

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

INTERROGATION NO: 221

PLACE: Tokyo

DATE : 2 November 45

Division of Origin: Manpower, Food and Civilian Supplies

SUBJECT: Cost of Living Indices, etc.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr TOYOSHIMA }  
Mr YONESAKA } of the Cabinet Investigation Bureau

Where interviewed: Cabinet Ministry

Interrogator: Lt J. Forrest

Interpreter: None

Allied Officers Present: Lt H. Fassberg

SUMMARY:

1. The main purpose of the Cabinet Investigating Bureau is to judge the probable imports required for 1947-48 by estimating future population figures and correlating them with the present supplies. No records of consumer expenditures or national income figures prior to 1937 are available.

2. All attempts to elicit information on what was a minimum standard or an adequate standard of living met with little success. Queried on whether the standard ever became so low as to impair the efficiency of the worker, the response was that it depended largely upon whether or not the drop was protracted enough to make its influence felt. No specific instances were recollected. However, it was remarked that from 1939 on, a gradual decrease in workers' efficiency was noticed.

3. For further information we were referred to the General Affairs Planning Bureau of the Ministry of Finance (OKURASHO - SOMUKYOKU KIKAKUKA).

4. A questionnaire on various items dealing with cost of living indices, consumers' expenditures, national income, etc., was left. Whatever answers are available will be picked up 9 Nov 45.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions.