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FROM : CENTRAL INTERROGATION CENTER

TO : PUBLIC SAFETY ATTN. MR. ENGLE 22 May 1950

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BRIEF
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BRIEF
Mr. KO

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THE CURRENT LABOR, THOUGHT AND PUBLIC PEACE SITUATION IN YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE (20 Apr 50)

The labor situation is relatively quiet. In some instances Communist influence in unions has lost ground. However, the Communists have expended considerable effort to exploit some of the labor disputes, but largely to no avail.

The Communists are trying to tie in anti-American sentiment in their struggles. They are organizing anti-taxation and unemployment demonstrations throughout the prefecture. In these they are also campaigning for their candidate for the House of Councillors, YAMAMOTO, RIHEI. This campaign is well organized and is directed through the "Election Plan News".

Communists have been able to cause the resignation of a few mayors and assemblymen in some towns and cities through the exposure of corruption.

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THE CURRENT LABOR, THOUGHT AND PUBLIC PEACE SITUATION IN YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE (20 Apr 50)

1. General Outline

The so-called "March Offensive", sponsored by the National Diet Joint Struggle Committee has not caused any very serious incidents in this prefecture, except for the independent strike of the UBE Nitrogen Labor Union in the YAMAGUCHI Prefectural chapter of the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, in addition to the power interruption strike of the Japan Electric Industry Workers' Union and the wavelike strike of the Japan Federation of Coal Miners' Unions which was on a nation-wide scale which temporarily occaisioned fear.

However, on the other hand the mass demonstrations on the taxation struggle and unemployment struggle led by the Communists increased in intensity after the middle of March. There are indications that they might eventually resort to violence. All these struggles follow a uniform pattern with the ultimate goal being the arousing of anti-American sentiment. Furthermore, it must be observed that these struggles are being utilized as a preliminary to the election campaign for the House of Councillors. It is now recognized that in the local power struggles the Communist Party is gradually gaining the upper hand by exploiting weaknesses of the local autonomous governments in the ONODA, ASA and FUNAKI districts. It is believed that this trend will gain still more momentum with the addition of the local taxation burden in the new fiscal year.

2. Labor Situation

A. Trends in the Japan Federation of Coal Miners' Unions

Among the 24,958 coal miners (as of end of February) in YAMAGUCHI area, eighteen (18) labor unions and 16,110 miners are affiliated with the New Japan Federation of Coal Miners' Unions. The total number of man days involved in the wavelike strikes in accordance with the order of the japan Federation of Coal Miners' Unions headquarters was as follows:

1st Wave (8 Mar to 10 Mar)	15,254 man-days
2d Wave (13 Mar to 22 Mar)	14,639 man-days
3d Wave (25 Mar to 28 Mar)	42,451 man-days

Viewing the strikes on a national scale, the 2d wave showed [illegible] participation in SOBU (JOBAN Coal Field), KYUSHU and HOKKAIDO

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Viewing the strikes on a national scale, the 2d wave showed the maximum participation in TOHU (JOBAN Coal Field), KYUSHU and HOKKAIDO areas, but the fact that YAMAGUCHI area was the only one which showed maximum participation during the 3rd wave must be carefully noted. This can be taken to indicate how passive the Japan Federation of Coal Miners' Unions in YAMAGUCHI area was during the recent nation-wide wave strikes. During the 3rd wave, the strike merely reached the national level for the first time.

Even at the climax of the UBE Nitrogen dispute the Coal Miners' Union of the UBE KOSAN TANGYO Department, which comes under the same management was very peaceful.

Even at present there is little to fear as far as the movements of the Japan Federation of Coal Miners' Unions in YAMAGUCHI district are concerned.

B. UBE Nitrogen Dispute

As for the development of this dispute, I believe it is unnecessary to go into detail, but it is worth observing as a pattern of

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pure Japan Federation of Labor Unions-type dispute since various industrial and mining labor unions (4 industrial labor unions and 6 mine labor unions) under the UBE KOSAN are the strongholds of the YAMAGUCHI Prefectural Chapter of the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, and furthermore the UBE Nitrogen Labor Union has been their central organization.

