

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
APO 234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. 5

PLACE: Tokyo

DATE: 5 Oct. 45

DIVISION OF ORIGIN: ADFEAF

SUBJECT: Japan's Decision to Surrender.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

KONOYE, Prince Fumimaro

Where interviewed: Tokyo.

Interrogator: Col. Marion C. Cooper.

Summary:

1. American Air Offensive.
2. Cause of Defeat.
3. Surrender Decision.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions

INTERROGATION

1. Early in September 1945, the Deputy Chief of Staff, ADFEAF, (Colonel Marion C. Cooper), interviewed Prince Fumimaro KONOYE, Japan's Minister without Portfolio and Prime Minister in the Fall of 1941, prior to Pearl Harbor. That part of the interview quoted below has intelligence value and may serve as background for future interrogations of Prince KONOYE as well as other senior Japanese officials. It is not for publication or release to the press.

AMERICAN AIR OFFENSIVE:

2. Prince KONOYE said that the aerial sinking of Japanese vessels and the B-29 aerial mining of Japanese harbors were equally effective as the B-29 attacks on Japanese industry in the closing stages of the war when all food supplies and critical materials were prevented from reach in the Japanese home islands. He stated that the air blockade became increasingly effective as United States aircraft were able to reach, both by day and by night, to the China coast. He further stated that losses from aerial mining were not as great as from direct air attack, nevertheless, this type of aerial attack was decisive in rendering the few surviving vessels useless.

CAUSE OF DEFEAT:

3. Prince KONOYE said he believed Japan faced defeat some time before the Atomic Bomb was dropped and that before the dropping of the Atomic Bomb, B-29 attacks on Japanese industry, especially that located in the smaller centers, had annihilated Japan's productive power to such an extent that she could no longer continue any sustained fighting.

SURRENDER DECISION:

4. Prince KONOYE gave this account of the final surrender decision: "The Japanese cabinet was unable to come to an agreement. Four of its members and two from the Imperial General Headquarters constituted a council to make the most important decisions relating to war. They were the Prime Minister, the Minister of War, the Minister of Navy, the Foreign Minister, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and the Chief of the Naval Staff. After prolonged discussion, these six voted -- three for war, three for peace. In a desperation move, they presented themselves to the Emperor who, after listening to the arguments pro and con, made the decision which ultimately ended the war.