

GHQ/SCAP Records (RG 331, National Archives and Records Service)

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- (1) Box no. **3117**
- (2) Folder title/number: **(2)**
403.2: Land Reform
- (3) Date: **Feb. 1947 - June 1948**

(4) Subject:

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KYUSHU MILITARY GOVERNMENT REGION
 HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
 Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan

ERM/pam

AFPO 929
 19 June 48

File
 403
 SUBJECT: Effect of Taxation Upon Land Reform and Agricultural Development

TO : Commanding Officer, Fukuoka Mil Govt Team, APO 929
 Commanding Officer, Kagoshima Mil Govt Team, APO 970
 Commanding Officer, Kumamoto Mil Govt Team, APO 24 Unit 1
 Commanding Officer, Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, APO 24 Unit 2
 Commanding Officer, Nagasaki Mil Govt Team, APO 929
 Commanding Officer, Oita Mil Govt Team, APO 24 Unit 2
 Commanding Officer, Saga Mil Govt Team, APO 929

1. Inclosure 1 is copy of new article emanating from SCAP Natural Resources section. It tends to confirm reports from the field that current Japanese tax system is placing an inequitable burden upon farmers, thus wiping out SCAP efforts to improve the economic position of the Japanese farmer and possibly prejudicing the entire land reform system. Heavy taxation may become oppressive to new land owners under land reform and accumulating debts may result in eventual loss of relinquishment of land.

2. It is strongly urged that the effects of current taxation program upon farmers be studied and analyzed. The results of such investigations should be included in monthly activities reports.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL HILTON:

G. W. Sargent
 G. W. SARGENT
 Lt Col CAC
 Executive Officer

1 Incl:
 As stated.

DAVIS HITS BUREAUCRATS FOR BLOCKING PROGRESS

Japanese Officials Blamed For Obstruction
Tactics in Improving Agricultural Economy

By L. R. Miglani

Strongly censuring the attitude of Japanese bureaucrats towards agriculture, SCAP agriculture chief R. H. Davis charged yesterday that heavy tax burdens on the nation's farmers can very well nullify the agricultural land reform program.

Speaking at a farewell conference before relinquishing his office and departing for the United States this week-end, Mr. Davis said he doubts the sincerity of the Japanese Government in taking measures as was directed in SCAPIN 411 of December 9, 1945, to insure that those who till the soil of Japan shall have a more equal opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

He said in spite of the agricultural gains witnessed during a year and a half in Japan it is "impossible for me to be too optimistic about the future stability of the agricultural economy of Japan."

He charged certain bureaucrats in the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry and the Finance Ministry with obstruction tactics in blocking his suggestions for the improvement of agriculture in Japan.

He said the bureaucrats are "more interested in their own political position than in the ultimate welfare of Japan" in the belief that a well-informed farming society will lead to destruction of their own "little empire" which they have built for their own ends.

It is here he warned that Japanese agriculture "must not be relegated to the unfavorable economic and social position it occupied before the war."

Mr. Davis said he does not see any particular need for the so-called third land reform program as suggested in certain Japanese political quarters. "The need is to apply democratic processes of giving a full and fair consideration to the effect of policies and programs on all segments of society.

He said although the land reform program may be completed the heavy tax burden might become so great that eventually the farmers may be forced to get rid of the lands they purchase under the reform and then revert to their feudal status.

He said his suggestions for improving the livestock industry, for keeping the farmers well-informed of the improved agricultural techniques, and on other issues have quite frequently met strenuous objections at the hands of shortsighted and inertia-ridden bureaucrats.

Mr. Davis charged the Finance Ministry with employment of "arbitrary" methods in the preparation of agricultural budgets and in fixing a tax policy against farmers.

He called upon the representatives in the Diet to give a break to the farmers who have so much for the Japanese society but got little in return.

He suggested: The tax policy be decided somewhere else and the Finance Ministry merely be given a directive by the Diet for its execution; farmers be granted credits at reasonable rates of interest; and something be done to improve the equity with which the staple food crops quota are assigned.

FILE

OITA MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
APO 24 UNIT 2

RLE/tk

403.2

19 March 1948

SRCS 48/E/A/#1

File

SUBJECT: Effect of Destruction of Land Office Records on Some Phases of the Land Reform Program

THRU : Commanding Officer, Kyushu Mil Govt Region, APO 929

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Army, APO 343
Attn: Military Government Section

1. Reference is made to Annex D-2, Monthly Military Government Activities Report for February, Oita Military Government Team. The fire therein reported has delayed the transfer program outlined in Operational Directive 10/1 and 10/2 to such an extent that a special report is deemed necessary.

2. Transfer of former military lands (OD 10/1)

a. 1134.56 cho of land in this category was approved for transfer by the prefectural land commission. The plan was submitted to the Regional Finance Bureau on 13 November 1947. The bureau disapproved the plan for various reasons, and they were returned for revision. The land commission tried unsuccessfully to obtain the transfer for some time, and a tacit agreement was reached the latter part of January.

b. On 9 February 1948 the prefectural buildings were destroyed by fire and the plans were lost. They were again prepared, and submitted to the Finance Bureau on 27 February 1948. On 13 March some land was transferred, and on 20 March the remainder was approved for transfer by the Finance Bureau. Considerable support was furnished the Oita Military Government Team by the Kyushu Military Government Region Economics Section who held a number of conferences with the Finance Bureau on this subject.

3. Transfer of land taken in lieu of taxes (OD 10/2)

Only 374 cho have been transferred to date. Plans for the transfer of additional areas were destroyed in the fire, but have been remade and the transfer of 1000 cho is expected in the near future.

SRCS 48/E/A/#1

Ltr, 403.2, Oita Mil Govt Team, APO 24 Unit 2, subject: Effect of Destruction of Land Office Records on Some Phases of the Land Reform Program, dated 19 March 1948, cont'd.

4. The prefectural land committee has been making every effort to affect the transfer of both military land and tax land. The Finance Bureau, however, has held up for one reason or another on the transfers until recently. Since the conferences, mentioned before, with the Economics Section of the Kyushu Military Government Region, their attitude has undergone a remarkable change, and transfers in the future will be greatly facilitated.

GUINN B. GOODRICH
Lt. Col., INF
Commanding

BASIC: Ltr, Oita MGT, APO 24 UNIT 2, file 403.2, subj: "Effect of Destruction of Land Office Records on Some Phases of the Land Reform Program", dtd 19 March 1948.

1st Ind

ERM/pam

KYUSHU MIL GOVT TEAM, HQ& HQ DET, APO 929, 26 March 1948

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
(Attn: Military Government Section)

1. A second regional conference of prefectural land officials and tax collection officials and also regional finance and land offices was held January 25 by this headquarters and it is believed all phases of the land reform program will now be considerably expedited. Emphasis was placed on the following action:

- a. Expeditious Transfer of Military Lands.
- b. Expeditious Transfer of Tax Lands.
- c. Expeditious resale of all lands purchased or transferred for Land Reform.
- d. Stimulation of land purchases to point where only 8% or less of cultivated land remains under tenancy.

2. Transfer of 1195 cho out of 1288 cho of available Military Land has been effected in Oita Prefecture as of this date.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
FUKUOKA MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
Fukuoka, Kyushu
APO 929

CWM/r1

15 March 1948

403

SUBJECT: Land Reform

THRU : Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government Region,
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, APO 929TO : Commanding General, Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343
Attn: Military Government Section

1. With reference to letter AG 091 (Japan) (MG-KE) dated 21 February 1948 from Headquarters Eighth Army to which translation of news item from "Akahata" was attached, the following information was obtained. These facts are being reported even though basic letter did not call for a reply.

2. a. The newspaper "Akahata" is a communist publication.

b. The comments mentioned were all discussed at a meeting held by the Akahata reporter with members of the Prefectural Land Commission, but when published were naturally given the effect desired by the newspaper.

c. The Government's original planned purchase was based upon land registration as of 30 June 1946, but was subsequently changed to 30 November 1945, and complete investigation is under way to insure proper date was used.

d. The statement under paragraph 2, regarding boundary adjustments is true. The city and town planning program will take up a considerable amount of land which have as yet remained unpurchased.

e. According to the Land Commission there is no basis for the statement that 1,000 cho had been set aside for future mining land. There is about 10,000 cho of sunken land owned by coal mines, of which about 1,200 cho under the land rehabilitation program.

