

Affidavit of Etc. Kitano

(8)

(87)

AFFIDAVIT

ITO, Kotaro, after having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

My name is ITO, Kotaro. I am 49 years of age, married and have four children. My education consisted of completing Primary School in Iwate Prefecture, where I was born. At present I am connected with the construction business and publishing business. I went to work for the Transportation Ministry in 1917 as a train conductor and later served as a clerk on a ship on the ferry run from Hokkaido to Aomori. I served in this occupation until 1922 when I came to Tokyo and joined the Yasuda Hozensha as a clerk in the transportation department. I was stationed at Kominato in Chiba Prefecture. While in this job I was still connected with the Transportation Ministry.

I was occupied in this position until 1924 when I joined the Tokyo Times as a reporter. I remained in this position until 1927 when I went to Formosa and joined the staff of the Taiwan Sangyo Shimpo, a newspaper in Taihoku. I was here until the Manchurian Incident in 1932 when I returned to Japan and then went to Dairen where I was married.

I entered the construction business in Dairen through my father-in-law, who was a construction contractor. We did construction jobs in Dairen, Mukden and Changchun. I remained there until 1937 when I went to Tsingtao. In Tsingtao I went into trading business where I dealt in everything that I could get my hands on. I was also engaged in construction business. In 1941 my activities branched out and I went to Shanghai where I opened a branch office; my family, however, remained in Tsingtao and I also kept an office in Tsingtao. In Shanghai I continued my business as a trader, buying and selling all merchandize I could get my hands on. I also operated construction business in Shanghai.

In 1944 I organized the Sino-Japanese Labor Association, a non-profit organization, under order of the Greater East Asia Ministry. In the spring of 1944, I believe it was late March or during April, Rear Admiral ISHIKAWA, Shingo, who was then Chief of the Mobilization Bureau of the Munitions Ministry and had known me through business relations for about a year outlined the then existing problem of labor shortage in Japan and invited me to organize an agency to procure and import Chinese Laborers to Japan. This was the origin of the idea. Detailed plans were worked out during the next two or three months in conjunction with Mr. TAKIUCHI, vice Minister of the Greater East Asia Ministry and with the Greater East Asia Labor Division and other GEA officials, including AICHI, Kiichi. As a result Mr. NISHIMURA, Sueju and myself organized the Sino-Japanese Labor Association with offices at 1-1 Nagata-Cho, Koji Machi, Tokyo, on or about the first of June, 1944. I was the Director and Chief of the organization which was a legal corporation with offices in Tokyo, for the purpose of helping needy, unemployed, able-bodied Chinese nationals in Shanghai to volunteer as laborers and work in the coal mines in Japan; and thus establish better Sino-Japanese relations. The procedure was to be in liaison with Mr. NISHIMURA at Shanghai, where he also had another business of his own. During the course of working out details with the GEA Ministry I met a number of higher officials whose names I cannot now remember. I also met the Minister AOKI, Kazuo. This was a formal meeting by way of introducing me to him as the organizer of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association. By that time the plan had already been worked out in detail and the company had been legally formed so that Mr. AOKI was cognizant of the situation in this respect. This meeting was a conventional matter of form and there was no conversation other than the remark of Mr. AOKI to the effect that he hoped I would do my best and get good results.

I know of ABE, Genki by reputation as a Home Minister higher official associated with the Home Ministry Police Bureau. But in organizing the Sino-Japanese Association, I had dealt with only the Munitions and Greater East Asia Ministry.

伊藤 孝太郎

I first visited Shanghai in connection with the Sino-Japanese Labor Association in July or August 1944, in company with Mr. WATANABE (FNU) an inspector in the Labor Division of the Greater East Asia Ministry. The official channels were from GEA in Japan through the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai to HIRAI (FNU) who was the direct representative of the Japanese Embassy (not Consulate) in Shanghai. The Japanese Consulate at Shanghai was a separate office at another location from the office of the Embassy representative.

