

Yoshida, Kamei

REPORT ON : The Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai
(National Policy Research Institute)

PREPARED BY : Lt. Eric W. Fleisher
Investigator, I.P.S.

DATE : 4 June 1947

The Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai, a little heard of organization with the outward appearance of a group devoted to the discussion and study of current events has since 1937 played an extremely important part in advising the various departments in regards national policy, the administration of conquered territory and the utilization of the natural resources and materials available in territories already occupied by Japan, and in those that the association considered should be occupied. Its membership consisted mostly of second rate politicians who were devoted to the cause of Japan ruling not only Asia, but of making the Pacific Ocean a "Mare Nostrum" by occupying Alaska and certain countries of South America along the Pacific Coast and thereby spreading Japan's influence into the interior of South America and through the West Coast of the United States. Lacking in power, themselves, the members of the Association sought to influence the greater political figures of the day and to gain the support of those that favored their policy of aggression and conquest, which they did with considerable success. Such men as MOTO, Akira; KAYA, Okinori; SATO, Kenryo; SUZUKI, Teiichi; GOTO, Shigenori; KISHI; TAKAHASHI; GOTO, Fumio; ABE, Nobuyuki; ISOGAYA; SHIMOMURA; HORIUCHI; SAKURAI; KOPAYASHI, Seizo; ARITA, Hachiro; IWAKURO, Tokue; SHIBAYAMA, Kaneshiro; MATSUMURA; ARISUE, Seizo; NAGAI, Yatsuji; SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru and other influential men were affiliated with the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai and many of them made speeches at the meetings or attended them for the purpose of informing the society of recent developments in the political scene in Japan, in the occupied areas, and abroad.

In spite of the fact that the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai claimed to be a private organization under no outside influence, most of its financial backing came from the secret funds or "Kimitsuhi" of the various ministries and departments of the Government and from the larger private concerns. In the early days these contributions rarely exceeded five thousand yen, but later, especially after the outbreak of the "Greater East Asia War" contributions were rarely less and usually well over five thousand yen. The War Ministry and Navy Ministry were the most regular contributors and gave the greatest amounts, but the Greater East Asia Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Cabinet Bureau of Information, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry also gave their support. Out of the almost one hundred private companies that gave financial backing to the KKK, Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Asano, Ayakawa, Sumitomo, Tokyo Shibaura Denki and Osaka Seitetsu are the most well known. Extra amounts were collected from these sources on other occasions for special projects. In the end of 1941, or the beginning of 1942, the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai began research on their "Ten Year Plan for the Development of Greater East Asia."

For this project Muto, Akira of the Military Affairs Bureau gave the KKK 20,000 yen out of secret funds, and the same amount was received from Oka, Keijun of the Navy. The Foreign Office and the Cabinet Bureau of Information contributed 20,000 yen but this time only 5,000 yen was received from the Greater East Asia Ministry. From private companies 200,000 yen was collected.

The Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai, although not organized into definite sections for the study of various areas, did have specialists in each field and committees were formed whenever a project was undertaken, headed by these specialists. For example, specialists studying relations with the United States were Ishida, Reisque (Mitsui Bussan); Tojima (Mitsui Bussan); Isogaye, Reisque; and Sato, Naotake; while Okura, Kinmochi; and Kuroda, Kakuchi were the outstanding specialists on Russia.

The sources of information available to the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai were so extensive that no civilian, none government organization could ever have come near it. Much of this information was gathered from prominent members and their more influential friends, but documents too, from government ministries were in the possession of the society. Through Muto, Akira; Yatsugi, Kazuo of the KKK, was able to acquire and retain in his possession many documents of the Military Affairs Bureau, classified as "Top Secret." Yatsugi obtained documents through Muto as Muto was a good personal friend of his, but information was procured from other government ministries and from other high officials. This information was used in drawing up the various plans put out by the KKK.

