there are other good men	22	19	24	35
Not the best	6	6	6	3
Don't know	11	11	11	16
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,284	n = 598	n = 593	n = 93

One of the most important duties of the land commission was to determine which individuals in the village were eligible to buy land that had been bought from owners by the Government. Land reform legislation stipulates certain criteria of eligibility. In general, all persons who were "likely to devote themselves to agriculture," and who had demonstrated reasonable proficiency in farming were eligible to purchase land, with priority being given to those persons who on 23 November 1945 were tenants on the land they wished to buy. However, within the limits of these criteria, many decisions, concerning both the policy for the entire village and the policy to be applied to individuals, had to be made, and in most cases it was the local land commission that made them.

A majority of the respondents thought that the method used to determine individual eligibility had been appropriate. A higher percentage of owner-cultivators -- the group least affected and most likely to have an objective point of view -- than of other groups expressed this feeling. People who

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felt that the land reform program had been beneficial to their family were also the most satisfied; only nine percent of them thought that the method had been inappropriate, while 26 percent of those who felt that the land reform had not been beneficial to their family disapproved of the method used to determine eligibility. The large percentage of the people who felt that their family had been benefited by the land reform, and who also thought that the method of determining individual eligibility was appropriate, probably reflects the fact that the majority of those benefited were tenants, who were for the most part automatically eligible. The fact that one-half of the landlords (and nearly one-half of all farmers who felt that land reform had not been beneficial to their family) also thought the method was appropriate suggests that landlords, while objecting to the entire program, can be somewhat objective about the program's methods. A higher percentage of the heads of farm households (exclusive of those in Ebetsu, Hokkaido) who, at the time the survey was made, cultivated from 1.51-5 tan per family member, approved than did those who cultivated less land per family member. A disproportionately high percentage of the people who cultivated less than one tan of land per family member replied that they did not know whether or not the method of determining eligibility was appropriate.

Question: Do you think that the method of determining who was eligible to purchase land in the village was appropriate?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner-cultivators	Landlords
Yes	60%	53%	61%	50%
No	13	18	13	12
Don't know	27	29	26	38
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,268	n = 594	n = 581	n = 93

These percentages felt (concerning the method of determining eligibility to purchase land) that:	All respondents	Of those who felt that the land reform program had:		
		Been beneficial to their family	Not been beneficial to their family	Made no difference
It was appropriate	60%	75%	48%	52%
It was not appropriate	13	9	26	13
They didn't know	27	16	26	35
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 268	n = 616	n = 167	n = 365

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## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

25

These percentages felt (concerning the method of determining eligibility to purchase land) that:	All respondents	Of those farmers who cultivated this amount of land per family member at the time of the survey:*		
		0-1 tan	1.1-1.5 tan	1.51-5.0 tan
It was appropriate	60%	51%	59%	66%
It was not appropriate	13	12	16	13
They didn't know	<u>27</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 268	n = 411	n = 311	n = 449

\* Exclusive of Ebetsu, Hokkaido.

A majority of the respondents stated without qualification that they thought that those villagers who had bought land during the program were satisfied with the handling of their cases by the land commission, one-third thought that some might not be satisfied, and only three percent stated definitely that they thought the purchasers were not satisfied. A higher percentage of tenants, most of whom bought land themselves and thus might be in a better position to speak for all those who bought land, gave an unqualified answer expressing satisfaction than did other groups. Those farmers who indicated satisfaction with the benefits of the land reform program to their family also expressed the greatest satisfaction with the handling of the cases of others by the land commission.

Question: Do you think that those who bought land under the provisions of the land reform law are satisfied with the handling of their case by the land commission or not?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner-cultivators	Landlords
Satisfied	53%	60%	48%	41%
Some are satisfied, some are not	33	29	36	41
Unsatisfied	3	2	4	2
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,261	n = 583	n = 585	n = 93

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SURVEY SERIES

These percentages felt (concerning the satisfaction of others with the handling of their case by the land commission) that:	All respondents	Of those who felt that the land reform program had:		
		Been beneficial to their family	Not been beneficial to their family	Made no difference to their family
They are satisfied	53%	66%	45%	45%
Some are satisfied, some are not	33	27	42	38
They are unsatisfied	3	3	4	3
They didn't know whether or not they are satisfied	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,261	n = 616	n = 167	n = 365

Similar percentages of farmers expressed personal satisfaction with the way the land commission handled their own case. Among landlords, those who said they were personally satisfied were fewer in number than those who thought that people in general had bought land were satisfied -- not surprising, as few of this group bought land, and many of them were forced to sell it.

Question: (For farmers who bought or sold land under the provisions of the land reform law) Were you personally satisfied with the way that the land commission handled your case?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner-cultivators	Landlords
Satisfied	52%	61%	46%	30%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	30	26	36	40
Unsatisfied	13	10	13	26
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,143	n = 568	n = 497	n = 78

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## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

27

Land reform legislation provides that the price of land shall henceforth be determined by the land commissions, acting in accordance with principles established by law, rather than by negotiations between the concerned parties. This was one of the issues which had caused the failure of all previous land reform programs in Japan, for without price controls, a majority of the tenants were unable to purchase land. Furthermore, the present land reform legislation stipulated that, in order to prevent speculation with land purchased from the Government, land could not be resold privately, but that all resales would be made directly to the Government on terms similar to those characterizing the original sale contract.

A majority of all farmers, and a majority of all tenure groups except landlords, favored the principle of price controls administered by the local land commissions. However, one-fifth of all farmers and one-fourth of the landlords and owner-cultivators, thought that the determination of price should be made according to the circumstances. Nearly one-third of the landlords favored negotiation.