HIRAI, representing the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai, acted as coordinator between YOSHIKAWA, Chief of the Labor Section, Hokkai Mining Company; MANDA, Hidetaro and NAKANO (FNU), Chiefs of the Labor Department and the Harbor Transportation Department, respectively, of the Toho Mining Company; NISHIMURA, Sueju; Mr. NAGANUMA, Suezo, who made a regular business of recruiting laborers in Shanghai, and myself, ITO, Kotoro, Directors of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association. All transactions were with HIRAI's knowledge and approval -- such as the writing of the terms of recruitment on a poster which was distributed throughout Shanghai with a view to attracting laborers.

In recruiting Chinese labor for Japan, NAGANUMA received about ¥7 for each laborer, which was equal to about 120 Chinese yuan. This amount was paid by the employing firm, either the coal mining association or the stevedoring company. Our company was responsible for the clothes, shelter, transportation, food, custody, etc., of laborers from the time they were gathered in Shanghai until they were delivered to their destination in Japan.

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association establishment at Shanghai was located in a warehouse leased from the Japanese Army in Yangjipo, Shanghai.

I stayed about two and a half months in Shanghai until plans previously made for shipping 1500 coolies had been accomplished.

YOSHIKAWA, MANDA and NAKANO were locally in charge of coolies assembled at the warehouse at that time.

I stated before that the warehouse in Shanghai for the Chinese laborers had a wooden floor. That is incorrect. It was concrete. I also stated that I went to Shanghai in July or August of 1944. I now recall that it was the early part of July, perhaps the 7th or 8th. I left Shanghai to return to Japan on the 20th of October 1944.

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association was capitalized at ¥100,000. There were two investors, myself and NISHIMURA, thus making ¥50,000 each. I did not receive remuneration from this company. I had my own private income. This corporation, a non-profit, charitable organization working for the good of the nation, was legally organized with the permission of the Greater East Asia Ministry. It was not subject to taxes.

My instructions from the Japanese government came through TAKIICHI, vice-Minister of the GEA. I had no connection with the Ministry of Home Affairs, although I do recall a Mr. NIWA who was with the Foreign Affairs Section of the Home Ministry. However, as an observer of the GEA I did know some of the rules and regulations of the Home Ministry regarding importation of Chinese labor. It may have been that I met a Mr. OKAZAKI (I am not sure about the name) at a meeting at which it was decided to bring Chinese laborers into Japan. Represented at the meeting, in addition to the Greater East Asia Ministry, were the Home, Munitions, Welfare and Transportation Ministries, and there might have been others.

何海英

I now recall that there were several meetings of Section Chiefs and below. The only two I attended were 1) at the Greater East Asia Ministry on or about June 1944, and 2) at the Welfare Ministry, about the same time. I am not certain but I believe a certain MATSUI of the Labor Section of the GEA Ministry officiated at the meeting. I do not recall if there were a representative of the Japanese Embassy in China present or not.

During the years 1937 to 1944, I was in China most of the time. All through these years my main business was contracting and construction, and I did various construction jobs for both the Japanese Army and the Japanese Navy in the TSINGTAO area; building barracks, repairing roads, etc., but also selling merchandise to the Army and Navy. On the whole, this was unsuccessful and I did not get many contracts. I also tried selling merchandise in Shanghai but was unsuccessful. At TSINGTAO, from 1937 until the fall of Nanking, the Fifth Division of the Japanese Army was at Tsingtao and the army unit I did business with. My dealings were with field grade officers of the Intendence Department of the Division. This department took care of handling construction jobs, etc., for the military. My dealings with this unit lasted about one year, off and on, during which time I fulfilled several construction contracts and supplied various commodities.

In Shanghai I tried selling copper to the Army but competition was strong and I did not get a contract for this. During the period 1941 to 1944 in Shanghai I did sell produce, vegetables, etc., to the Army from time to time. My dealings were with the Army Railway Headquarters unit, which was not part of any particular army unit. The office was on Yamagata Street. I dealt with the Intendence Department, including a Captain KAWAMOTO who was in charge of the local office. I sold vegetables, fruit. Another Army unit in Shanghai with which I had dealings was the Army Port and Harbor Section. This unit had its office at the docks, and I dealt with the Intendence Department. The Harbor unit was on Yangjipo Road, near the wharf and dock area. I dealt with Major SUZUKI of the Intendence Department, and sold vegetables and fish. This was off and on from 1941 to 1944. I don't remember any other names or particulars about my dealings with the Japanese Army in China.

