

**GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)**  
**Description of contents**



- (1) Box no. 2032
- (2) Folder title/number: (15)  
Gumma Prefecture National Elections

(3) Date: Apr. 1947

(4) Subject :

Classification	Type of record
331	d

(5) Item description and comment :

(6) Reproduction:  Yes  No

(7) Film no. \_\_\_\_\_ Sheet no. \_\_\_\_\_

25 April 49

PREFECTURAL REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE OF NATIONAL ELECTION  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Name of prefecture Gumma
2. Number of registered voters 

(Men	387,521
(Women	<u>435,760</u>
(Total	823,281
3. Persons actually voting for House of Representatives 

(Men	316,768
(Women	<u>298,342</u>
(Total	615,110
4. Number of persons claiming franchise but not permitted to vote 

<u>None</u>
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5. Number of surveillance teams on election day 

<u>16</u>
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6. Number of polling places 

<u>739</u>
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7. Number of polling places visited 

<u>331</u>
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8. Number of ballot counting stations 

<u>223</u>
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9. Number of ballot counting stations visited 

<u>126</u>
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10. Were candidates' purge questionnaires available at Election Administration Committee's offices and at Screening Committee's offices in all cases? 

<u>Yes</u>
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11. Comment on publicity given by press, radio and at political gatherings to the fact that candidates purge questionnaires are available at Election Administration Committee's offices and at Screening Committee's offices.

A notice was placed on the bulletin boards, of all city, town and village offices stating that candidates purge questionnaires are available at Election Administration Committee's offices and at the Screening Committee's offices.

12. Comment on the extent public used privilege of examining candidates' questionnaires.

So far, very little use have been made by the public of their privilege of examining candidates' questionnaires.

13. Number of seats  House of Representatives from  prefecture

\_\_\_\_\_ 10

Number of candidates by parties:

Democratic Party	10	_____
Liberal Party	8	_____
Socialist Party	8	_____
Communist Party	3	_____
Co-operative Party	1	_____
Yoseikai	1	_____
Total	31	_____

Number of independents

\_\_\_\_\_ 4

Number actually elected by parties:

Democratic Party	5	_____
Socialist Party	3	_____
Liberal Party	1	_____
Co-operative Party	1	_____
Total	10	_____

Number of independents elected

\_\_\_\_\_ 0

Total number of votes cast for each party:

Democratic Party	261,044	_____
Socialist Party	176,844	_____
Liberal Party	112,311	_____
Co-operative Party	23,167	_____
Yoseikai	2,815	_____
Total	576,181	_____

Total number of votes cast for independents

\_\_\_\_\_ 12,336

14. Any women elected:

House of Representatives

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Number</u>
X	—	1

15. Number of pre-election campaign meetings held throughout the prefecture by each party:

<u>Party</u>	<u>No. of Meetings</u>	<u>Total Att.</u>
Democratic	780	111,540
<b>Liberal</b>	675	143,775
Socialist	837	159,867
Communist	296	10,360
Co-operative	132	1,320
Yoseikai	75	375

Independents' campaign meetings

292 7,814

16. Were there an adequate number of polling places? Yes X  
No \_\_\_\_\_

17. Are four election bulletins enclosed with this report? Yes X  
No \_\_\_\_\_

18. No. of pre-election meetings held by MG team:		<u>Total Att.</u>
With Election Administration Committee	3	10
With Officials	0	0

19. Report generally on extent of local publicity given to election.

Posters issued by the Home Ministry were posted in every city, town and village in the prefecture. These posters illustrated that the candidates the people elected were their representatives, that buying or selling of votes were also violations, and that women should use their right to vote.

For the House of Representatives election, the prefecture was divided up into three districts. Prior to the election, a list containing the names and political affiliations of the candidates from that particular district were distributed to all homes in their respective areas.

By means of slides, theater patrons were notified of the importance of the elections on the future of Japan. All registered voters were urged to vote.

How did MG teams contribute to publicizing elections?

Inclosure 2, dated 20 March 1947, subject, Election, was translated into Japanese and posted on every town and village bulletin board. It was also posted at every polling places in the prefecture. In addition to the above this notice is being published on the front page of the local daily paper, The Jomo Press.

20. Number of violations reported to you:

Coercion, violence or threats	0
Soliciting votes	0
Interference with free and secret voting	0
Interference with access to polls	0
Privileges granted favored candidates	0
Dishonest tabulation in reporting of votes	0
Buying of votes	0
Excessive expenditures	0
Police or govt. officials interference of any type	0
Riots or other disorders	0
Illegal disqualification of voters	0
Violations of purge directives	0
Use of school children in campaign	0
Others	0

21. Disposition by you of above violations:

Reported to Japanese officials only	0
Reported to SCAP	0

22. Military Government team's comments and evaluations:

a. Was any criticism voiced in regard to activities of Occupation Forces?