FILE

BASIC: Ltr FMGT, File No. 403, dtd 15 Mar'49, subj: "Land Reform"

f. The 2,000 chobu mentioned under paragraph 4, was the figure given to the reporter as being purchased in March. Actually 2,581 cho were sanctioned for purchase. Tenant operated land, after above purchases will be 9,315 cho out of a total cultivated area of 109,140 cho, which is about 8.5%. This will be further reduced.

g. Under paragraph 5, the newspaper article makes a statement that a large amount of land has been illegally transferred. This is not true; there have been some cases reported and in every case the Prefectural Land Commission has investigated them. The comments regarding forest or wild land was given to the paper by the Commission. Forest and wild lands upon resurvey, is now estimated to produce about 12,000 cho of arable land after the reclamation program is carried out. About 2,500 cho have already been reclaimed.

3. The comments referred to are typical of the manner in which certain information obtained by these people is twisted to suit the tastes of their paper and readers. There are no facts supporting accusations that the Land Prefectural Commission of this prefecture is not functioning in a proper manner.

1 Incl:
Copy of News Item

CHARLES R. MUNSKE
Lt. Colonel, GAC
Commanding

BASIC: Ltr, Fukuoka MGT, APO 929, file 403, subject: "Land Refora", dtd
15 March 1948.

1st Ind

ERM/pam

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 30 March 1948

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
(Attn: Military Government Section)

Japanese newspapers in Kyushu are notoriously inaccurate even in matters
not of a controversial nature. Political newspapers are entirely unreliable
on controversial issues.

S. G. HILTON
Colonel FA
Commanding

TRANSLATION

Translator: T. OKAWA

19 February 1948

SUBJECT : Newsitem Appearing in "AKAHATA" of 14 February 1948

EDITORIAL : Farm Land Reform

The Communist Party of Kyushu has launched an investigation of the status of land reform on Kyushu.

When the investigators called on the Fukuoka Prefectural Office, they were told that the total land purchased was 31,986 Chobu. Of this, 136 Chobu was land that had been seized by the prefecture for default of taxes,

However, the results of a popular ballot, conducted by the Japan Farmers' Association and the Tenant Farmers' Union, showed that 53% of the people who cast ballots believed that there still remains unpurchased farmland.

Further investigation revealed the following:

1. The Government's planned purchases were based upon land registered as of 30 June 1946, instead of the retroactive date of 30 November 1945.
2. As a result of boundry adjustment, several hundred chobu of land in cities and towns remain unpurchased.
3. Land amounting to 1,000 chobu has been set aside by coal mining companies as future mining land, and as such, is exempt from purchase.
4. The aforementioned instances account for at least 2,000 Chobu of good agricultural land.
5. The above does not include the large amount of land illegally transferred to a void purchase by the government. Further investigation revealed that the Fukuoka Prefectural Office has done little or nothing toward the purchase of Government Forest or wild land deemed suitable for farming. Although, the original estimated area was 30,000 chobu, the latest estimate reduces that figure to about 12,000 chobu.

Proper land reform can only be accomplished through the joint efforts of the Communist Party, labor unions, and tenant farmers' unions. The fighting front of the agricultural revolution must be extended. Land reform is the backbone of the people's fight against taxation and the compulsory collection of food.

Comrades! Adopt forceful measures for the improvement of rural life!

Ltr, Hq Fukuoka MGT, file 403, subj: "Land Reform", dtd 15 Mar 48

AG 091 (JAPAN) (MG-En) 3rd Ind

Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343, 1 Apr 1948

TO: Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, APO 500
(Attn: Agricultural Div, NRS)

Forwarded for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl:
n/c

/s/ R. Schafer
/t/ R. SCHAFER
Lt Col, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

AG 602 (15 Mar 48)NR/A 4th Ind

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS, APO 500
15 April 1948

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Army, APO 343

1. Recourse for Japanese citizens adversely affected by the land reform program is to their own government through appeal procedure established under the Owner-Farmer Establishment Special Measures Law and the Agricultural Land Adjustment Law. Such appeals may be presented by the person who feels himself injured to the agricultural land commission of the city, town, or village or, in some instances, to the prefectural agricultural land commission.

2. In the case outlined in inclosure 1, it appears that the matter might come under the provisions of Article 6-2, Par 2, Item 4, of the Owner-Farmer Establishment Special Measures Law. In this event, consideration of the case by the agricultural land commission of the city town, or village concerned might be sought by the landowner. In any event, the matter must be handled by appropriate Japanese agencies duly authorized by the relevant Japanese statutes.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL McARTHUR:

1 Incl
n/c

/s/ J. F. Bradshaw
/t/ J. F. BRADSHAW
3 Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

Ltr, Hq Fukuoka Mil Govt Team, file 403, subj: "Land Reform," dtd
15 March 1948

AG 091 (JAPAN)(MG-En)

5th Ind

28 APR 1948

Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301

Your attention is invited to the preceding indorsement.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL BICHELBERGER:

1 Incl:
n/c

R. SCHAFER
Lt Col, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

AG 014 - BA

6th Ind

EFH/mo

Hq I Corps, APO 301.

MAY 1 1948

TO: CO, Kyushu Mil Govt Region, APO 929

Your attention is invited to 4th indorsement.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL SWINE:

1 Incl:
n/c

H. C. HANSHAW
C. W. O. U. S. A.
ASST. ADJUTANT GEN

BASIC: Ltr, Fukuoka MGT, file 403, subj: "Land Reform", dated 15 March 1948.

7th Ind

JRS/pam

KYUSHU MIL GOVT R GION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 5 May 1948

TO: Commanding Officer, Fukuoka Mil Govt Team, APO 929

Your attention is invited to 4th indorsement.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL HILTON:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

1 Incl:
n/c

Reference: HQ, Fukuoka MGR, APO 929, file 929, subj: "Land Reform", dtd 15 Mar 48.

FILE

HEADQUARTERS
FUKUOKA MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
Fukuoka, Kyushu
APO 929

HR/pan

FROM: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 501
(4th Military Development Section)

CRM/r1

File

403

15 March 1948

Mr. Taira Amajima of MFI, MGR, who recently visited Fukuoka and who is currently working on land reform, advised thoroughly during the period of his visit, that the great hardship imposed upon numerous small landlords by the land reform act.

SUBJECT: Land Reform

THRU : Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government Region, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, APO 929

TO : General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, APO 500
Attn: Land Reform Section

1. Attached hereto is a statement made by Imada Mukae, which has been investigated and found to be as reported.
2. The Prefectural Land Commission has taken the matter up and has found that in accordance with the law they have no alternative than to rule against the owner.
3. It is the opinion of the writer that the letter of the law, if followed, will result in a miscarriage of justice.
4. Naturally, no instructions were issued to the Land Reform Commission, nor any attempt made to influence them. However it is felt that this case should be brought to your attention as a matter of information.

1 Incl:
As indicated

CHARLES R. MUNSKE
Lt. Colonel, CAC
Commanding

BASIC: Ltr, Fukuoka MGT, APO 929, file 403, subj: "Land Reform", dtd 15 Mar 48.

1st Ind

IBM/pam

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 16 March 1948

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
(Attn: Military Government Section)

1. Mr. Wolfe Ladejinsky of GHQ, SCAP, who recently visited Kyushu and who is considered an expert on Land Reform, became thoroughly aware during the period of his visit, of the great hardship imposed upon numerous small landlords by the Land Reform Act.

2. It is believed that if the information was desired, numerous cases almost as serious as that indicated in inclosure to basic letter could be produced.

3. A possible solution is to empower Prefectural Land Committees to receive complaints and investigate cases of undue hardship and make essential adjustments though the abuses and delays which this might involve are, of course, apparent.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

1 incl:
n/c

Fukuoka Military Gov't Team
Lt. Col. Munske

I dislike very much having to come to you with my troubles, but I know of no other person to whom I may go and receive advice.

I shall state my case as briefly and clearly as possible.

My family consists of myself, my wife, and six children, the eldest being a son, 19 years old. I have been working in the police force for 21 years and 1 month. Being the eldest son of the family, it is my duty to look after the name of our family according to the Japanese custom. Upon reaching the age of 50, I decided that it was time for me to retire from the police force and return to the home-site of my forefathers.

The land belonging to our family consists of rice field .37 acre (1.4 tan), field .25 acre, (5 se), and the house site .20 acre. I had worked these lands until I reached the age of thirty thereby gaining a thorough knowledge of farming. Upon entering the police force, I rented the rice-field and field to dependable persons under the condition that it would be returned to me whenever I should request it. I left the house vacant leaving all the furniture within. In 1940 the house was completely lost in a fire of unknown origin. I, then, granted permission to three persons under like conditions to utilize this land as a vegetable garden.