In China, during the period 1937 to 1944, I also had dealings with the Japanese Navy. In Tsingtao, in 1938 only, on a contract basis I constructed barracks and an office for Rear Admiral SHIBATA. I had no direct dealings with the Admiral, but did so with Mr. ONISHI (fnu), a civilian official in charge of the Chinese Affairs Board (KOA-IN) in Tsingtao. Onishi was under Shibata's supervision. The C.A. Board (Koa-In) office was located on Ryusan Road, Tsingtao. I had no dealings with the Navy in Shanghai.

I was in Shanghai in September 1944. I did not witness any Chinese being delivered to the Sino-Japanese Labor Association by Chinese police or by Japanese Kempei Tai. Mr. NAGANUMA Seizo, who made a regular business of recruiting Chinese laborers in Shanghai, was the only source from which Chinese laborers were procured for the Sino-Japanese labor association in Shanghai. He did not procure any laborers from police or military agencies. I never saw any laborers being delivered under guard.

I do not know how many laborers were on hand at Shanghai while I was there. However, the total number handled by the Sino-Japanese Labor Association, in which I was principal director, was 1300, and I think they were all shipped to Japan by the end of September 1944. The first shipment by the Association was made after the middle, I think toward the end, of July 1944. They were consigned to the HOKKAIDO Mining Co. and to the TOHO Mining Co. The first shipment of Chinese laborers to the KAKUDA Coal Mining Co. of Hokkaido was in August.

Handwritten signature or initials in the bottom right corner of the page.

During the time I was in Shanghai, the laborers on hand at the Sino-Japanese Labor Association compound were not under guard. Leaders were selected from amongst the Chinese themselves, and were responsible for the other coolies. The leaders saw to it that none of the coolies got away. As I recall, if a coolie did get away, nothing was done about it. I did not witness any punishments and did not observe what the disciplinary measures were.

There were several shipments of coolies exported from Shanghai during September 1944. Each shipment consisted of about 300 laborers. I do not recall the details of any particular shipment. One, or two, of these shipments were consigned for the KAKUDA Company. I remember Mr. YAMADA (fnu) and Mr. FUGI (fnu), who were agent representatives of the Kakuda Company and escorted a shipment of Chinese laborers away from Shanghai. I did not address or speak to the group escorted by YAMADA nor to the group consigned to HOKKAIDO TANKO KISEN KABUSHIKI KAISHA in late September. I did not order one of the coolies in that shipment to be beaten. I did not witness anyone being beaten. No incidents were reported to me. I do not recall a Chinese named CHING KUO or any incident concerning him. So far as I know, during my entire stay in Shanghai no Chinese laborers were beaten.

Whenever any consignment of Chinese laborers was processed for shipment, each individual in the group was photographed and had his thumb-prints taken. This was routine, for purposes of personal identification under Japanese government regulations. I do not recall any incident arising over a coolie refusing to be thus processed. No Chinese police or Kempei Tai were present at the compound of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association when the consignment escorted by YAMADA and FUGI was dispatched.

NISHIMURA, Suez, my business associate, was the man immediately in charge of local activities at the Sino-Japanese Labor Association in Shanghai, as an official of that Company. NISHIMURA and I, ITO, Kotaro, were the only partners and directors. Also, at Shanghai then were Mr. MANDA, Hidetaro, and Mr. NAKANO (fnu), as agent representatives for their respective business companies.

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association, of which NISHIMURA and I, ITO, were sole partners, was locally responsible at Shanghai for the food, clothes, shelter, transportation, custody, medical care and processing of the Chinese laborers from the time they were collected at Shanghai until they were delivered to their destination in Japan.