Question: Which do you think is better: to have the price of land fixed by the land commission, or to have the price fixed by negotiation between the parties concerned?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner cultivators	Land- lords
Land commission	61%	74%	52%	32%
It depends upon the circumstances	20	15	25	24
Negotiation	11	4	14	30
Doesn't matter	6	4	7	11
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,283	n = 598	n = 592	n = 93

Several provisions of land reform legislation protected the tenant by guaranteeing him security of tenure. This factor had been the cause of nearly one-half of prewar tenant-landlord disputes, and the lack of security of tenure had been one of the greatest evils of the tenancy system. Many tenant evictions were caused by the failure of tenants to pay the rent that they had agreed to pay in their contracts. However, under a provision of land reform legislation, all disputes arising out of any delay in payment of rent by the tenant for good cause must be settled by the land commission, rather than by consultation between the concerned parties.

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28

## SURVEY SERIES

A plurality of all the respondents favored the settlement of such questions by the land commission only in some cases; a plurality of the tenants favored settlement by the land commission in all cases; and less than 10 percent of the tenants preferred consultation. In general, tenants favored settlement by the land commission and landlords settlement by consultation, with owner-cultivators occupying a midway position.

Question: In the event of delay in payment of rent by the tenant for good cause, do you think the question should be settled by the land commission, or do you think it should be settled by consultation between landlord and tenant only?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner- cultivators	Land- lords
Land commission	38%	46%	34%	22%
In some circumstances by the land commission	40	39	40	39
Consultation between the concerned parties	14	8	16	32
Doesn't matter	6	5	8	6
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,278	n = 595	n = 590	n = 93

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## Chapter VI

## ATTITUDES TOWARD THE VILLAGE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

Prior to the Occupation, monopoly agricultural associations, organized in 1943, served as the instrumentality through which agricultural prices and production were controlled, crop collections and rationing accomplished, and rural capital utilized in accordance with national policy. One local agricultural association (Nogyokai) was established in each city, town, and village in Japan. These local associations were members of the national association. The entire system was under the direct control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Membership in local associations was compulsory for individual farmers.

Legislation authorizing the formation of agricultural cooperatives was enacted by the Diet in 1947. The goals of the legislation were to release farmers from the domination of non-agrarian interests and to afford them the opportunity to organize independent cooperatives. Under the provisions of the legislation, 15 or more farmers may organize a cooperative, any number of cooperatives may be formed in one village, farmers may belong to more than one cooperative, and each member farmer is entitled to one vote in his cooperative. Cooperatives may perform banking, marketing, purchasing, mutual relief, and other services to farmers. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has urged cooperatives to perform educational and recreational functions, and has stressed the fact that if the cooperatives are to be truly democratic the women of the community should be afforded full opportunity to participate in the activities. Some of the new cooperatives had been in operation for as long as five months at the time the survey was made, and the agricultural associations were all dissolved by 14 August 1948. Since their dissolution, the agricultural associations have been engaged in terminating their affairs.

In order to determine the extent to which farmers have direct contact with a cooperative, respondents were asked if they visited their cooperative often. About two-thirds reported that they did, and only three percent stated that they never visit the cooperative. Post-land reform landlords reported the least frequent regular visits to the cooperative. Pre-land reform tenants and owner-cultivators, and post-land reform owner-cultivators, reported the most frequent regular visits. Only a small percentage of these groups, in contrast to 13 percent of the post-land reform landlords, reported that they never visit the cooperative.

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Question: Do you often go to your village cooperative?

	All respon- dents	By tenure status					
		Pre-land reform status			Post-land reform status		
		Tenants	Owner- culti- vators	Land- lords	Tenants	Owner- culti- vators	Land- lords
Yes, often	62%	64%	64%	46%	49%	65%	33%
No, not often	35	34	34	42	49	33	54
Never	3	2	2	12	2	2	13
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,281	n = 596	n = 592	n = 93	n = 113	n = 1,116	n = 52

In contradistinction to the old local agricultural associations, the nonaffiliated village cooperatives are largely under the direction of their elected leadership, and the extent to which the members have confidence in the leadership of their cooperative should serve as a useful index of their general attitudes toward the cooperatives. A majority of the respondents expressed qualified confidence in their present officials, and over one-quarter of them expressed full confidence. All tenure groups expressed very similar attitudes.

Question: Do you have confidence in the present officials of your cooperative?

	All respondents
Complete confidence	28%
Some confidence	55
Little confidence	14
No confidence	3
	100%
	n = 1,270

About one-third of all the respondents (most of whom were men) expressed a favorable attitude toward the inclusion of women among the officials of the agricultural cooperatives, while a plurality stated that it would make no difference. Only 13 percent thought that women officials would definitely not be beneficial. This seeming acceptance of women may be a superficial and theoretical attitude, as in not one village surveyed



**RESTRICTED**ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

31

had a woman actually been made an official of a cooperative, and many of the respondents may have answered the question on the basis of their attitude toward the general participation of women in community activities.

Question: Do you think it would be beneficial to your cooperative to include women among the officials?

	<u>All respondents</u>
Beneficial	34%
Not beneficial	13
Makes no difference	43
Don't know	<u>10</u>
	100%
	n = 1,278

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## Chapter VII

## ATTITUDES TOWARD THE INHERITANCE OF LAND

Traditionally, land has been inherited in Japan chiefly by primogeniture. Furthermore, the position of the head of the household was also passed on by succession -- not always to the same person who inherited the land. These inheritance patterns were matters of practice, and had as legal sanctions provisions in the Civil Code. However, Japan's amended Civil Code provides that all children and relatives shall have the right to share in the inheritance, including land.<sup>1</sup> The pattern of succession through heads of households was eliminated completely in this new code. Many will agree that these provisions aid in the growth of the individual, and will permit young people to develop a greater degree of self-direction, but it is also widely recognized that in Japan they present a complicated economic problem. Most farm holdings in Japan are too small to be subdivided and continue to provide subsistence to a family, and it has only been the migration of younger sons into the cities and their conscription into the army that has enabled Japan's farm communities to maintain some semblance of balance between land resources and population. The attitudes and behavior of the individual farmer will ultimately decide the extent to which these provisions of the Civil Code are put into practice.