In June 1947 I negotiated with the persons concerned regarding the return of these lands. They readily complied with my request and I sent my family to this place to prepare it for rice-planting. I had then been stationed at a place about a mile and a half from the home-site. My eldest son had taken a job with a bank near the site. As my house had been completely burned, my family took up temporary quarters in the bank which was sufficiently roomy. I made my request for the return of my land in July of the same year to the Farmland Committee of the village. They requested me to let half of my field land be worked by the former tenant to which I agreed.

Believing that no complications would arise in my plans, we harvested our first crop of rice in the fall but because the paper-ownership of the land was in the name of the former tenants, i.e. as it was still under lease to them on the official papers, the allotment came for our entire crop. I subscribed the total eight sacks of rice from the land, intending to live on rationed rice until the next year. My surprise came when my request came back 'not granted' from the prefectural office. The reason they gave as being in variance with the Land Reformation Act of 1945.

Page 2

Twenty years of life in the police force did not leave me anything and this land was my only hope. It is to me, a matter of life and death. The salary my son receives barely supplies his own need. I am at my wit's end and do not know what to do. If my reclaiming these lands proved a menace to the livelihood of the tenant-farmers, it is an entirely different story but such is not the case. I assure you that it will not cause a distress in the lives of these persons shown by their ready compliance with my request. Has the law the authority to deprive a person of the right life? As I have written above, it is to us a matter of life and death and causing us no end of worry and distress. I appeal to you for a just judgement of my case and advice as to how I may find a way out of this dilemma.

I, Imada Mukae, do hereby swear the fore-going statements to be true to the best of my knowledge.

The above mentioned person is an old friend of my family and I have taken the liberty of putting his case down in English. I sincerely hope for your consideration in this matter. If my presence should be deemed necessary, I may be reached at the Fukuoka CIC.

/s/ H. Tanaka
/t/ H. TANAKA

FILE

HEADQUARTERS
MIYAZAKI MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
APO 24, UNIT 2

GW/ms

25 February 1948
48/E/A/1

SUBJECT: Law Suits Concerning Land Reform Program

TO : Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government Region,
APO 929

1. Following submitted for information:

a. Three (3) owners have contested the legality of the Local and Ken Land Committees by bringing suit in local courts.

b. Outline of each case is as follows:

(1) Plaintiff: Mr. Masaichi KANBE
Inasachi, Oaza-Washikata, Fukuoshima,
Hizaminaka Gun

Attorney: Mr. Hiroshi SUNAYAMA

Defendants: Otsuka-mura Farmland Committee

Gist of complaints:

"Land registered as "Genya Field" (waste land) but actually planted in SASANQUA (Camellia)". That inasmuch as it cannot be called farm land that the Land Committees acted illegally and that if it is considered legal the price should be ¥100,000 instead of ¥48,420.

(2) Plaintiff: Mr. Kiyotaka NOMA
Kasino-machi, Miyazaki City

Attorney: Mr. Tamotsu HAKJO

Defendants: Aoki-Gaiya Local Commission

Gist of Complaint:

"Land acquisition based on tenancy of 23 Nov 45. Land Reform Laws were not in effect on 23 Nov 45. My status as of 23 Nov 45 was not that of an absentee-owner."

BASIC: Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, ltr, 48/E/A/1, Subj: "Law Suits Concerning Land Reform Program", dtd 25 Feb 48, cont'd.

(5) Plaintiff: Mr. Yoshinao HISANAGA
Hinsaimoto, Sueyoshi-machi, Soe Gun,
Kagoshima Ken

Attorney: Mr. Tetsuji OGATA

Defendants: Ken Farmland Committee

Gist of Complaint:

"Land was leased to tenant temporarily. On my re-
turn after war, owner (plaintiff) resumed cultivation,
therefore, purchase of this land under Land Reform Law
illegal".

2. The Ken Governor and the Ken Farmland Committee are included as
defendants in all the above.

ESTELL A. HUTCHERSON
Major, GMP
Commanding

1st Ind

ERM/GHA/pan

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DMT, APO 929, 1 March 48

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
Attn: Military Government Section

For your information.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

FILE
403.2

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH ARMY
United States Army
Office of the Commanding General
APO 343

AG 091 (JAPAN)(MG-En)

4 FEB 1948

SUBJECT: Irregularities in the Land Reform Program in Fukuoka

TO : Commanding General
I Corps
APO 301

The attached letter addressed to the Public Relations Office, this headquarters, is forwarded for your information and appropriate action.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL EICHELBERGER:

1 Incl:
Rpt on Mr. K. Yamaguchi

W-REC
R. SCHAFER
Lt Col, AGP
Assd Adj Gen

AG 014 - BA

1st Ind

ABH/mss

Hq I Corps, APO 301,

TO: CO, Kyushu Mil Govt Region, APO 929

1. Request investigation of condition described in inclosure to basic communication.

2. Report of investigation will be submitted to this headquarters by indorsement hereon.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL SWING:

WILDER A. JOHNSON
Capt, A. G. D.
Asst. Adj Gen.

1 Incl:
n/c

BASIC: Ltr, Headquarters Eighth Army, subj: "Irregularities
in the Land Reform Program in Fukuoka", file AG 091
(JAPAN) (MG-En), dtd 4 Feb 1948.

333.5

2d Ind

CLB/ce

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 13 February 1948

TO: Commanding Officer, Fukuoka Mil Govt Team, APO 929

For compliance with 1st indorsement.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL HILTON:

Incl
n/c

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

BASIC: Ltr, Headquarters Eighth Army, subj: "Irregularities in the Land Reform Program in Fukuoka", file AG 091 (JAPAN) (MG-En), dtd 4 Feb 1948

333.5

3rd Ind

CRM/kki

HEADQUARTERS FUKUOKA MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM, APO 929
3 April 1948

TO: Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government Region,
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, APO 929

1. As requested in the 1st Ind. a complete investigation was made in connection with petition submitted to Public Relations Office, Headquarters Eighth Army regarding a farmer named Kanzo Yamaguchi.
2. A three way investigation was instigated, one through the Public Safety Section, one through Land Reform Section and the other through the Food Section. All three reports indicate that the facts are not as stated in the petition.
3. The police report does not indicate any blackmarket activities, but points out that four of the petitioners were urged to sign by Sakae Ishizu.
4. A complete report from the Rice Delivery Records show that Yamaguchi has completed his rice quota each year since 1945. This section also reports that he is a broker of cows from which he has an income.
5. The Land Section completed its investigation and its findings were that the dispute arose over the fact that Ishizu wanted to buy a small piece of land on which a trellis was built which was in front of his home. The entire lot was offered him for sale but he would not buy it. It was subsequently purchased by Yamaguchi. No question of roads is involved. The four petitioners have requested that their petitions be withdrawn and Ishizu has stated to the local officials that he realized his mistake and has asked pardon. The entire matter has been settled to the satisfaction of all concerned as of 29 February 1948.
6. The land involved is not included in any Land Reform Program as it is considered entirely within a housing area.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Incl
n/c

STEVEN L. CONNER, JR.
1st Lt., FA
Assistant Adjutant

BASIC: Ltr, Hq 8A, subj: "Irregularities in the Land Reform Program in Fukuoka", file AG 091 (JAPAN)(MG-En), dtd 4 February 1948.

4th Ind

ERM/pam

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 7 April 48

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
(Attn: Military Government Section)

Attention is invited to 3rd indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

Incl:
n/c

47/E/A/No. 1

NAGASAKI MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM AAM/ks
Nagasaki, Kyushu, Japan

File : 403.2 APO 24 Unit 3
26 November 1947

SUBJECT: Land Reform; Area Available for Transfer

TO : Commanding Officer
Kyushu Military Government Region
Hq & Hq Det., APO 929

1. Reference is made to the following:

a. TWX, your headquarters, Cite GE-1, subject as above, dated 19 November 1947.

b. Pages 6-7, Natural Resources Weekly Bulletin No. 106, for period 19-25 October 1947.