As a rule, the individual coolie, when recruited, had only worn-out clothing. Each was given a complete set of clothing, consisting of coat, trousers, a shirt, complete underwear, leggings, rubber shoes, socks, hat, gloves, a set of toilet articles, towel, soap and tooth-brush. The coat and trousers were of cotton material, dark in color, resembling a uniform. The clothing was not stencilled or conspicuously marked. There were no POWs among the recruited laborers. We issued no bedding, as it was summer and very hot. Straw bedding was provided. There was adequate water from a tap in the center of the yard. There was no bath house, but there was an indoor lavatory. The coolies washed themselves and their clothing there. Bowls were provided. There was an enclosed pit-latrine, emptied when necessary, and disinfected. A small room was used as an infirmary. The only sicknesses I recall was skin disease and some diarrhea. I observed no malaria or serious dysentery. Sanitation was part of the general discipline delegated to the Chinese leaders themselves to look out for, which they did, in their own way, rather like Army system.

I, ITO, finished my business in Shanghai at the end of September 1944, and returned to Japan, arriving in October. My partner, NISHIMURA, remained at Shanghai. I did not travel in company with a consignment of laborers, but traveled via a land route through Tientsin and Korea. I spent a night at Nanking, a night at Tientsin, a night in Mukden, then traveled via Korea, thence by sea to SHIMONOSEKI, Japan. However, in Shanghai, I did observe the operations of transporting and loading Chinese on ships.

伊藤 功太郎

The coolies were transported to the water front in trucks provided by a Japanese trucking company. NISHIMURA made the arrangements for this. There were no police or Kempei Tai escort from the Sino-Japanese Labor Association compound to the docks. The whole dockyard area, was, however, guarded, of course. The truck trip took about 20 minutes, from the compound on Shisen Road, via Yangjipo Road, to pier #3, next to the Dairen Shipping Co. pier. From the trucks, the Chinese went at once over a gang-plank onto river boats or lighters and in them were lightered out to the ocean-going ship, anchored offshore in the river. I stayed ashore, did not board the river boats, never inspected the ocean-going ships or the conditions aboard them for the coolies. That part was NISHIMURA's job, as the officer of the company who was immediately responsible for management and operations in Shanghai in the matter of Chinese laborers.

In Shanghai, NISHIMURA and I divided our work as partners. My part consisted of contract work and transactions with the Japanese Embassy and Government authorities -- getting pass-ports, making applications for entry to Japan, and so on. Therefore, NISHIMURA did, and I did not, look out for practical care and processing of the coolies at Shanghai, although I made the primary arrangements as to the procurement of food and supplies, etc.

My direct observations of the handling of the Chinese laborers in transit from China to Japan ended at Shanghai. I observed nothing in this connection at Shimonoseki. I understand the Home Office supervised the operations there and the transportation to the various work destinations of the respective consignments of laborers.

After my return to Japan from Shanghai as of October, 1944, I traveled promptly from Shimonoseki to Tokyo, and resumed business operations with NISHIMURA, who remained in Shanghai. These were trading operations, selling merchandise. NISHIMURA had a trading office in Tokyo, and I worked for him at this office. We supplied merchandise to the Army, food and supplies.

From October 1944 until the end of 1945 my further relations with the Japanese governmental authorities as regards imported Chinese laborers were as follows: All contact with the Government was with and through the GEA Ministry. I submitted only one report, in April 1945. The various companies using Chinese labor in Japan reported on the deaths of Chinese, supported by death certificates. These basic materials I forwarded to the Economic Section, GEA Ministry. The same materials were the basis for my own report to the same Section. I made a consolidated and detailed list and handed it personally to Mr. Aichi, Kiichi, Shanghai, and kept another copy for myself. My copy was destroyed, being burned by the fires resulting from the air raid on Tokyo, 25 May 1945. NISHIMURA should still have his copy of my report, and other papers from Shanghai pertaining to payments to families of the laborers, etc.