My opinions on this dispute are as follows:

1. The basic contradiction of this dispute lies in the fact that the labor unions under the profit making management of the UBE KOSAN Corporation had taken up the problem of a base pay hike in addition to the problem of revising the labor agreement, which includes the problem of personnel and management rights and the fact that they were unable to gain any headway in the joint struggle of labor unions which were under one management.

2. Due to the fact that the union chief holds two positions simultaneously, namely the chairmanship of the YAMAGUCHI Prefectures March Offensive Joint Struggle Committee, which is affiliated with the Diet Joint Struggle Committee, and the chairmanship of the prefectural chapter of the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, no significant development in the "March Offensive" is expected.

3. Although the JCP dispatched SHIINO ETSURO, chairman of the Control Committee, to ONODA during this dispute to devise plans to intensify the dispute and to form a second Communist Union, SHIINO met with total failure, because of the firm control by the union leaders. It seems that the communist cell within the union, consisting of about 25 members, was helpless.

4. The Japan Federation of Labor Unions rushed headquarters personnel and a large number of supporters from the National Federation of Chemical Workers' Union and the National Federation of Ammonium-Sulphide Workers' Union, etc, in the area west of the KANSAI district, and were able to prevent confusion and loss of control over the union because the senior officers from the JFLU headquarters and the prefectural federation of the JFLU exerted ceaseless efforts to prevent them from going too far.

5. Contrary to this the management was stubborn and refused mediation. As a result even the mediators, who hoped for the early settlement of the dispute, were unable to do anything. Although this attitude of the management is understandable, the fact that it looked as though local old-style capitalists had influenced the management angered the mediators.

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6. This dispute was temporarily settled on 8 Apr (18 days after it began) due to pressure from the CHUGOKU Civil Affairs Section. However, unless the dispute is permanently settled during the 3 month compromise period disagreement may come up again. I believe that the management will not make any rash moves because they have learned the power of the union once it makes up its mind.

C. Other Problems

1. In the HIDACHI KASADO Labor Union the Communist group replaced the MINDO group (TN: anti-communist group within labor unions affiliated with the All-Japan Congress of Industrial Unions) during the reelection at the end of January, but the majority of the union members became dissatisfied with the leftists' leadership. As a result in the recent reelection of officials, 60% of the seats, from the head of the union

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down to the executive department were taken by the MINDO group and the seats occupied by the Communist group were reduced to 40%.

2. The BOCHO Press dispute, existing since 31 December 1949, was mediated with the prefectural March offensive Joint Struggle Committee eliminating the leadership of the Communist group after 15 March and was finally settled with compromise which withdrew the Union's demand on subsistence allowance and reinstated all the employees.

3. Disputes at the NAGATO R.R. Co. (running between OTSUKI and NISHIICHI) originating from personnel cuts and wage cuts, have continued for quite some time becoming more serious in the middle of Mar. This must be carefully observed since intervention of the Communists is expected.

3. Situation of the Communist Party.

The fact that the prefectural Communist Party, which has been quiet since the 18th Enlarged Central Committee meeting, taking advantage of the "March Offensive" of Socialist Party suddenly began activity throughout the prefecture about 10 March as reported previously. The principle effort was pointed at taxation and unemployment struggles, but considerable effort was expended on the UBE Nitrogen dispute as mentioned previously.

A. The occurences of taxation struggle, unemployment struggle and other mass demonstrations held throughout the YAMAGUCHI Prefecture since the middle of March is as reported in the attached sheets. The general communist activities follow.

1. Excluding the struggle of Socialist Party's Liberal Labor Union in HIKARI City, in the unions beside economic demand, they are raising political demands such as "Hasten the over-all peace treaty and oppose colonization and military bases" and are attempting to raise anti-American sentiment.

2. Aside from the individual characteristics of the various districts, in general they are attempting to formally create joint struggles, besides aiming at the development of local peoples struggle and in order to demonstrate the people's revolutionary strength, they from time to time engage in acts of public disorder. In some areas they have gone so far as to commit acts of violence. Negotiations, demands and demonstrations are nearly identical in all districts.

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3. In the mass demonstrations of the important localities, they organized mass struggle by selecting the expected candidate, YAMAMOTO, RIHEI, as district candidate of the House of Councillors and faithfully carry out the party's House of Councillors election plan which attempts to combine the candidate with the struggle.