Respondents were first asked the form of inheritance practiced traditionally in their family. Over three-quarters of the heads of households whose families had previously possessed land reported that primogeniture had been the custom in their family in the past, and only four percent reported that the land has been equally divided among all sons.

Question: (To those farmers whose families had previously possessed land) Up to now, how has land been inherited in your family?

To eldest son only	78%
To all sons, but different amounts according to age	13
Divided equally among all sons	4
Other arrangements than the above	<u>5</u>
	100%
	n = 973

1. Law No. 222 concerning the partial amendments of the Civil Code. Pro-mulgated 22 December 1947.

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## ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

33

Respondents were then presented with a hypothetical situation in which they had two sons and one daughter, and could act as they pleased. Only 16 percent stated simply that they would give their land to the eldest son. Significantly, almost half of the farmers wished to give the land to the son who would become a farmer, regardless of his sibling order, and 27 percent preferred one or another system of multiple inheritance.<sup>1</sup>

Question: Let us assume that you have two sons and one daughter and may act as you please: to whom would you give your land?

	All respondents
To the eldest son only	16%
To the son who will become a farmer	47
Equally to all sons, none to the daughter	5
To all sons, but different amounts according to age	6
To all children, but different amounts according to age	9
Equally to all children	7
Other arrangements than the above	2
Don't know	8
	100%
	n = 1,285

An important element of the Japanese family system is its emphasis upon mutual obligations and responsibilities for the welfare of the members. A more successful member of a family is obligated to give aid to less successful members. This applies particularly to the eldest son, if he is the son who has inherited the land. Along with the land, he inherits the responsibility for the care of his parents, and for other members of his close family as well, if they should need aid. When asked if they thought the eldest son should be excused from performing these traditional duties if the land were divided equally, respondents of all tenure groups expressed divided opinion.

1. Students of Japanese rural society have known for some time that there has been some deviation from the primogeniture pattern, in particular, that a son other than the eldest is often selected to inherit the land. The plurality of the "to the son who will become a farmer" response, therefore, would seem to reflect an existing custom. It may be speculated that the relatively high percentage of the combined "equally to all" responses might have been caused either by a knowledge of the Civil Code or by a general sense of "justice" which the economic realities or rural life make impossible of fulfillment.

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34

## SURVEY SERIES

Question: In the event that the land is divided equally, do you think that the eldest son should be excused from performing his traditional duties to the family?

	<u>All respondents</u>
Yes	40%
No	50
Don't know	<u>10</u>
	100%
	n = 1,282

Any discussion of the traditional inheritance system must recognize its economic base. The small size of most Japanese farms precludes much subdivision of the land, and it is not surprising to find that two-thirds of the respondents felt that if the land were given equally to all sons and daughters the family would be unable to get along. This is almost exactly the same percentage as of those who wished to transmit the land only to the son who would become a farmer or to the eldest son. Sixteen percent of all the respondents thought that this equal inheritance would improve the future of the children, a percentage somewhat smaller than the combined percentages of the respondents who would prefer to divide the land to some degree among all children.

Question: What do you think would happen if, in accordance with the new inheritance system, all the sons and daughters were given land equally?

	<u>All respondents</u>
Family would be unable to get along	67%
Future of children would improve	16
Would not affect the family or the children	6
Other answers than the above	1
Don't know	<u>10</u>
	100%
	n = 1,282

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## Chapter VIII

## USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA

Many of the farmers in rural villages live in what would seem to be rather isolated surroundings. Nevertheless, their need for information concerning political matters (in particular, agricultural legislation and election information), rationing and marketing matters, and agricultural techniques is great. Two of the most common sources of this information are, of course, the newspaper and the radio.

A large majority of the respondents reported that they take a newspaper. A slightly higher percentage of landlords than of tenants or owner-cultivators subscribe. A majority of all subscriptions are for a national paper rather than for a local or regional newspaper, but a higher percentage of the subscriptions reported by tenants and owner-cultivators (compared to those reported by landlords) are for a local or regional newspaper. As might be expected, the most isolated villages had the lowest percentages of newspaper subscribers.

Question: Do you take a newspaper?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner- cultivators	Landlords
Yes	84%	83%	84%	96%
No	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>4</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,276	n = 593	n = 591	n = 92

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36

## SURVEY SERIES

By village		
Rank order	Yes	No
Honami	99%	1%
Obie	96	4
Nikaido	94	6
Kawashiro	92	8
Nobuta	88	12
Yokogoshi	88	12
Ebetsu	88	12
Yoshida	88	12
Aioi	84	16
Futomi	83	17
Karako	81	19
Mizuwake	65	35
Suye	46	54
n = 95-100		

Question: (To those who replied "yes") What newspaper do you take?

	Total	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner-cultivators	Land-lords
Local or district newspapers	48%*	56%	43%	33%
<u>Mainichi</u> **	22	16	27	29
<u>Asahi</u> ***	18	19	17	24
<u>Yomiuri</u> ****	8	6	10	9
<u>Jiji Shimpo</u> *****	2	2	1	1
<u>Nippon Keizai</u> *****	2	1	2	4
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,132	n = 510	n = 519	n = 103

\* Expressed as percentages of total newspaper subscriptions.  
 \*\* The Mainichi has three editions with a combined circulation of 3,503,575 copies per day.  
 \*\*\* The Asahi has the largest circulation of any daily newspaper in Japan. Its three editions have a combined circulation of 3,625,128 copies per day.  
 \*\*\*\* The Yomiuri is the largest Tokyo daily newspaper; its circulation per day is 1,775,441.  
 \*\*\*\*\* The Jiji Shimpo is published in Tokyo, and has a circulation of 217,700 copies per day.  
 \*\*\*\*\* The Nippon Keizai, a general newspaper which stresses economic news, is published in Tokyo and has a circulation of 434,724 copies per day.

(All figures for December 1948)

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38

## SURVEY SERIES

A majority of the respondents reported that they own radios. As compared with the findings of last year's survey, reported radio ownership has gone up. While there are some extreme differences among the villages visited -- Suye has only 27 percent radio ownership and Nikaido has 84 percent -- the average rate of ownership has risen noticeably.

Reported radio ownership in farm households in 13 rural villages		
	<u>May-June 1947</u>	<u>This survey</u>
Own	59%	64%*
Do not own or no response	<u>41</u>	<u>36</u>
	100%	100%

\* The radio ownership rate seems to be substantially above that of the country as a whole. However, no recent figures are available for comparison which reflect the enormous increase in ownership that has occurred since March 1947, the date of the last complete census by the Broadcasting Corporation of Japan.

Radio ownership by village		
<u>Rank order</u>	<u>May-June 1947*</u>	<u>This survey</u>
Nikaido	90%	84%
Obie	80	79
Ebetsu	**	76
Karako	55	73
Mizuwake	48	70
Kawashiro	70	68
Nobuta	70	67
Yokogoshi	34	67
Honami	30	65
Futomi	***	64
Yoshida	35	45
Aioi	23	43
Suye	26	27

\* These figures are only approximate, and were not taken in all cases from the results of a questionnaire. This probably explains any decline in ownership rate here noted, as there is no evidence other than this that there has been any actual decline.  
 \*\* No information available.  
 \*\*\* No survey conducted in May-June 1947.

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ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

A large majority of the respondents were satisfied with their present newspaper, and only 12 percent wanted to change. Thirty-two percent of those wanting to change selected a local or a regional newspaper, 31 percent the Asahi, and 25 percent the Mainichi.

Question: (To those who take a newspaper) Do you want to change your newspaper?

Yes	12%
No	83
Uncertain	<u>5</u>
	100%
	n = 1,047

Question: (To those who said "yes") To what newspaper do you want to change?<sup>1</sup>

Local or district newspapers	32%
<u>Asahi</u>	31
<u>Mainichi</u>	25
<u>Yomiuri</u>	10
<u>Nippon Keizai</u>	<u>2</u>
	100%
	n = 120

1. In a survey conducted by the Jiji Press in September 1947, 41,000 heads of households throughout Japan were polled concerning newspaper preferences. The results were very similar to those obtained from the present survey.

Question: If you could subscribe to only one newspaper, what newspaper would that be?

	<u>All respondents</u>
<u>Asahi</u>	31%
<u>Mainichi</u>	23
<u>Yomiuri</u>	9
<u>Nippon Keizai</u>	2
Others (including local and district newspapers)	<u>35</u>
	100%
	n = 41,000



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ATTITUDES OF FARMERS TOWARD RURAL PROBLEMS

Radio ownership shows some relation to economic factors. A smaller percentage of tenants own radios than do owner-cultivators and landlords. A higher percentage of those farmers who cultivate more than 15 tan of land per family member own radios than do those who cultivate less land.

Question: Do you have a radio in your home?

	All respondents	By tenure status		
		Tenants	Owner-cultivators	Landlords
Own	64%	56%	71%	79%
Do not own or no response	<u>36</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>21</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,286	n = 599	n = 594	n = 93

These percentages	All respondents	Of those farmers who cultivated this amount of land per family member at the time of the survey*		
		0-1 tan	1.1-1.5 tan	1.51-5.0 tan
Own radios	64%	58%	60%	72%
Do not own radios or did not respond	<u>36</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>28</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n = 1,286	n = 410	n = 313	n = 450

\* Exclusive of Ebetsu, Hokkaido

Two of the many radio programs that contain information of interest to the farmer are the "Early Bird" and the "New Farm Village" programs. Broadcast in the morning and in the evening respectively, these programs are heard to some extent by over half of the farm households, including some listeners who do not have radios, but who hear the programs on the radios of others. The "New Farm Village" program is somewhat more popular. However, the "Early Bird" program was described as "interesting" by its listeners more frequently than was the "New Farm Village" program.

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## SURVEY SERIES

40

Question: Do you listen to the "Early Bird" program?

<u>All respondents</u>	
Yes, regularly	14%
Yes, sometimes	43
No, never	<u>43</u>
	100%
	n = 1,117

Question: Do you listen to the "New Farm Village" program?

<u>All respondents</u>	
Yes, regularly	17%
Yes, sometimes	52
No, never	<u>31</u>
	100%
	n = 1,114

Question: (To those who listen to it) What do you think of the "Early Bird" program?

<u>All respondents</u>	
Interesting	77%
Uninteresting	14
Uncertain	<u>9</u>
	100%
	n = 618

Question: (To those who listen to it) What do you think of the "New Farm Village" program?