In regards the United States a committee was formed in 1939 and functioned through 1941 studying U.S.-Japanese relations and conditions in the United States. The KKK published a full report in 1940 on its findings. So thorough was the knowledge of this committee that it was even familiar with the fortification of the Mandated Islands, something that was known only to a circle of the top ranking military and naval men. The material and statistics published by other societies, such as the Showa Kenkyu Kai and the Towa Kenkyu Kai was available to the KKK. An organization known as the Chosa Kenkyu Doin Honbu (Investigation and Research Mobilization Headquarters) acted as liaison between the many associations. Okura, Kinmochi; senior member of the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai was president of the Chosa Kenkyu Doin Honbu and Kanamori, Tokujiro, Chief of the Political Section of the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai was one of the Directors of the Chosa Kenkyu Doin Honbu.

By the end of 1941 the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai had worked on plans to utilize the facilities of the South Seas, Eastern Russia, Alaska, Canada, Central America, South America and India. Many members, influential sponsors, and associates thought that the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai had gone too far. Even Muto was opposed to including India although he approved of evicting the British from Asia. Regardless, the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai had gone ahead with these plans, some of which were later adopted in a modified form, to suit the Army, and the entire area was called the "East Asia Sphere."

In the spring of 1942 the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai began research on its "Ten Year Plan for the Development of Greater East Asia." There were approximately ten different sections covering an extremely wide scope of research on this subject. Yatsugi, Kazuo (IPS witness) was the administrative head of the project, and was responsible for financing it. Takahashi, Kamegichi was the chief investigator and Kanamori, Tokujiro was in charge of the Political Section. At first the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai received much support from the different ministries and from high officials in the Government, but as the future of the "Greater East Asia Sphere" became more and more uncertain this support decreased. The plan was finally completed and a final report published, but it was never adopted, for by this time the tide of battle had turned against Japan and she had her hands full just trying to hang on to what territory she had. With this change in the fortunes of war the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai became less and less active. Government circles became more reluctant to give out information and documents were not easily obtained. Government agencies were no longer receptive to advice or plans for the future as they had their hands full with the War and its outcome. Although by 1944 the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai had lost its influence and had become almost inactive, it nevertheless carried on its meetings and still remained well informed in almost every field. Prominent members of the KKK were familiar even with secrets such as the profits from the opium trade. Satomi, head of the hong at Shanghai, sent the profits to Suzuki, Teiichi who placed them in Tojo's secret fund.

The Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai continued from 1944, when it lost its influence until the end of the War, when it was dissolved, as an organization that was extremely well informed on all matters and could be called on at all times should its need arise.

The foregoing report is based upon the interrogations of Yatsugi, Kazuo and Okura, Kinmochi conducted in June 1946. Okura was again interrogated on 27 May 1947 by this investigator prior to this writing. Documents published by the Kokusaku Kenkyu Kai in the possession of the International Prosecution Section were used as reference and background material in the preparation of this report.

Eric W. Fleisher
 ERIC W. FLEISHER
 1st Lt. Inf.
 Investigative Division, I.S.

NAME

YATSUGE Kazuo

SOCIETY

KOKUSAKU KENKYU KAI
National Policy Research
Society)

POSITION

Promoter

YATSUGI, Kazuo

Request by: SHIRATORI, Toshio

Address: No. 5 - Sakura-ga-Oka-Machi, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo

He was formerly General Secretary of the National Policy Investigation Association (Kokusaku Kenkyu-Kai).

(7.0)

YATSUGI, Kazuo

Request by: Shiratori, Toshio

Address: No 5 - Sakuraga-oka-machi,
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

He was formerly general secretary of the
National Policy Investigation Association
(Kokusaku Kenkyu-kai).

Re Career of YATSUGI Kazuo

Report is hereby made of the findings of
investigation into the career of the above-named:-

Permanent Domicile : No. 5 Sakuragooka-machi, Sh buya-ku
Tokyo.

Living Address : Same as above.

Occupation : Advises to the Daiiei Industrial Co., Ltd.

Name : YATSUGI, Kazuo

Date of Birth : 5 July, 1899

Education : Finished the primary School course in
Saga Prefecture.

Left a middle school in Saga Prefecture
without finishing the whole course.

Previous Occupations :

From 1919 Clerk in service of Kyocho-kai
To 1925 (Labor-capital-Harmonization
Association)

From 1933 Director-in Chief, Kokusaku
To 1945 Kenkyu-kai (Institute for Study
of National Policy) and Political
Adviser commissioned by the War Ministry.