No criticism was voiced in regard to the activities of the Occupation Forces.

- b. Your comments on activities of local election administration committees.

The local election administration committees have so far done a very good job. This Headquarters has from time to time insist upon the supremacy of the committees in all electional affairs. The remedial measures recommended by the Home Ministry are being carried out.

- c. How may election laws be improved?

None

- d. Other suggestions in regard to elections.

None

HEADQUARTERS  
GIBRA MILITARY GOVERNMENT TEAM  
APO 201

BAF/DC

21 March, 1947

SUBJECT: Elections

TO :

a. The occupation forces will observe the administration of election laws from the time the campaign opens until the final results are made public.

b. Violations or failures to enforce the election laws, as well as infringements upon individual liberties, should be reported by anyone having knowledge of these abuses to the Military Government at Maebashi or other Occupation Force Personnel, if the Japanese authorities have failed to correct the abuses. Types of violations which may be expected to include:

- (1) Privileges granted to favored candidates.
- (2) Unlawful exclusion from the registration lists
- (3) Police interference with legal campaign activities.
- (4) Efforts of either established or petty political machines to buy votes by bribes with scarce commodities or cash.
- (5) Excessive campaign expenditures, in cash or kind, or failure to report all campaign expenses. Excessive contributions by individuals.
- (6) Interference with bona-fide election meetings, with access to the polls, or with free or secret voting.
- (7) Denials of rightful candidacy, improper candidates.
- (8) Dishonest tabulation or reporting of results.
- (9) Failure of authorities to prosecute violators.

BLAIR A. FORD  
Colonel, Infantry  
Senior Mil Govt Officer

Incl. 2

PREFECTURAL REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE OF NATIONAL ELECTION  
HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS

20 April 47  
DGS-D

1. Name of Prefecture Gumma
2. Number of registered voters  
(Men 387,656  
(Women 435,825  
(Total 823,481
3. Persons actually voting for House of Councillors  
(Men 301,116  
(Women 266,693  
(Total 567,809
4. Number of persons claiming franchise but not permitted to vote None
5. Number of surveillance teams on election day 16
6. Number of polling places 739
7. Number of polling places visited 312
8. Number of ballot counting stations 223
9. Number of ballot counting stations visited 151
10. Were candidates' purge questionnaires available at Election Administration Committee's offices and at Screening Committee's offices in all cases? (If not, explain) Yes
11. Comment on publicity given by press, radio and at political gatherings to the fact that candidates purge questionnaires are available at Election Administration Committee's offices and at Screening Committee's offices.

A notice was placed on the bulletin boards, of all city, town and village offices stating that candidates purge questionnaires are available at Election Administration Committee's offices and at the Screening Committee's offices.

12. Comment on the extent public used privilege of examining candidates' questionnaires.

So far the public have made very little use of their privilege of examining candidates' questionnaires. Prefectural report showed that only three persons examined questionnaires of candidates for the house of councillors.





*Yuzuma DGS-D*

19. Report generally on extent of local publicity given to election (e.g. newspaper stories, advertisements, radio time, placards, post-cards, handbills).

By means of slides, theater patrons were notified of the importance of the elections on the future of Japan. All registered voters were urged to vote.

Radio time were allotted to all candidates for the House of Councillors. Each candidate spoke twice for a five minute period.

How did MG teams contribute to publicizing elections?

Inclosure 2, dated 20 March 1947, subject, Election, was translated into Japanese and posted on every town and village bulletin board. It was also posted at every polling places in the prefecture. In addition to the above this notice as run on the front page of the local daily paper, The Jomo Press, beginning about 23 March 1947.

20. Number of violations reported to you:

Coercion, violence or threats	0
Soliciting votes	0
Interference with free and secret voting	0
Interference with access to polls	0
privileges granted favored candidates	0
Dishonest tabulation in reporting of votes	0
Buying of votes	0
Excessive expenditures	0
Police or govt. officials interference of any type	0
Riots or other disorders	0
Illegal disqualification of voters	0
Violations of purge directives	0
Use of school children in campaign	0
Others	0

21. Disposition by you of above violations:

Reported to Japanese officials only	0
Reported to SCAP	0

22. Military Government team's comments and evaluations:

- a. Was any criticism voiced in regard to activities of Occupation Forces?

No criticism was voiced in regard to the activities of the Occupation Forces.

- b. Your comments on activities of local election administration committees.

The local election administration committees have so far done a very good job. This Headquarters has from time to time insist upon the supremacy of the committees in all electoral affairs.

*Gemma* Q G S-D

c. How may election laws be improved?

The names of the candidates and their political affiliations placed on the ballot. Results of the ballot counting for the House of Councillors showed that 8% of the voters failed to write the names of the candidates correctly.

d. Other suggestions in regard to elections.

None.

HEADQUARTERS  
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APO 201

BAF/mg

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