<u>All respondents</u>	
Interesting	70%
Uninteresting	15
Uncertain	<u>15</u>
	100%
	n = 716

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R E S T R I C T E D

## SURVEY SERIES

Surveys conducted to date by this Division or by this  
Division in cooperation with other organizations

Some Aspects of the Fishery Right System in Selected Japanese Fishing Communities	November 1948
Reactions to a Traffic Safety Week Leaflet	22 January 1949
Attitudes Toward the Labor Movement	31 January 1949
Problems of Working Women in Tokyo	26 March 1949
Attitudes of Farmers Toward Rural Problems	20 May 1949

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# INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM: UNFOLD, 2037  
Dated: June 11, 1949  
Date of mailing: June 21, 1949  
Rec'd: June 24, 1949 9:20 P.M.

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Secretary of State,  
Washington.

A-155, June 18, 1949

Following is text of SCAP press release of June 9, 1949; headlined "Land Reform Program in Japan":

Abolition of the pernicious land tenure system which has long blighted Japanese agriculture and impaired development of a powerful national economy has been a basic objective of the Occupation. Accomplishment of this objective is essential to the economic and political well-being of Japan.

Having an area of 148,270 square miles, Japan is smaller than the state of California. Only 16 percent of the total area is arable. Approximately 47 percent of the total population of about 80,000,000 depends on agriculture for all or part of its income. Before the surrender, about 70 percent of the farmers rented all or part of the land they cultivated. Only nine percent of farm households owned more than 4.9 acres of land, and 87 percent cultivated less than 2.4 acres.

This overcrowding had led to a highly inequitable land tenure system with rents ranging from 50-70 percent of the annual crop. It had resulted in widespread economic instability and social unrest.

The people in their demands for remedial legislation, have during the decade preceding World War II, consciously and unreservedly supported the military group which held out the promise of peace and prosperity to be won through aggressive war. The tenant class was threatened by defeat and surrender. The tenant class in

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Tokyo's 4-155,  
June 18, 1949

- 2 -

Japan, with demands for relief from their intolerable situation still foremost in their minds, remained a fertile field for any other extremist ideology promising a solution to their problems.

The elimination of this malignancy was recognized as vital to the promotion of maximum production of staple foods and requisite social and economic stability. On Dec. 9, 1945, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers issued a directive to the Japanese Government "to take measures to insure that those who till the soil of Japan shall have a more equal opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their labor".

Japanese land reform is based on legislation enacted by the Diet and promulgated Oct. 21, 1946. It has two main objectives: (1) transfer of land ownership to farmers who actually till the soil, and (2) improvement of farm tenancy practices for those who continue as tenants. The program has emphasized private rather than state, and individual rather than collective, ownership of the land.

The program in each village is administered by a local agricultural land commission, elected by and from the farmers. The ratio of tenants, owner-cultivators, and owners on each commission is established by law at 3, 2, and 3 respectively <sup>1</sup>/<sub>6</sub>. Each category elects its own representatives to the commission. Elected prefectural agricultural land commissions coordinate and supervise the work of local commissions under the general supervision of the Central Agricultural Land Commission (national), of which the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry is chairman.

Agricultural lands subject to purchase have been: (1) lands owned by absentee landlords; (2) tenant-operated lands in excess of specified retention rates; (3) owner-operated lands in excess of retention rates fixed by law, except those that can be reasonably operated by the farmer and his immediate family; (4) corporation-owned lands that do not relate directly to the principal objective of the corporation; and (4) lands capable of reclamation for agricultural use.

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>6</sub> Virtual completion of the cultivated land transfer phase of the reform has reduced the cultivated area under tenant operation to approximately 13 percent of the total. It is anticipated, as a consequence, that legislation governing the composition of the land commissions will be so modified as to vest a majority with owner cultivations and balance the rate of tenant with that of owner interest.

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Tokyo's A-155,  
June 18, 1949

- 3 -

Lands subject to transfer have been purchased by the government (through the agency of the land commission) for resale to eligible buyers. Tenants on the land as of Nov. 23, 1945, other tenants, and other persons who wish to cultivate the land have had priority to purchase in that order.

The purchase price of land, established by law, is subject to variation within legal limits at the discretion of the land commission. Sellers of land receive payment in 1,000 yen bonds bearing 3.65 percent interest and redeemable in 24 equal annual installments. Any amount less than a unit of 1,000 yen is paid in cash. Tenants may pay for all or any part of the land at the time of purchase and the remainder in 24 annual installments with interest at 3.2 percent.

Tenant payments for the land, plus other expenses coincident with land ownership, in any year cannot exceed one-third of the gross income from the land in that year. In case of crop failure or low farm prices, the government will reduce, defer, or cancel the annual payment.

Agricultural lands purchased under the program may not be sold or used as collateral for loans during the 24-year amortization period without specific approval of the government. Tenant purchasers desiring to discontinue their purchase contract during the 24-year amortization period must sell their lands back to the government on terms similar to those of the original contract. All future land transactions are subject to approval by the agricultural land commission.

Through the land reform program, the Japanese government had acquired 4,581,073 acres of cultivated land by March 2, 1949, of which 4,389,344 acres had been sold by March 31, 1949. Disposal of the remaining 191,729 acres, together with small additional amounts of land still to be acquired, will be virtually complete by June 30, 1949. The cultivated land area operated by tenants will have thus been reduced from an estimated 6,300,000 acres (46 percent) to approximately 1,670,000 acres (12 percent). As of the same dates, 540,134 acres of pasture land had been acquired, of which 233,149 acres had been sold. An estimated additional 375,000 acres of pasture land awaiting purchase, together with the 306,985 acres on hand, will be sold largely to cultivating farmers by June 30, 1949. In addition to cultivated land and pasture land, 2,402,544 acres of land have been acquired for reclamation for sale to owner-farmers as part of a long-range program for increasing the total cultivated area of the country. Of this amount 10,167 acres had been reclaimed and sold to individuals, or sold to individuals for private reclamation by Feb. 1, 1949.