4. Since about 10 April there has been a temporary lull in the mass struggle, but this lull appears to be a period in which they are waiting for the decision of the income tax assessment or to prepare for the May Day struggle and it is believed they will become more active from May Day until the election campaign of the House of Councillors.

B. The House of Councillors election plan of the Communist Party in YAMAGUCHI Prefecture has been disseminated to each district, county, and municipal committee and all captains through the "Election-Plan News" dated 7 March put out by the Election Plan Division of the Communist Party Prefectural Committee. According to this publication it supposed that the Diet is a subsidiary organ for the revolution no matter what bourgeois control it comes under, and it is merely a platform to expose the enemy. They emphasize the following:

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Importance of the advanced activities.
Unity of daily strugglesand election struggles.
Practical uses of political newspapers, political operation units, cultural operation units, and propaganda units.

C. The fact that the unrest of autonomous legislatures in cities and towns such as ONODA City and ASA-MACHI was caused by recent Communist's exposure of corruption, firm demands, etc., was reported previously. However, this trend has extended to ASA-GUN, FUNAKI-MACHI and the situation has developed to the point where the town mayor and council might resign. In KUDAMATSU City due to the resignation of all of the assemblymen because of a recall movement, an election will be held on 20 April. There is a possibility that two or three pro-Communist city assemblymen might be elected.

Aside from large cities, many of the autonomous governing bodies of the remote towns, villages, rural and fishing areas have a hands off attitude, so there is little resistance to thought offensives. It is probable that the Communist offensive in the remote areas will become still more vigorous with the coming additional heavy burden of local taxes.

4. Korean Situation

As for the Korean situation in YAMAGUCHI Prefecture, it is desired that a separate report on "Current Korean Situation in YAMAGUCHI Prefecture" be referred to.

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TABLE OF RECENT

DATE	PLACE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPA		
March 6	TOKUYAMA CITY	300	JCP (Japan Communist Party)and other Orga's.	Public Mee Bad Taxe
March 8	UBE CITY	6,000	District Council of Japan Federation of Labor Unions (JFLU)	Meeting to Laborers
March 10	SHIMONOSEKI CITY	150	JCP and other Org'ns.	Public Mee Bad Taxes
" "	BOFU CITY	160	"	Public Mee tization c
March 11	SHIMONOSEKI CITY YAMAGUCHI " TOKUYAMA "		District Combined Labor Union	Laborers'
March 12	BOFU CITY		"	"
March 13	KUDAMATSU CITY	5,000	District Laborer's Association	"
March 14	TOYORA-GUN AGAWA-MURA	350	JCP Agitators	Orientatio Taxation C
March 15	TOYORA-GUN OGUSHI-CHO	50	JCP Democratic Commerce Association	Tax Payers Meeting
March 17	BOFU CITY	400	JCP Agricultural Co-operative Association	District P Opposing H
" "	YANAI-CHO	12	JCP District Committee	Preparator Income Tax Committee
March 18	ABU-GUN NAGO-CHO	80	JCP Cell	Lecture M tion of ov

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JCP (Japan Communist Party)and other Orgn's.	Public Meeting Opposing Bad Taxes	Disorderly Conduct. Two persons arrested for violating Public peace ordinance. ***
District Council of Japan Federation of Labor Unions (JFLU)	Meeting to Stir Up Laborers	Orderly. (In connection with March offensive)
JCP and other Org'ns.	Public Meeting Opposing Bad Taxes	Disorderly Conduct Seen
"	Public Meeting on Democratization of Tax Payment	Gathered at Taxation Office for 5 - 6 hours
District Combined Labor Union	Laborers' Meeting	In Connection with March Offensive
"	"	In Connection with March Offensive
District Laborer's Association	"	In Connection with March Offensive
JCP Agitators	Orientation meeting of Taxation Office Employees	Ended with Agitation by JCP Members
JCP Democratic Commerce Association	Tax Payers' Joint Struggle Meeting	Adopted Resolution on Anti-Taxation
JCP Agricultural Co-operative Association	District Public Meeting Opposing Heavy Taxes	Disorderly Conduct Seen
JCP District Committee	Preparatory Meeting for Income Tax Joint Struggle Committee	
JCP Cell	Lecture Meeting on Promotion of overall Peace Treaty	Conducted Blunt Agitation Against Taxation

