

Ex 2364

Def. Doc. #148

Translated by the  
Defense Language Branch

Excerpt from the Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting, House of Representatives, 76th Session of the Diet (shorthand record) No. 7. The meeting opened at 10. 12 A. M., January 28th (Tuesday), 1941 (16th year of Shōwa).

(Portion omitted)

Member of the Committee, HIRAKAWA:

I have understood what the Premier explained. I should like to put a question to the Home Minister about one point. This point has already been raised at the Co-ordination Conference (T. N. KYŌRYOKU KAIGI) and is whether or not the Imperial Rule Assistance Association is a political association coming under the Public Peace Police Laws. In regard to this question, I am <sup>the</sup> of opinion that it is evident that the Imperial Rule Assistance Association is in no way a public organization, but a private organization; and there can be no doubt that it is a political association. That being the case, I believe it naturally comes under the category of political associations prescribed in the Public Peace Police Laws. Furthermore there are many amongst the people who also believe that is so. Concerning this point, I saw a press report to the effect that there had been a contention at the Central Co-ordination Conference by Mr. Funada, Head of the Internal Affairs Department, that although the Imperial Rule Assistance Association is an association, the said law is not applicable to it. Political association prescribed in the said law means either a secret association or one which necessitates

governmental supervision from a standpoint of preserving public peace, and the Imperial Rule Assistance Association is not included in the organizations of such kind. I think the purport of his contention may probably be that the Imperial Rule Assistance Association is an organization working in unison with the government, that it is neither a secret association nor one detrimental to the public peace and order, and that it should not be subjected to governmental supervision. But what are his grounds for regarding it as working in unison with the government? It is the Imperial Rule Assistance Association itself which insists that it works in unison with the government. There is no legal ground at all. It may be said that it does not disturb public peace and order. However, whether or not its activities disturb public peace and order should be determined by the government responsible for the supervision of organizations of such kind. I think it is decidedly unjustifiable that a certain organization standing under the supervision of the government should determine for itself that it does no harm to the public peace and order, and in consequence, the Public Peace Police Laws are not applicable to it. The said law admits no exception. Should that law not be applicable to such an organization as the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, it might lead to the unreasonable conclusion that, when a certain organization with similar nature and purpose to those of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association is newly organized, it need not be subject to the said law. If the said law is not applicable to the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, we cannot be sure that another organization of the same kind to

which the said law is not applicable would not be organized. This is a very serious problem. So I should like to hear the Home Minister's opinion about this point.

State Minister, HIRANUMA:

I will answer your question. I have previously expressed my opinion that the Imperial Rule Assistance Association is not an organization which carries out its activities in accordance with any political view of its own. The purpose of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association is that it shall make our nation thoroughly understand and cooperate with the state policies fixed by the government. It does not fall under the category of political association prescribed in the public peace police law, so far as it is not an organization which may determine and propagate its own political views. However, there is no doubt that it is an organization, and therefore an association. It may come under the category of public association prescribed in the Public Peace Police Laws. Accordingly, as a public association, it must be subject to the said law. At present, we have no intention to supervise the Imperial Rule Assistance Association as a political association according to the Public Peace Police Laws.

Certificate

I, YAMAZAKI, Takashi, as the chief of General Affairs Section of the House of Representatives, hereby certify that the Japanese document consisting of 4 sheets of paper enclosed herewith is a copy of the 161st page of the Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting in the House of Representatives of the 76th Session of the Diet (shorthand record), held on January 9, 1941 (16th year of Shōwa), which I have officially in my charge.

January 6, 1941 (16th year of Shōwa),

At the House of Representatives,

YAMAZAKI, Takashi.

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed by YAMAZAKI, Takashi to the above statement in my presence.

On the same day, at the same place,

Observer YOKOKURA, Ichizō.

Translation Certificate

I, Charles D. Sheldon, Chief of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above 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/ Charles D. Sheldon.

Tokyo, Japan

Date 14 January 1947.