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Tokyo's A-155,  
June 18, 1948

- 4 -

Although the land reform program is dedicated primarily to creating owner-farmers, total elimination of farm tenancy is not considered feasible. A small reservoir of land subject to tenancy is considered essential to a program of maximum food production. Flexibility in the land tenure pattern must be preserved to prevent withdrawal of land from cultivation in cases where the owner becomes temporarily unable to cultivate for himself, or where no applicant to purchase land is available.

The land reform program therefore also includes provisions to insure fair tenancy practices for those who remain as tenants. The most important of these provisions are: (1) a written farm lease with all principal elements clearly stated; (2) cash payment of rent; (3) ceiling of 25 percent of the production from paddy and 15 percent from upland fields; and (4) rent contract cancellation or alteration subject to approval by the land commission. A model lease contract form to be used by tenants and landlords as a guide in drawing up their own contracts has been widely distributed.

The total cost to the Japanese government of administering the land reform program was 3,929,648,750 yen for the period Sept. 1, 1946-Dec. 31, 1948. Of this amount 4,874,923,095 yen was spent for the support of the 11,322 local land commissions. Principal responsibility and credit for the success of this program involving transfer of title to about 30,000,000 individual parcels of land, accrues to these local land commissions. The average cost of operating an individual local land commission has been approximately ¥1,450 (computed at an assumed rate of 300 yen to \$1.00) for the period September 1946-January 31, 1948, or about \$50.00 per month per commission.

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861.24/1796 <del>1797</del> 1798	H.O. <del>Reed</del>	<del>8-4-58</del>
<del>44.01.23</del>	Duncho	1-30-70
8-2944 #7053	Powell	2-2-70
<del>8-29-7</del> 1945	CS	
8909.91211	Nepher CS	9-12-75
Ind. # 2005 8-1049	Masun repro	10/28/75
11-149	Hofstein	2/10/76
865.01/1945-49	Edelman lab	7/21/76
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Boxes 359 - 457	Miller NND	2/10/78
A-126 7-3049	Kotaki lab	2/24/78



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<del>689</del>	<del>Kammann</del>	<del>7-17-68</del>
<del>1938</del>	<del>Ingone Lab</del>	<del>9-2-69</del>
224	Lane CS	2/19/70
(2 documents) 6825	Litsky	5/16/75
10-349 (2)	Eggleston	6/25
17-94 3-1146	Santis	11-24-75
<del>3-1848</del>	<del>Hoaback</del>	<del>11/6/75</del>
Box 7/24	Hoffs	2-25-76
#533	Rohan	
7-246	Green CS	10/14/76



The Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of Venezuela and has the honor to acknowledge with thanks his note of August 31, 1949, concerning agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad.

The information contained in the Ambassador's note is being forwarded to the Japanese Government through the offices of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

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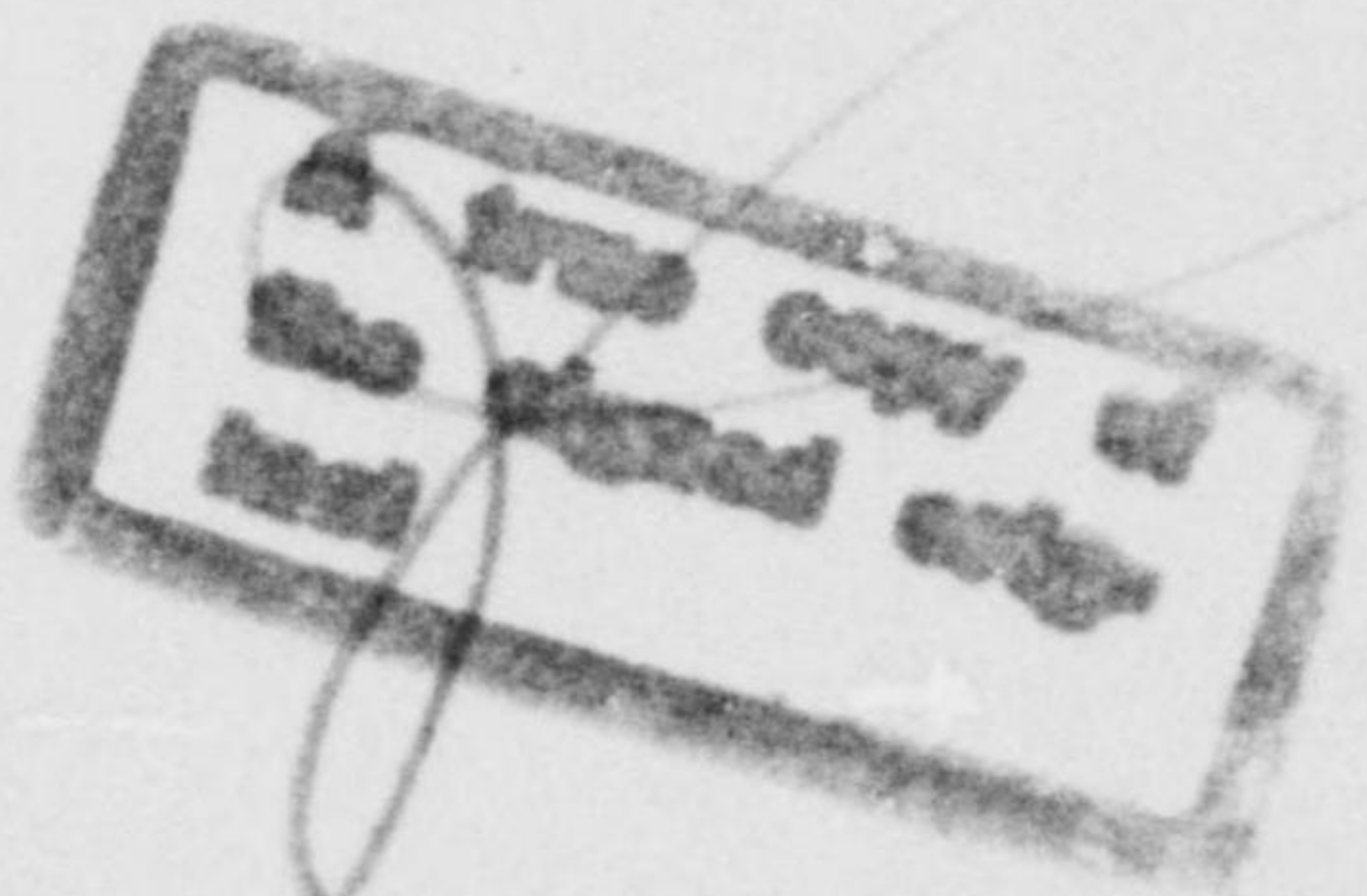
Department of State,