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DATE	PLACE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	PROMOTERS	NAME
March 20	HIKARI CITY	50	JCP Municipan Committee	Livelihood Protectio
March 22	HAGI CITY	120	JCP	Hagi Dity Taxpayers'
March 25	ONODA CITY	600	JCP and other Orgn	Anti-unemployment D
March 26	ONODA CITY	700	Socialist, Communist and Laborer's Parties	ONODA Public Meetin
March 27	YAMAGUCHI CITY	400	JCP Japanese Farmers(Association Democratic Commerce Association	Public Meeting Op Taxes
March 27	ASA-GUN FUNAKI-CHO	300	JCP and other Orgn	Meeting Protesting Payment of Taxes
March 29	ASA-GUN GUNAKI-CHO	400	Pro-Communist Liberal Labor Union	Demonstration deman continuation of ene measures
March 30	YANAI-CHO	60	JCP Japanese Farmers Association	Preparatory meetin tax joint struggle
March 31	SHIMONOSEKI CITY	100	Pro-Communist Liberal Labor Union	"Give us Jobs" Dem
March 31	BOFU CITY	7	JCP Japanese Farmers Assocetation	Livelihood Protec
March 31	IWAKUNI CITY	500	JCP and other Orgn	Iwakuni District Bad Taxes
March 31	HIKARI CITY	200	Socialist Party Liveral Lavor Union	Meeting for Unemp

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	NAME	GENERAL CONDITION
ipan Committee	Livelihood Protection Meeting	
	Hagi Dity Taxpayers' Meeting	Bit of Disorderly Conduct Seen
other Orgn	Anti-unemployment Demonstration	
t, Communist and e Parties	ONODA Public Meeting	Opposition of unreasonable taxation, opposition of becoming Military Base, stress of unemployment plan, recall of Mayor and Municipal Assembly, etc. Disorderly Conduct Seen
nese Farmers(Association ic Commerce Association	Public Meeting Opposing Bad Taxes	
other Orgn	Meeting Protesting Against Payment of Taxes	Disorderly Conduct and Violence seen (Police Force was called)***
unist Liberal Labor	Demonstration demanding the continuation of enemployment measures	Sit-Down tactics used from evening to late at night.
nese Farmers Association	Preparatory meeting for income tax joint struggle Committee	
unist Liberal Labor	"Give us Jobs" Demonstration	Dit-Down tactics used at Municipal Hall Hall for over half a day
nese Farmers Association	Livelihood Protection Meeting	Adjourned
other Orgn	Iwakuni District Meeting Opposing Bad Taxes	Bit of Disorder seen (Police Force called in)
ist Party Liveral Lavor	Meeting for Unemployed	Merely conducted demonstration parade after resolving stress on unemployment Counter-Measures

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DATE	PLACE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	PROMOTER	NAME
April 10	SHIMONOSIKI CITY	50	JCP Democratic Commerce Association	Public Meeting A Opposition again Taxation
April 10 " 11	YAMAGUCHI CITY	100 300	JCP and Korean Anti-Force Joint Struggle Committee	Mass Demonstrati Release of Long tainees of Shim
April 13	HIKARI CITY	25	Socialist Party Liberal Labor Union	Make Representa expand Unemploym measures

REMARKS:

1. A pre-Communist mass meeting where resolutions are made always proceeded the d municipal office where the negotiating committee negotiates with the backing of the massed d the above table, refers to the entry of a part of mass demonstrators into public buildings d

2. The *** mark found in "General Condition" column shows the groups which put up Councillors.

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NAME		GENERAL CONDITION
...ratic Commerce Association	Public Meeting Arousing Opposition against High Taxation	Disorder and Violence, 5 persons Arrested. (Police Force Called in) ***
Korean Anti-Force Joint ... Committee	Mass Demonstration Demanding Release of Long Term Detainees of Shimonoseki incident	Disorderly Conduct, 13 persons arrested (Police Force called in)
...t Party Liberal Labor	Make Representation to expand Unemployment counter-measures	2 Persons such as Union Leader YASUDA to start semi-strike from 16th

... resolutions are made always preceeded the demonstration parades to taxation office or the ... negotiates with the backing of the massed demonstrators. "Disorderly Conduct" mentioned in ...f mass demonstrators into public buildings during the course of negotiations.

...dition" column shows the groups which put up YAMOTO, RIHEI as a candidate for the House of

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