2. Reference a above refers to the great difference in figures of the area of land available for transfer and of that reported in reference b above. In view of the foregoing, the following report is submitted:

a. Investigation, Japanese reports and records of this Team, indicates that the estimated area of land available for transfer in Nagasaki Ken, as reported in reference b above was correct, to 10 September 1947. By 30 September 1947, the estimated area available for transfer decreased to 13,131 chobu, a difference of 3,044 chobu. This decrease in figure was due to compiling of latest correct figures by each land commissions and verification by the Ken government. This latest correct figure as reported by this Team to higher headquarters, was also reported by the Ken government to the Kumamoto Central Land Bureau for record and transmission to Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

b. The Ken government reports that the area available for transfer will differ again in the near future. This is due to the probability of ex-military land, newly reclaimed and developed land being accepted for transfer by the government.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Vernon C. Hill
VERNON C HILL
Captain CAC
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
FUKUOKA MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
Fukuoka, Kyushu
APO 929

GHM/rl

403

18 November 1947

SUBJECT: Agrarian Land Reform Statistics

THRU : Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government Region, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, APO 929

TO : General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Power, APO 500
Attn: Natural Resources Section

1. With reference to statistics shown on page 7 of the Natural Resources Section, Weekly Summary No. 106 covering "Government Purchase of Agricultural Land" there seems to be some discrepancy as to the basic figure on which the percentage is established.

2. Land available for transfer as shown in the above mentioned report is 38,815 cho where as the figures submitted by the local government as of 30 October 1947 is reported as 29,536 or a difference of 9,279 cho. Using the figure as compared with 18,268 cho acquired as of 30 October 1947 the percent of total acquired should be 62.4%.

3. These figures are brought to your attention as a matter of record.

CHARLES R. MUNSKE
Lt Colonel, CAC
Commanding

FILE

BASIC: Ltr, Hqs Fukuoka Mil Govt Team, APO 929, dtd 18 Nov 47, Subj:
"Agrarian Land Reform Statistics"

403

1st Ind

ERM/cea/tmn

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 24 November 1947

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301

1. The figure of 38,815 cho, carried by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as being available for transfer in Fukuoka Prefecture, seems to be erroneous.

2. The initial report required by Eighth Army Operational Directive No. 10 dated 18 January 1947 and submitted by Fukuoka Military Government Team listed an estimated 27,431.2 cho as being available for transfer. The latest progress report submitted by the Fukuoka Team, which was for the month of October 1947, showed a new estimated area available for transfer of 29,536 cho.

3. With the exception of Saga, Miyazaki and Kumamoto, Military Government Teams of Kyushu are reporting areas of land available for transfer as being much lower than the figures carried by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and shown in Natural Resources Weekly Summary No. 106.

4. Information is requested as to whether a one hundred percent purchase will be based on figures shown in referenced Natural Resources Weekly Summary or whether it will be based on initial reports as revised which were submitted by Military Government Teams.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

FILE

BASIC: Ltr, Fukuoka Mil Govt Team, 403, subj: "Agrarian Land Reform Statistics", dtd 18 Nov 47.

AG 602 - BA

2nd Ind

EFH/yo

Hq I Corps, APO 301,

TO: CG, Eighth Army, APO 343

Forwarded for your information, and for reply to paragraph 4, 1st indorsement, as per telephone conversation with Captain Schroeder, your headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ Wilder A. Johnson
/t/ WILDER A. JOHNSON
Capt., A.G.D.
Asst. Adj. Gen.

AG 091 (JAPAN)(MG-En)

3rd Ind

Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343 19 Dec 47

TO: Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, APO 500
(Attn: Natural Resources Section)

Forwarded per telephone conversation with Mr. Hardie, your headquarters. Request information upon which to base a reply.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ R. Schafer
/t/ R. SCHAFFER
Lt. Col, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

BASIC: Ltr. Fukuoka MG Team, 403, subj: "Agrarian Land Reform Statistics," 18 Nov 47

AG 602 (18 Nov 47)NR/A

4th Ind

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS, APO 500
6 January 1948

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Army, APO 343

1. Reference is made to paragraphs 1 and 2 of basic communication. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry statistics shown in table on page 7 of General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Natural Resources Section Weekly Summary number 106, dated 19-25 October 1947, were compiled from prefectural government reports based on preliminary surveys completed by city, town, and village agricultural land commissions in March 1947.

2. Reference paragraph 4 of 1st indorsement. One hundred percent purchase will not be based on statistics shown in table cited in paragraph 1 or the initial reports submitted by military government teams. Only when all lands eligible for purchase under the land reform laws are purchased will one hundred percent of the purchase program be considered fulfilled.

3. The total estimated area available for transfer as shown in table cited in paragraph 1 is about 25 percent lower than original estimates made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and is considered to be a minimum estimate subject to upward revision. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry estimates of area available for transfer in each prefecture are not considered purchase goals. Already, in four prefectures, government purchases have exceeded estimated area available for purchase as shown in table cited in paragraph 1. In these four prefectures, some land still remains to be purchased. General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, believes that, in most prefectures, purchases should exceed present estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and those reported by military government teams.

4. Paragraph 7, "Items for Attention of Military Government Teams," on page 13 of General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Natural Resources Section Weekly Summary number 113, dated 7-13 December 1947, informs military government teams of action being taken by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to insure purchase

BASIC: Ltr, Fukuoka MG Team, 403, subj, "Agrarian Land Reform Statistics,"
18 Nov 47

of all eligible lands, regardless of any prior estimates of area available for transfer.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MacARTHUR:

A. J. REHE
Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

10 Jan 1948

AG 091 (JAPAN)(MG-En) 5th Ind

Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301

Your attention is invited to the 4th Indorsement.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL EICHELBERGER:

R. SCHAFER
Lt. Col, AGD
Asst. Adj. Gen.
6th Ind

AG 602 - BA

EFH/af

Hq I Corps, APO 301,

TO: CO, Kyushu Mil Govt Region, APO 929

Your attention is invited to 4th indorsement.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WOODRUFF:

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, APO 929

ATTENTION IS INVITED TO 4TH INDORSEMENT

5

Major, AGD
Asst. Adj Gen

HEADQUARTERS
MIYAZAKI MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
APO 929

CW/eh

23 June 1947

FILE
403.2

SUBJECT: Conference on Land Reform Program

THRU : Kyushu Military Government Region

TO : Agricultural Division, Natural Resources Section,
General Headquarters, Supreme Commander For The
Allied Powers, APO 500

1. A conference was held this date in an effort to clarify the local procedure of farm land disputes being tried, and decisions rendered, by the District Courts without regard to the land reform program or the local land commissions.

2. Those present at the conference were:

- a. Captain C. Wenner, MGT Officer in Charge of Land Reform Program.
- b. Kunio Koyama, Chief of Farm Land Department.
- c. Shunichi Kushima, Chief of Farm Land Section.
- d. Hideharu Sakurai, Agriculture & Forestry Ministry, Farm Land Department.
- e. Higaki (Mr.), Kumamoto Farm Land Business Bureau Official.
- f. Aitani (Mr.), Kumamoto Farm Land Business Bureau Official.
- g. Toshio Kai, Miyazaki Local Court Judge.
- h. Etsuo Eto, Nobeoka Local Simple Court Judge.

403.2, Conference on Land Reform Program, 23 June 1947, cont'd.

3. The purpose of the meeting was explained with the view of getting all concerned to recognize the fact that the land commissions have sole jurisdiction over farm land transactions, and that no person should be able to by-pass the intent of the land reform program by the instigation of law suits through the courts.

a. Reference was made to:

- (1) Contents of SCAPIN 411, 1945.
- (2) The Land Reform Program Laws.
- (3) To items number 3 and 4 of Rural Land Reform Exhibit, which are quoted below:

"If the land which you cultivate or a part of it was taken out of the tenancy status by a landowner after November 23, 1945, you can request the Agricultural Land Commission to include the land in the purchase and selling program so that you can buy it."

"Lands subject to purchase are: (1) All tillable lands owned by absentee landlords, (2) All tenant operated lands in excess of about 1 cho in Kyushu, Shikoku, and Honshu and 4 cho in Hokkaido, (3) All owner-cultivator owned lands in excess of about 3 cho in Kyushu, Shikoku, and Honshu and 12 cho in Hokkaido (except in special circumstances), (4) All tillable lands owned by Corporations which do not relate directly to the principal objective of that Corporation. In cases where the tenant on the land as of 23 November 1945 so desires, the purchase plan is based on the status of land ownership as of that date. Purchase may include agricultural establishments if Agricultural Land Commission recognized such application to be reasonable.

- (4) Copy of letter from Kyushu Military Government Region Headquarters to the Director, Central Liaison Office, Kyushu (Incl No. 1).

403.2, Conference on Land Reform Program, 23 June 1947, cont'd.

4. Reference was then made to the more than 159 cases involving farm land disputes and resulting in change of status of tenants that have already been processed by the courts and to the farm land cases still pending in courts of Miyazaki Ken.