Washington, September 14, 1949.  
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NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

SEP - 6 1949

EMBAJADA DE VENEZUELA  
WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No. 1853

*Acknowledgment sent Venez. Emb. #1119  
POLAD, TOKYO given copy of  
Venez. note for transmittal Japanese Gov.  
9/12/49 - M. Green (NA)*

The Ambassador of Venezuela presents his compliments to His Excellency the Secretary of State and has the honor to refer to the Department's note of April 7, 1949, which concerns a request made by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, acting on behalf of the Japanese Government, to inquire as to the agricultural lands in Japan owned by Japanese residents abroad.

In reply, the Government of Venezuela states that the following are the only two Japanese residents in Venezuela who own land in Japan:

1) NAKATA TUMORO SHIGEO.- Address: Avenida Mirador, La Campiña, Parroquia El Recreo, Caracas. Informs that he owns a lot in his country; that it is so small its value will not even be 100 bolivares and that therefore, his Government may dispose of same.

2) YONEKURA YUZO.- Address: Edificio La Marrón, Esquina de La Marrón, Primer Piso, Caracas. Informs that he owns properties in his country (Japan), covering approximately 7,200 meters, and that said properties are leased. The location is as follows: Department: Yamanschi-Ken; Province: Higashiyamanashigun; City: Yamanashi-Mura Shiyotokuji.

The Ambassador of Venezuela avails himself of this opportunity to renew to His Excellency the assurances of his highest consideration.

Washington, D. C., August 31st, 1949.

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894.52/9-149

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SEP 13 1949

Office of the U. S. Political Adviser  
for Japan

Tokyo, September 1, 1949.

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Subject: Amendments to Japanese Agricultural Land Adjustment Law.

1/ The Acting Political Adviser has the honor to refer to the Department's airgram instruction no. 126 of July 30, 1949, requesting certain information on amendments to the Agricultural Land Adjustment Act as passed by the Diet on May 23, 1949. Enclosed is a copy of a leaflet prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on the occasion of the second General Election of Agricultural Land Commissions, and quoted in full in (SCAP) Natural Resources Section Weekly Summary no. 191; the leaflet contains an official interpretation of Article 15-2 of the recent amendments.

It will be noted that tenant farmers who lease and cultivate more than 2 tan (5 tan in Hokkaido) of land fall in Category I (lessees), while farmers who let out on lease more than 2 tan (again 5 tan in Hokkaido) fall in Category II (lessors). All other farmers fall within Category III. In the case of farmers who both lease and let out on lease, the balance of the two figures determines status for purposes of election to the Land Commissions; a farmer leasing 1 tan and letting out on lease 3 tan, for instance, is deemed to fall within Category II. Lessors or lessees of less than 2 tan, and non-renting landowners, fall within Category III. (One tan equals 0.245064 acres.)

It is the opinion of the Natural Resources Section that the amendments will not lead to any increase in farm tenancy. Limitations on the transfer of ownership or lease rights to farm land remain substantially as they were under the unamended law, and insure that persons acquiring such rights intend to cultivate the land, and that land holdings will not exceed the retention limits set by the Owner Farmer Establishment Special Measures Law (Law no. 43 of 1946). Thus Article 4 of the amended law, while retaining the provision that the permission of the Agricultural Land Commission must be obtained for the transfer of land rights, specifies instances in which permission may not be granted, or may be granted only with the concurrence of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Thus, the Natural Resources Section concludes, there is no more likelihood of an increase of tenancy under the new law than under the old.

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Tokyo's Despatch No. 604,  
September 1, 1949.

- 2 -

The recent amendments to the Agricultural Land Adjustment Law have no relation to the fixing of land rentals. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, however, is studying the possibility of an upward revision of rentals, within the framework of Article 9-8 of the Law, which limits rentals to 25 per cent of the value of a normal yield in the case of paddy lands, and 15 per cent in the case of dry fields.

The Natural Resources Section reports further that Mr. L. I. HEWES, Jr., land reform expert in that section, will be available for consultation in Washington from the end of September. It is considered possible that the Department may wish to obtain further clarification of the recent amendments from Mr. Hewes, who may be reached at the Cosmos Club, Madison Place and H Street, NW, Washington.

Enclosure *cut*

1/ Copy of Natural Resources  
Section Weekly Summary No. 191.

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Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 604, September 1, 1949, from the Office of the U.S. Political Adviser for Japan, Tokyo, on the subject "Amendments to Japanese Agricultural Land Adjustment Law".

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ITEM 1 NATURAL RESOURCES SECTION WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 191

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY INFORMATION LEAFLET ON  
SECOND GENERAL ELECTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSIONERS

Hello! Everybody!

All Agricultural Land Commissioners in Japan soon will be chosen again in a general election for the first time since your Agricultural Land Commissions were set up.

The voting day is August 18, 1949

The method for the forthcoming election is much different from the last one; you will understand the difference when you read this leaflet carefully.

Persons having voting rights are all requested to go to the polling place, calling for one another on their way.

This is an important election for you farmers.

Let us elect your true representatives as commissioners of the Agricultural Land Commission, who handle the matters relating to the land cultivated by you.

A new voters' list of those qualified for voting will be prepared for the forthcoming election.

Have you confirmed whether your names are correctly put down in the voters' list?

Everybody can inspect during the 5-day period starting 1 August the voters' list at the public office (or other designated places).

The Election Control Commission officially announces the place and date on which you can look into the list.

When you go to find whether your names are omitted or misspelled go directly to the Agricultural Land Commission and ask it to certify the matter; then apply to the Election Control Commission for the revision. Take care about this, for the Commission will not accept your application if you do not apply during the period of 5 days for inspection.

A household cultivating more than 1 tan (in Hokkaido, more than 3 tan) or a household owning agricultural land of more than 1 tan (in Hokkaido, more than 3 tan) has members with voting rights; persons more than 20 years old in such households are qualified to vote and are eligible for election.

However

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Enclosure No. 1 to  
Tokyo's Despatch No. 604,  
September 1, 1949.

- 2 -

However, persons who live in the household but are not full time farmers (this is certified by the Agricultural Land Commission) or own no agricultural land, are neither qualified to vote nor eligible for election.

In election, you farmers are divided into 3 groups and these groups conduct the election respectively.

Be careful about the divisions, for they are quite different from the old divisions of "Tenant farmers", "Landowners" and "Owner-farmers".

The structure of the new Agricultural Land Commission is as follows:

Representatives of the lessees (Group No. 1):

2 persons ---- Elected from among those farmers who lease and cultivate agricultural land of more than 2 tan (in Hokkaido, 5 tan).

Representatives of the lessors (Group No. 2):

2 persons ---- Elected from among those farmers who let out on lease their own agricultural land of more than 2 tan (in Hokkaido, 5 tan).

Representatives of the others (Group No. 3):

6 persons ---- Elected from among those farmers not included in the foregoing groups.

Farmers will choose by vote, from among their respective groups, the persons who will stand for the Agricultural Land Commission.

As for farmers who lease one lot of agricultural land and let out on lease another lot, the group to which they belong is decided by the difference in acreage of the two lots.

Which group do you belong to?

--- Just look at the following instances:

- (a) (A person who is an owner-cultivator of 2 cho and a lessee of 3 tan.)  
---- Group No. 1 (The acreage cultivated by the owner-cultivator does not matter, for he leases more than 2 tan.)
- (b) A person who is an owner-cultivator of 3 tan and lessor of 3 tan.  
---- Group No. 2 (The acreage cultivated by the owner-cultivator does not matter, for he lets out on lease more than 2 tan.)
- (c) A person who is a lessee of 4 tan and a lessor of 1 tan.  
---- Group No. 1 (He leases a balance of 3 tan.)
- (d) A person who is a lessee of 4 tan and a lessor of 3 tan.  
---- Group No. 3 (He leases a balance of 1 tan.)
- (e) A non-cultivator land owner of 2 tan and less
- (f) A full-time tenant farmer of 2 tan and less

(g) An

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Enclosure No. 1 to  
Tokyo's Despatch No. 604,  
September 1, 1949.

- 3 -

- (g) An owner-cultivator of 1 cho and at the same time lessee of 1 tan.  
----- Group No. 3 (They are not included in Group No. 1 leasing more than 2 tan, nor in Group No. 2 letting out on lease more than 2 tan.)

What sort of person do you elect as Commissioners of the New Agricultural and Land Commission?

Let's elect persons willing to do their best to protect your rights, and to promote agriculture in your village and freedom for working farm households.

Is there a person among those who stand for the Agricultural Land Commission, who does not grasp the spirit of land reform, who is swayed only by his interest, friendship or favoritism, who intends to make money or take a bribe because of his position as commissioner, and who will remain idle, making no positive efforts worthy of your representative, even if he does nothing wrong?

If you elect such a person by mistake, you will repent it afterward.

Election is not other people's concern. If the person you want to be your representative on the Agricultural Land Commission is not already a candidate, then ask him to be a candidate immediately; he can give notice of his candidature within a week before voting day.

The business of the future Agricultural Land Commission will be more and more important.

Up to now the Agricultural Land Commission has been occupied in the routine work relating largely to purchase and sale of agricultural land, but in future the Commission will be concerned with all the problems facing you and will seek to settle them so as to attain the end of setting farmers free from old traditions;  
For example,

(1) In order to carry out fairly the transfer of agricultural land and pasture land, purchase and sale have to be carefully executed; to assure that these transfers are properly retained, control is given over purchase and sale of agricultural land, its destruction and the transfer of the right to cultivate. To this end, we must carefully prepare the correct ledger and map of cultivated land.

(2) In order to modernize management, the program for consolidating agricultural lands through exchange, partition and annexation has been mapped out, and will be pushed forward.

(3) Control is given over the transfer of forests producing firewood and charcoal, and over grassland as well as grazing land so as to protect farmers' utilization rights; furthermore, service will be provided in maintaining these rights.

(4) When

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