Military Service : Class "B", 2nd.

Family : Wife Toyof, Born 3 March, 1901

No children.

Matters for reference :

None.

YATSUGI

29 April 1947

MEMORANDUM TO : Mr. D. H. Sutton

FROM : Lt. K. Steiner

Your attention is invited to the following documents which may be used in cross-examination of the defense witnesses indicated:

1. IPS Document 2672, being Exhibit 836, an affidavit by MATSUMURA, Tomokatsu, a defense witness assigned to Mr. Dunigan.
2. IPS Documents 2675 to 2684 inclusive, being diaries and rough notes on the Greater East Asia War by Lt. Gen. KAWAMURA, Saburo. These documents have not been introduced in evidence. KAWAMURA is a defense witness assigned to Mr. Sutton.
3. IPS Document 2712, an affidavit by YATSUGI, Kazuo, and IPS Document 2770, a speech by YATSUGI, Kazuo, both documents have not been introduced in evidence. YATSUGI is a defense witness assigned to Mr. Sandusky.
4. IPS Document 2744, an affidavit by WAKAMATSU, Tadachi, regarding use of prisoners of war during the construction of the Burma-Siam railroad. This document is Exhibit 1989. WAKAMATSU is a defense witness assigned to Colonel Fixel.

I suggest that further analysis of documents not yet introduced be initiated.

Lt. K. Steiner.

Re Career of YATSUGI Kazuo

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investigation into the career of the above-named:-

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Tokyo.

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Adviser commissioned by the War
Ministry.

Military Service : Class "B", 2nd.

Family : Wife Toyo, Born 3 March, 1901
No children.

Matters for reference : None.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

DEF DOC # 647

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

against

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition (*translation*)

Deponent: YATSUGI, Kazuo

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows.

On this 7 day of February, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT YATSUGI, Kazuo (seal)

I, SAKUMA, Shin, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: (signed) SAKUMA, Shin (seal)

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

SHIRATORI Document No. 58

(1) I have held the post of Secretary General of the Society For the Study of National Policy, for years. As I have testified at the Tribunal some time ago as a witness for the International Prosecution Section, this Society for the Study of National Policy is a purely private organization and it is neither an organ of the government nor a part of it. And Mr. SHIRATORI, TOSHIO, was not a member of the same Society and had positively no relation with this Society.

(2) In order to write a history of the World War and to collect materials for it, I made a round of calls on veterans and related persons of diplomacy in April, 1946 (21st Year of Showa), and borrowed various materials. Among the materials borrowed from ARITA, HACHIRO were included copies of private letters written by Mr. SHIRATORI, Toshio, who was then the Minister to Sweden, in November, 1935 (10th Year of Showa), and sent to Mr. ARITA, Hachiro, then Ambassador to Belgium. They were two letters of Mr. SHIRATORI, dated November 4 and November 12, and were copies and not originals, From these copies, I made other copies for my own use, and returned the copies

borrowed from Mr. AKITA. Furthermore, I have never seen the originals of these letters.

(3) Afterwards my house was searched by members of the International Prosecution Section, and at the time, the above copies of the private letters written by Mr. SHIRATORI, namely, the "copies of the copies" were confiscated by the I. P. S. along with other documents. I read ~~the documentary~~ ^{Exhibit} ~~evidence~~ 774 A of I. P. S. (I. P. S. document 2419A) and there was no doubt that they were these "copies of the copies" of the private letters of Mr. SHIRATORI which were confiscated from me.

(4) I read through these letters of Mr. SHIRATORI's on the demand of the I. P. S. and of the Defense Section, but I have not studied their contents. However, they were private letters, pure and simple, sent among friends, which fact could be discerned at a glance. They were not the official documents or semi-official documents sent among colleagues or from subordinates to superiors, and their composition and style obviously lacked that form which might be released for outsiders as well.

DEF LOC # 647

INFORMATION ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

YAMBUKI, Kazuo (seal)

DEF DOC # 647

Translation Certificate.

I, RICHARD S. Yonehiro, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the ^{attached} certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Sgt. RICHARD S. Yonehiro

Tokyo, Japan
Date 25 Feb. 1947

In accordance with my contract... to be held true...

Y. SUGI, Ruzo (encl)