5. At this time the question of the propriety and legality of the courts entertaining and ruling in farm land dispute cases, and rendering decisions that are conflicting with the intent and spirit of the land reform program was brought up.

6. After a discussion of the question referred to in 5 above, it was found that:

a. The court based its right to rule in farm land disputes on the Farm Tenancy Conciliation Law which is supposed to date back to 22 July 1924, and articles 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Agricultural Land Adjustment Law.

b. It was agreed that the court could not nullify the tenants right to buy land provided he met the provisions of the land reform program (court representative stated that informing tenants of this right was not within court's responsibility).

c. It was agreed that the current set up provides two (2) government agencies under which the land reform program is administered. It was further agreed that this condition created confusion, and in the cases where the courts administered farm land disputes the intent of the land reform program was not adhered to.

d. The representative of the court admitted that an untenable situation did in fact exist but that he would not change the present procedure of the courts unless the laws were changed.

e. It was agreed by all present that the successful prosecution of farm land disputes by several land owners in this Ken will precipitate a large number of law suits with the sole purpose in view of defeating the land reform program.

7. Recommendations:

a. It is suggested that if necessary the current laws be so changed that the courts will have no jurisdiction of farm land disputes involving the transfer of land or denying the tenant to exercise any of his rights under the current land reform program or in any way denying him his rights of tenancy.

403.2, Conference on Land Reform Program, 23 June 1947, cont'd.

b. It is suggested that any instructions issued in this matter be issued to the Japanese through at least two (2) channels, namely the commissions administering the land reform program and through the channels under which the courts operate. To date the courts have refused to accept any interpretation of the land reform program that has not come down to them from the Supreme Court in Tokyo.

c. Due to the nature of the problems involved it is suggested that action be expedited.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl:
Ltr Kyushu Mil Govt
Region, 403.2, dtd
2 June 47, copy (6)

CHARLES F. TARVER, Jr.
1st Lt AC
Adjutant

BASIC: Ltr, Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, File No. 403.2, subj: "Conference on Land Reform Program", dtd 23 June 1947.

403.2

1st Ind

ERM/aa

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 1 July 1947

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
(Attn: Military Government Section)

1. Forwarded.

2. Kyushu Military Government Region Monthly Activities Report for June discusses in detail visit of Mr. Sakurai of Ministry of Agriculture to Kyushu to study land reform and also contains detailed statements by courts and land reform officials concerning controversy discussed in basic letter. Opinion indicates that change of law to provide arbitration of land disputes by land reform commission is desirable with appeal to courts only as last resort. If such change is not made considerable blocking of land reform program by conservative court officials may be experienced in an increasing degree.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl:
n/c

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt, Sig O
Adjutant

FILE

FILE

337 of 400.2 403.2
403

BASIC: Ltr, Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, File No. 403.2, subj: "Conference on Land Reform Program", dtd 23 June 1947

AG 014 - BA' 2nd Ind

Hq I Corps, APO 301, 21 Jul 1947

TO: CG, Eighth Army, APO 343

File

1. Forwarded for your consideration.

2. This headquarters recommends that the Land Reform Law be ammended to require decisions by Local Land Commissions and Prefectural Land Commissions on cases affecting land reform, before they are sent to courts for a final ruling. It is not believed advisable to restrict the authority of a court as recommended in basic communication.

3. It is further recommended that the judicial branch of the Japanese Government be thoroughly informed on all the aspects of the Land Reform Law to enable the courts to render decisions that conform to the actual intent of the Land Reform Law.

4. Attached as inclosure #2 is a table showing the number of landlord-tenant disputes taken to the courts. Of the total number of cases (1594) only one has received the approval of a prefectural governor.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ Charlie Ramsey
/t/ CHARLIE RAMSEY
CWO USA
Asst Adj Gen

2 Incls:
1. n/c
Added 1 Incl.
2. Table of landlord-tenant dispute.

Ltr, Hq Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, file 403.2, subj: "Conference on Land Reform Program," dtd 23 June 47.

AG 091 (JAPAN)(MG-En)

3rd Ind

12 Aug 1947

Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343

TO: Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, APO 500
(Attn: Natural Resources Section)

1. Forwarded for your information and consideration.
2. There appears to be some misconception concerning the activity of the district courts and the land commissions with respect to disputes between landlords and tenants.
3. The disputes between landlords and tenants which are listed in the inclosures do not appear to be within the scope of the land reform program.
4. It further appears that these decisions of the courts do not affect the right of an Agricultural Land Commission to purchase the land according to the facts existing on 23 November 1945, as provided for in the "Supplementary Provisions to the Owner-Farmer Establishment and Special Measures Law."
5. The recommendation contained in paragraph 3 of the 2nd Indorsement is approved. It is requested that this headquarters be notified of the action taken on this communication.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

2 Incls:
n/c

/s/ R. Schafer
/t/ R. SCHAFER
Lt Col, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

BASIC: Ltr, Hq Miyazaki MG Team, 403.2, subj, "Conference on Land Reform Program," 23 Jun 47

AG 602 (23 Jun 47)NR/A

4th Ind

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS, APO 500,
23 August 1947

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Army, APO 343

1. The attention of General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, has been called to the conflicting interpretations of land reform laws by Japanese Courts and Agricultural Land Commissions in landlord-tenant disputes.

2. It is anticipated that amendments to land reform laws which will have the effect of bringing practically all landlord-tenant disputes within the scope of land reform laws and within the jurisdiction of Agricultural Land Commissions will be passed at the current session of the Japanese Diet.

3. It is the intent to keep Military Government personnel responsible for surveillance of land reform progress informed of developments in this regard through the medium of the Weekly Summary of Natural Resources Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MacARTHUR:

2 Incls
w/d

/s/ M.F. Noyes
/t/ M.F. NOYES
Lt. Col., A.G.D.
Asst-Adjutant General

Ltr, Hq Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, file 403.2, subj: "Conference on Land Reform Program," dtd 23 June 1947.

AG 091 (JAPAN)(MG-Ea) 5th Ind

Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343

27 AUG 1947

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301

Your attention is invited to the preceding indorsement.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL EICHELBERGER:



AG 337 - BA

6th Ind

EHN/efh/ey

Hq I Corps, APO 301, 2 SEP 1947

TO: CO, Kyushu Mil Govt Region, APO 929

Your attention is invited to 4th indorsement.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WOODRUFF:

WILDER A. JOHNSON
Capt. A. G. D.
Asst. Adj. Gen.

BASIC: Ltr, Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, APO 970 Unit 1, subj: "Conference on
Land Reform Program", dtd 23 June 1947

403.2

7th Ind

HBM/pam

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 4 Sept 47

TO: Commanding Officer, Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, APO 970 Unit 1.

Attention invited to 4th indorsement.

Incl
n/c

BY ORDER OF COLONEL HILTON:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

OITA MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
APO 929

OHX/tk

403.2

10 June 1947

SUBJECT: Land Reform

THRU : Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government Region
Hq & Hq Detachment, APO 929

TO : Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301

1. In compliance with letter, your headquarters, file AG 014 - BA dated 22 May 1947, the following information is submitted.

a. Takeshi Morita:

- (1) Present residence is Ohasa Gokase, Higashi-shonai village, Oita-gun, Oita Prefecture.
- (2) Employed by the Oita Prefectural Farm Land Section.
- (3) Is in charge of the land reform administration for four guns, Kusu, Hita, Shimoge, and Usa.
- (4) Has been employed continuously since September 1946 by the Farm Land Section of this prefecture.

b. Hideo Nakagawa:

- (1) Present residence is 891, Honmachi, Tsurusaki-machi, Oita-gun, Oita Prefecture.
- (2) Employed by the Oita Prefectural Farm Land Section.
- (3) Is in charge of the land reform administration of four guns, Minami-amabe, Kita-amabe, Ono, and Naciri, as well as being the tenant secretary (Kosaku Shuji) for the prefecture.

Ltr, file 403.2, Oita Mil Govt Team, APO 929, subj: "Land Reform",
dated 10 June 1947, cont'd.

- (4) Has been employed continuously since September 1946
by the Farm Land Section of this prefecture.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

LUTHER G. JONES, JR.
Captain, TC
Adjutant

FILE
File
FILE

BASIC: Ltr, Oita Mil Govt Team, File 403.2, Subj: "Land Reform", dtd
10 June 1947

1st Ind

JDT/mje

KYUSHU MILITARY GOVERNMENT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 12 June 1947

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, AIG 301
Attn: Mil Govt Section

Forwarded

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
MIYAZAKI MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
APO 929

MS/mn

403

4 June 1947

SUBJECT: Land Reform

THRU : Kyushu Military Government Region, APO 929

TO : Commanding General, Headquarters I Corps, APO 301

1. In compliance with Ltr, Headquarters I Corps, AG 014-BA, dated 22 May 1947, following information is furnished on "Tadao Nobe" and "Tadamitsu Taka", official representatives of this prefecture who received special land reform training in Honshu:

a. TADAO NOBE

- (1) Presently employed by Farmland Reform Section, Miyakonojo District Ken Office (Miyakonojo City) as an administrator of legal affairs and owner-tenant controversies.
- (2) Previous employment:
 - (a) 22 July - 18 November, 1946
Appointed tenant arbitrator in Agricultural Section of Ken government (Miyazaki City).
 - (b) 19 November 1946 - 7 March 1947
Transferred to Ken Farmland Reform Section to handle legal affairs and tenant problems.
 - (c) 8 March 1947 -
Assumed present assignment.

b. TADAMITSU TAKA

- (1) Presently employed as Assistant Chief of Farmland Reform Section, Minaminaka Gun District Ken Office (Obi Town).
- (2) Previous employment:
 - (a) September 1946 - 15 January 1947
Official in General Affairs Department of Economic Section, Minaminaka Gun District Ken Office (Obi Town).

BASIC: Ltr, Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, 403, subj: Land Reform, dtd 4 June 1947,
cont'd.

(b) 16 January 1947 -
Assumed present duty.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES F. TARVER, Jr.
1st Lt., A.C.
Adjutant

FILE

BASIC: Ltr, Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, 403, Subj: "Land Reform", dtd
4 June 1947

1st Ind.

JDE/nje

KYUSHU MILITARY GOVERNMENT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, AFO 929, 6 June 1947

THRU: Commanding General, I Corps, AFO 301

TO : Commanding General, 8th Army, AFO 343

Forwarded.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt SIG C
Adjutant

File
&

HEADQUARTERS
KUMAMOTO MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
KUMAMOTO, KYUSHU, JAPAN

HMK/jk

403.2

APO 929
2 June 1947

SUBJECT: Location of Trained Land Reform Personnel

TO : Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government Region,
Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment, APO 929

1. In compliance with Par. 2, Letter I Corp, subject:
"Land Reform", File No. AG-014-BA, dated 23 May 1947, a report
is submitted of the following Japanese Nationals who attended
a special training school on Land Reform Administration:

a. HARUO IMAMURA

- (1) Present Location:-
Kumamoto Prefectural Agricultural
Land Division, Farm Land Section
- (2) Employer -
Kumamoto Prefectural Government
- (3) Main Duties -
 - (a) In charge of farm-land purchasing
affairs.
 - (b) Advisor on farm land affairs.
 - (c) Coordinates Farm Union Activities.
 - (d) Publicizing of Farm-Land Purchasing
Program.
- (4) Is he employed in connection with Land Reform?
Yes
- (5) Employment subsequent to Sept. 1946 -
Has been employed in present job since
Sept. 1946.

b. KATSUYA SAKAGUCHI

- (1) Present Location -
Kumamoto Prefectural Agricultural Land
Division, Farm Land Section
- (2) Employer -
Kumamoto Prefectural Government
- (3) Main Duties -
 - (a) Charged with Agricultural Land
Adjustments.
 - (b) Advisor to Agricultural Land
Commissions.
 - (c) Advisor on Agricultural Law interpretation
 - (d) Planning of farm-land purchasing program.
 - (e) Publicize, and advise in matters per-
taining to, the rights of tenants under
current regulations.
- (4) Is he employed in Land Reform Duties?
Yes
- (5) Employment subsequent to Sept. 1946 -
Has been employed in present job since
Sept. 1946.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

VERNON C. HILL
Captain, CAC
Adjutant

BASIC: Ltr, Kumamoto MG Team, 403, subj: "Location of
Trained Land Reform Personnel", dtd 2 June 47

403.2

1st Ind

ERM/enh

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 5 June 1947

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
Attn: Military Government Section

Forwarded.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt., Sig Corps
Adjutant

KYUSHU MILITARY GOVERNMENT REGION
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan
APO 929

ERM/enh

403.2

2 June 1947

SUBJECT: Clarification of Jurisdiction of Courts on Land
Disputes as Result of New Land Reform Laws

TO : Director, Kyushu Central Liaison Office
Attn: Mr. Sawaki

Miyazaki Ken reports courts in that prefecture are acting upon land dispute problems under old land arbitration laws. SCAP informs us new land adjustment act supercedes all other land dispute arbitration laws and renders them null and void. This new law also prevents changes in status of tenants after date of 23 November 45. All land disputes should go to local and then prefectural land committees for settlement and only to courts as final resort. We desire to come to an understanding with court officials on these matters.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L. BACHTEL
1st Lt., Sig Corps
Adjutant

FILE

HEADQUARTERS
MIYAZAKI MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
APO 929

CW/eh

21 May 1947

403.2

SUBJECT: Violation of Land Reform Act

TO : Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government
Region, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment
APO 929

1. Attention invited to inclosure No. 1.
2. This matter is forwarded to your headquarters with a view of its being reported to the Japanese Home Ministry for corrective action.
3. It is suggested that if possible the corrective action be expedited and if possible be subjected to publicity.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Incl:
Ltr fr Oriburo Mura
in Japanese w/English
Translation (1)

/s/ Adam H. Harper
/t/ ADAM H. HARPER
Capt TC
Actg Adjutant

FILE

BBBIC: Ltr. Hq Miyazaki MG Team, 403.2, subj: "violation of Land Reform Act", dtd 21 May 47.

403.2

1st Ind

LHM/eah

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 23 May 1947

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
Attn: Military Government Section

Telephone discussion with Miyazaki Military Government Team indicates that inclosure 1 was forwarded as an instance of landlords seizing land from tenants in defiance of law apparently with the connivance of local officials. This is believed by the Miyazaki Team not to be an isolated but a typical instance in that ken. Similar violations of land laws carried on with connivance of local police and other officials have been reported in Oita Ken. It is recommended that higher headquarters inform the Home Ministry that such violations are being condoned by prefectural officials and police and that strong action must be taken to put an immediate halt to such illegal procedures.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl:
n/c

/s/ R. S. Link
/t/ R. S. LINK
Lt Col. AG
Executive Officer

AG 014 - BA

2nd Ind

JOB/eah

HQ I Corps, APO 301, 2 Jun 1947

TO: CG, Eighth Army, APO 343

1. The conditions stated in basic communication and 1st indorsement thereto are at present confined to the Kyushu Military Government Region. There have been no similar instances reported in the Kinki or Tokai-Hokuriku Military Government Regions.

2. The Kyushu Military Government Region has been instructed to direct the prefectural teams to hold conferences with the Japanese officials and inform them of the irregularities taking place within their prefectures.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl:
n/c

/s/ O. H. Schmidt
/t/ O. H. SCHMIDT
Major AGD
Asst. Adj. Gen

BASIC: Ltr Hq Miyazaki MG Team, file 403.2, subj: "Violation of Land Reform Act," dtd 21 May 47.

AG 091 (JAPAN)(MB-En)

3rd Ind

Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343, 7 Jun 1947

TO: Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, APO 500
(Attn: Natural Resources Section)

Forwarded as per telephone conversation between Mr. Hewes, your headquarters and this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl:
n/c

/s/ R. Schafer
/t/ R. SCHAFER
Lt. Col, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

AG 602 (21 May 47)NN/A

4th Ind

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS, APO 500,
21 June 1947

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Army, APO 343

1. Reference letter, Headquarters, Miyazaki Military Government Team, 403.2, subject, "Violation of Land Reform Act," 21 May 1947, to Commanding Officer, Kyushu Military Government Region, and 1st indorsement thereto citing instances of violation of land reform laws.

2. On 2 June 1947 a telephone report of above subject matter was received in Natural Resources Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, from Military Government Section, Eighth Army, and following action was taken:

a. In compliance with a request from Natural Resources Section, General Headquarters Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry sent a representative from Tokyo to several Kyushu prefectures, including Miyazaki, on 12 June 1947 with instructions to work closely with regional and prefectural Military Government personnel and to clarify and instruct Japanese prefectural authorities, concerning existing policy and procedures of the land reform program. Arrangements were made by telephone with Military Government Section, Eighth Army, to coordinate the official

BASIC: Ltr, Hq Miyazaki MG Team, 4032, subj, "Violation of Land Reform Act," 21 May 47.

visit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry representative with schedules of Military Government personnel in Miyazaki Prefecture 23-25 June 1947.

b. On 4 June 1947 representatives of Natural Resources Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, conferred with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry for Home Affairs concerning subject and similar cases. An interministerial statement of policy on this matter was addressed to "prefectural governors and chief public procurators of local public procurator's offices" on 10 June 1947. An official translation of this policy statement was included in Natural Resources Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Weekly Summary dated 14 June 1947, Number 87.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is now preparing amendments to existing land reform laws for introduction in the current session of the Diet. Such amendments will have the objective of strengthening those portions of the existing laws which are subject to adverse interpretation in cases of appeal to courts of competent jurisdiction.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MACARTHUR:

/s/ R. G. Hersey
/w/ R. G. HERSEY
Lt. Col AGD
Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl:
n/c

AG 091 (JAPAN)(MG-LR) 5th Ind

Headquarters Eighth Army, APO 343, 26 Jun 1947

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301

Your attention is invited to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the 4th indorsement.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHLEBACH:

/s/ R. Schafer
/w/ R. SCHAFFER
Lt Col AGD
Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl:
n/c

BASIC: Ltr Hq Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, 403.2, subj: "Violation of
Land Reform Act", dtd 21 May 1947.

AG 014 - BA

6th Ind

JOE/st

Hq 1 Corps APO 301 1 JUL 1947

TO: CO, Kyushu Mil Govt Region, APO 929

Forwarded for your information. Special attention is called to
paragraph 3, 4th indorsement regarding proposed amendment to the Land
Reform Law.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WOODRUFF:

H. B. TAYLOR
MAJOR, A.S.D.
ASST. ADJ. GEN.

1 Incl:
n/c

403.2

7th Ind

ERM/aa

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 7 July 1947

TO: Commanding Officer, Miyazaki Mil Govt Team, APO 929

Forwarded for your information.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL COUGHLIN:

1 Incl:
n/c

CHARLES D. BACHTEL
1st Lt, Sig C
Adjutant

KYUSHU MILITARY GOVERNMENT REGION
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan
APO 929

ERM/enh

403.2

21 May 1947

SUBJECT: Opposition to Land Reform by Oita Land-Owners'
Association or by Other Similar Groups

TO : Director, Kyushu Central Liaison Office
Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan

SCAPIN 411 of 9 December 45 is forwarded as Enclosure 1. This SCAPIN clearly indicates that the land reform program is an integral part of the Occupation Forces' policy for democratization of Japan. Opposition to the land reform program which brands it communistic or slanders and stimulates hatred of those responsible for it and calls for opposition to it obviously is action contrary to Occupation Forces' policy as set forth in cited SCAPIN.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl:
SCAPIN 411, dtd 9 Dec 45.

R. S. LINK
Lt Col, AC
Executive Officer

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

AG 602.6 (9 Dec 45)CIE
(SCAPIN - 411)

9 December 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

THROUGH : Central Liaison Office, Tokyo.

SUBJECT : Rural Land Reform.

1. In order that the Imperial Japanese Government shall remove economic obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies, establish respect for the dignity of man, and destroy the economic bondage which has enslaved the Japanese farmer to centuries of feudal oppression, the Japanese Imperial Government is directed 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.

2. The purpose of this order is to exterminate those pernicious ills which have only blighted the agrarian structure of a land where almost half the total population is engaged in husbandry. The more malevolent of these ills include:

a. Intense overcrowding of land.

Almost half the farm households in Japan till less than one and one half acres each.

b. Widespread tenancy under conditions highly unfavorable to tenants.

More than three-fourths of the farmers in Japan are either partially or totally tenants, paying rentals amounting to half or more of their annual crops.

c. A heavy burden of farm indebtedness combined with high rates of interest on farm loans.

d. Government fiscal policies which discriminate against agriculture in favor of industry and trade.

BASIC: GHQ SCAP Memo to IJG, file AG 602.6 (9 Dec 45)CIE, dtd 9 Dec 45, subject: "Rural Land Reform".

Interest rates and direct taxes on agriculture are more oppressive than those in commerce and industry.

- e. Authoritative government control over farmers and farm organizations without regard for farmer interests.

Arbitrary crop quotas established by disinterested control associations often restrict the farmer in the cultivation of crops for his own needs or economic advancement.

Emancipation of the Japanese farmer cannot begin until such basic farm evils are uprooted and destroyed.

3. The Japanese Imperial Government is therefore ordered to submit to this Headquarters on or before 15 March 1946 a program of rural land reform. This program shall contain plans for:

- a. Transfer of land ownership from absentee land owners to land operators.
- b. Provisions for purchase of farm lands from non-operating owners at equitable rates.
- c. Provision for tenant purchase of land at annual installments commensurate with tenant income.
- d. Provisions for reasonable protection of former tenants against reversion to tenancy status. Such necessary safeguards should include:
 - (1) Access to long and short term farm credit at reasonable interest rates.
 - (2) Measures to protect the farmer against exploitation by processors and distributors.
 - (3) Measures to stabilize prices of agricultural produce.
 - (4) Plans for the diffusion of technical and other information of assistance to the agrarian population.
 - (5) A program to foster and encourage an agricultural co-operative movement free of domination by non-agrarian interests and dedicated to the economic and cultural advancement of the Japanese farmer.
- e. The Japanese Imperial Government is requested to submit in

BASIC: GHQ SCAP Memo to IJG, file AG.602.6 (9 Dec 45)CIE, dtd 9 Dec 1945.
subject: "Rural land Reform".

addition to the above, such other proposals it deems
necessary to guarantee to agriculture a share of the
national income commensurate with its contribution.

FOR THE SUPREME COMMANDER:

/s/ H. W. Allen,
/t/ H. W. ALLEN,
Colonel, A G. D.,
Asst Adjutant General.

OITA MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM
APO 929

FAC/tk

6 March 1947

403.2

SUBJECT: Opposition to Land Reform Law.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Army, APO 343
Attn: Military Government Section

THRU : Channels

1. Upon receipt of telephonic instructions from Kyushu Military Government Region Headquarters an investigation relative to reported opposition to the Japanese Land Reform Law in Oita Prefecture was initiated by this headquarters.

2. On 25 February 1947 police of the Oita Prefectural Office delivered a report to this unit which has been translated substantially as follows:

a. With the promulgation of the Agrarian Adjustment Law and Special Regulations for Establishment of Small Holdings, Ueki Yoshio, a landowner of Oita City, planned to organize a landowners association for the purpose of securing revision of the present law, which landowners feel is too drastic.

b. During the early part of January 1947 Ueki gathered a number of adherents to his cause and about 30 January 1947 he and his followers issued approximately one thousand invitations to landholders of Oita Prefecture to attend a conference on 26 January 1947 at Oita to perfect an organization, and to decide on objectives, policies, and procedures.

c. The meeting outlined in sub-par b was duly held on 26 January 1947 at the Onichi Primary School in Oita City, and about three hundred (300) landowners attended. Ueki Yoshio was elected head of the association or "Agrarian Committee", as this organization is also called. A roster of the chief promoters of the association contains the following names:

Ueki, Yoshio (Chairman)	- Landowner, Oita City
Abe, Minoru	- Representative of landowners of Hayami-gun. Address: Toyooka-machi, Hayami-gun.
Asanuma, Yoshio	- Member of Prefectural Assembly. Address: Nakatsu City.

Ltr 403.2, Oita Mil Govt Team, subj: Opposition to Land Reform Law, dated 6 Mar 1947, cont'd.

Utsunomiya, Horitsuna	- Chief of Progressive Party of Beppu City.
Ichimaru, Gohel	- President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Oita City.
Hinagi, Minoru	- Doctor, Oita City.
Ono, Kishio	- Landowner, Oita City.
Oribe, Hidehiko	- Doctor, Oita City.
Kikukawa, Sakujiro	- Landowner, Oita City.
So, Shibahei	- Landowner, Oita City.
Nagamatsu, Junzaku	- Landowner, Oita City.
Suehiro, Fusaichi	- Landowner, Nakatsu City.
Naka, Hachiro	- Landowner, Nakatsu City.

d. Abe Minoru opened the meeting with a speech in which he made the following statement: "At present Japan is under the control of the Allied Powers. The Tenno is powerless. General MacArthur is superintending the administration of Japan. Therefore General MacArthur is Tenno of Japan. We should petition General MacArthur to reform every existing law that is inconsistent with the present state of Japan. Terrorism will be prevalent in Japan within six months or a year. The Land Reform Law is an evil law which checks the way of people who desire to return to farming, and deprives landowners of their way of life. If the letter of this law is carried out serious economic and social confusion will follow".

e. At this juncture Hashimoto Naamori, Chief Secretary of the Japanese Farmers' Association, who had gained entrance to the meeting by using an assumed name stood up and spoke as follows: "I sense a Fascist atmosphere in this meeting. You are instigating terrorism, and are interfering with the democratization of Japan. Such meetings as this exert a very harmful influence."

f. Ueki Yoshio, Utsunomiya Horitsuna, and several others dragged Hashimoto from the speaker's platform and held him for about thirty minutes before the audience. At the end of this period Hashimoto offered an apology, and was allowed to leave. Later Hashimoto gave an interview to several newspaper reporters and made public various details of the meeting.

g. After the Hashimoto incident was disposed of the meeting proceeded in an orderly manner, and a decision was reached to carry out the following measures:

- (1) To set up branch offices of the association in every city, town, and village of Oita Prefecture.
- (2) To start a vigorous campaign throughout Kyushu calling upon all landowners to join in petitioning the

Ltr 403.2, Oita Mil Govt Team, subj: Opposition to Land Reform Law, dated 6 Mar 1947, cont'd.

government for revision of the Land Reform Law to provide for inclusion of the following points:

- (a) Allow landowners the right to cultivate a portion of their land.
- (b) Allow landowners to select that portion of their land to be sold.
- (c) Allow "branch families" of landlords to cultivate portions of a landlord's holdings.
- (d) Revise purchasing price of land.
- (e) Maintain parity between farm rent and prices of farm products.
- (f) Allow landlords the same amount of reserved rice as tenants are allowed.
- (g) Establish loan fund for landowners who are required to change profession.

h. Temporary headquarters of the Oita Landowners Association has been set up at Ueki Yoshio's home at No. 654, 1-chome, Minami Oji-machi, Oita City.

i. The second meeting of the landowners association was held in the Catholic Church at Oita on 14 February 1947. About one hundred (100) from all Kyushu attended. Ueki Yoshio opened the meeting, and introduced Imanaga Takao, formerly Chief Judge of the Oita Local Court, who is presently the legal advisor of the association. Imanaga delivered a speech in which he stated in part, "The Land Reform Law is an evil, conflicting law which ignores humanity under the fine pretext of land adjustment. Democracy means that system which can be acknowledged and supported by the general public. Have the landowners approved this reformation? We protest the purchasing of arable land by the Government without some revision of this law. I intend to enter an objection to the Government's purchasing of the land, and cause a delay in delivery of one or two years. In the meantime I think a revision will take place."

j. Abe Minoru then addressed the meeting as follows: "I think the Communist Party had a lot to do in the conception of this Land Reform. It is far from rebuilding Japan, but is really destruction. I wish to present two cases as examples of the injustice of the law. A certain farmer was drafted into the army during the war, and left his land consisting of seven tanbu in the hands of his wife and three children. The wife rented six tanbu to tenants and cultivated one tanbu with the help of her children as they were unable to cultivate more than that. The husband died in the war, and the children grew up to be competent to cultivate the land which was rented. Now the family cannot get back the former estate and they are hard pressed to live."

Ltr 403.2, Oita Mil Govt Team, subj: Opposition to Land Reform Law, dated 6 Mar 1947, cont'd.

In another case the hard working son of an old couple was taken into the army. Then this couple rented seven tanbu from an estate of one chobu. The old couple cultivated the remaining three tanbu. Their son died in the service, and they took an adopted son. The entire family cannot live on three tanbu, but they cannot recover the seven tanbu which was rented. We can find many cases similar to these. Such a law is a communistic evil. It is very strange that the estate which one's ancestor acquired by blood and sweat should be taken away at such a low price. I have been in England and the United States. I know well the state of things there. It is very different. GHQ encouraged the release of arable land for the democratization of Japan, but did not stipulate as to the details. I think that if we petition GHQ a proper revision will be made".

3. So far as is known the Landowners Association has not advocated outright resistance to the Land Reform Law even though they have used strong language in attacking the act. However the Oita group appear to be making themselves heard throughout Kyushu, and this movement may have far reaching consequences. There is no doubt that the leaders of the association are using exaggeration of isolated instances of apparent injustice to interest the public in their movement, and are not advocating use of the provisions of the law in adjusting inequalities which arise in individual cases.

4. The Japanese Farmers Association is bitterly opposed to the Landowners Association, and there is every indication that the matter will become a very controversial political issue eventually.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

LUTHER G. JONES, Jr.
Captain, TC
Adjutant

BASIC: Ltr, Oita Mil Govt Team, File No. 403.2, subj:
"Opposition to Land Reform Law.", dtd 6 March 1947

403.2

1st Ind.

ERM/sk

KYUSHU MIL GOVT REGION, HQ & HQ DET, APO 929, 10 March 1947

TO: Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
Attn: Military Government Section

This report indicates that subject organization is potentially a source of anti-occupation sentiment. The C.I.C headquarters at Fukuoka and the local Oita Detachment are informed of the activities of this organization and have the organization under investigation and observation. The use of a catholic church for one of the meetings is an interesting detail in view of strong catholic opposition to several SCAP reforms noted in monthly activity reports this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CHARLES L BACHTEL
1st Lt., Sig C
Adjutant

FILE

KYUSHU MILITARY GOVERNMENT REGION
HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan

REG/ble

403.2
386.3APO 929
4 March 1947SUBJECT: Lands of Catholic Church as Affected by Land Reform
LawTO : Commanding General, I Corps, APO 301
(Attn: Military Government Section)

1. There is forwarded herewith, as a matter of primary interest, a petition of the bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Fukuoka asking for exception for the cultivated lands of the diocese from the provisions of the new agricultural laws that require that the lands be given up to the government.

2. No information is available as to any provision of the agricultural laws which recognizes any special characteristics of church lands or provides for any special treatment for such lands.

1 Incl:
Petition from Bishop
of Kyushu

R. E. COUGHLIN
Colonel, CE
Commanding

THE AGRICULTURAL LAWS RE PEASANT PROPRIETORS & TENANTS

According to the new agricultural laws all the agricultural lands either cultivated by the proprietors or lent to tenants are to be given up all to the Government under certain conditions at a fixed price with no distinction of individual and legal persons. The laws shall be enforced very soon in each prefecture in Japan.

The Catholic Church as a legal person, has some hands, for instance, the Diocese of Fukuoka possesses cultivating and tenant lands nearly (30,747 tsubo - Diocese; 65,000 tsubo - Trappist) tsubo in various towns and villages.

These lands have been purchased or donated by the faithful with a view to be used gradually for building churches and auxiliary charity works in the future in the measure of development of the Christian religion in Japan. Without lands we can build neither Churches nor any auxiliary Church works as desired. Thus, we shall be left deprived of the means of activities. The Church must remain inactive, having no life as one would say.

Particularly the monastery of the Trappist monks (Shindenbaru, Fukuoka-ken) possesses a vast cultivating land in the diocese. The cultivation and the working in the farms are the means of life for the monks and important helps for their spiritual life too.

If, therefore, the new land laws are to be enforced with no exception, the Catholic Church and the monastery have to lose their capital lands and be put in a very difficult position to work on their spiritual mission if not put in the danger of ruin.

These difficult circumstances of evangelization of Japan must not be left untouched: They should be rectified so that the Church can work in full swing according to the spirit of SCAP directing the reconstruction of Japan.

Needless to say that all the Catholic works have a world wide connection. Especially the foundation of Catholic Church in Japan has been worked out by foreign missionaries, principally by the French missionaries. Almost all the church lands and buildings existing today have been purchased, built and kept up with the donation of the benefactors of the world, collected by the French priests.

At the outbreak of the last war the direction of the diocese of Fukuoka, like all other dioceses, has been cided to the Japanese Bishop according to the decree of the Holy See of Rome. So, all the lands and buildings morally speaking belong to foreign nations, and finally to the Holy See.

From such a moral stand point of view the Catholic Church should be previledged to ask for exception for the cultivating lands of the diocese so that the new laws may not be enforced on the lands of legal person, the diocese of Fukuoka, whether they are cultivated by the Church or tenant farms.

+ *Dominicus S. Fukahori*
Bishop of Fukuoka
Fukuoka, 25th February 1947
Dominicus S. Fukahori
Bishop of Fukuoka

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