During the period from October 1944 to the end of the war, I had to report to Mr. Aichi in his capacity as Chief of the Economic Section, GEA Ministry, once a month. On these occasions, if I did not see him I would see his subordinate, Mr. MATSUI (fnu). I had no written instructions from the GEA authorities, but only such oral instructions as came up at the monthly meetings. At these meetings, I reported orally on the status of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association and its operations; another subject concerned organizations in Shanghai which got together to send clothes to Chinese laborers in Japan. We discussed ways and means whether, and if so, how, these could be accepted and brought to Japan.

After my return to Japan in October 1944, I made one trip in Japan and visited four work locations where imported Chinese laborers were at work. The unit locations were YAYOI Coal Mines, in Hokkaido; the harbor transport or stevedore units at MURORAN and HAKODATE respectively, both in Hokkaido, and the KAKUTA Coal Mine, in Hokkaido. This was, I think, in February 1945, and I remember the weather was very cold with snow on the ground. I stayed

12/10 李永吉

one day at each location. There was about 250 laborers in the KAKUDA group. My impression was that on the whole the laborers were in good shape physically, although a number were suffering from tuberculosis, about 15 in all. 200 or more were working daily. The camp was well managed. There were four large barracks. There was a stove in the center of each, a hallway, and rooms on either side. About four or five laborers bunked in each room. On the wooden floors were mats, and on the mats were futons. Each laborer had two futons, one to lie on, one to cover himself with. Because of the stoves going all the time, I think it was warm enough. The laborers were well clothed, with thick warm jackets and trousers and 'Tabi' shoes.

At the KAKUTA Coal Mine, I met and had dinner with the Chinese leaders, and made a talk to the main body of laborers. The talk was more or less an apology for the cold weather; that they were at that camp instead of a warmer place where some had expected to be; that we would do our best to look after their health and comfort. The Chinese asked for better pay, and I promised to take the matter up with the GEA Ministry. There were no written or oral complaints about food, clothing, medical attention or care and treatment, no complaints about maltreatment or brutality, or about burials. I saw some photographs concerning burials. I asked if there were any complaints, and were the Chinese satisfied. There were no complaints. The Chinese gave me a good send-off from the railway stations.

Another transaction I had with the Japanese government authorities was with the Home Ministry after 15 August 1945, in connection with the deaths of imported Chinese laborers who died in Japan, and the repatriation of others back to China. This was about 20 days after the cessation of hostilities. The Home Ministry had drafted a plan for processing and shipping laborers back to their homeland. This was in compliance with orders from the Occupation authorities. A conference was called in Tokyo by, and at, the Home Ministry. All Ministries concerned with Chinese were represented at the conference. The meeting was held by the Police Bureau of the Home Ministry. I cannot recall who presided, but I think he was an official of the Foreign Section of the Home Ministry. The GEA Ministry was represented by Mr. MATSUI (fnu), the assistant to Mr. Aichi, Kiichi, Chief of Economic Section, GEA Ministry. I do not remember the names of any other representatives of Ministries present at that conference.

The plan was that all Chinese laborers who had been imported to Japan who were still living should be exported back to China as soon as possible. My recollection is that a total of about 40,000 Chinese were reported as having originally been imported. The plan was that all repatriates should be shipped from various localities in Japan by train to Shimonosetti and from there shipped by sea to China, to various destinations in China. In this connection, of the original total of approximately 1300 Chinese laborers collected by my, ITO's, and NISHIMURA's, "Sino-Japanese Labor Association" Company, from Shanghai to Japan, about 1200 survived and were repatriated. I and my Company were not responsible for repatriating them, we simply assisted the Japanese government authorities in seeing to it that the Chinese were shipped to Shimonosetti according to plan. The plan was to be executed immediately, and was carried through promptly. The only practical step our Company performed was supplying food to laborers bound for Shimonosetti. I did not visit that place, nor Hokkaido. My company was represented by Mr. MURAKAMI Haruo, of my Tokyo office, and YAIGASHI Jirozo representing the Association.

I have nothing further of a material nature to add to this statement.





Ho Kotaro

SCAN of a Statement

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4

Japan-China Labor Association

responsible for matters

not approved by the Greater

East Asia / Ministry /

Japanese territories outside

Japan proper.

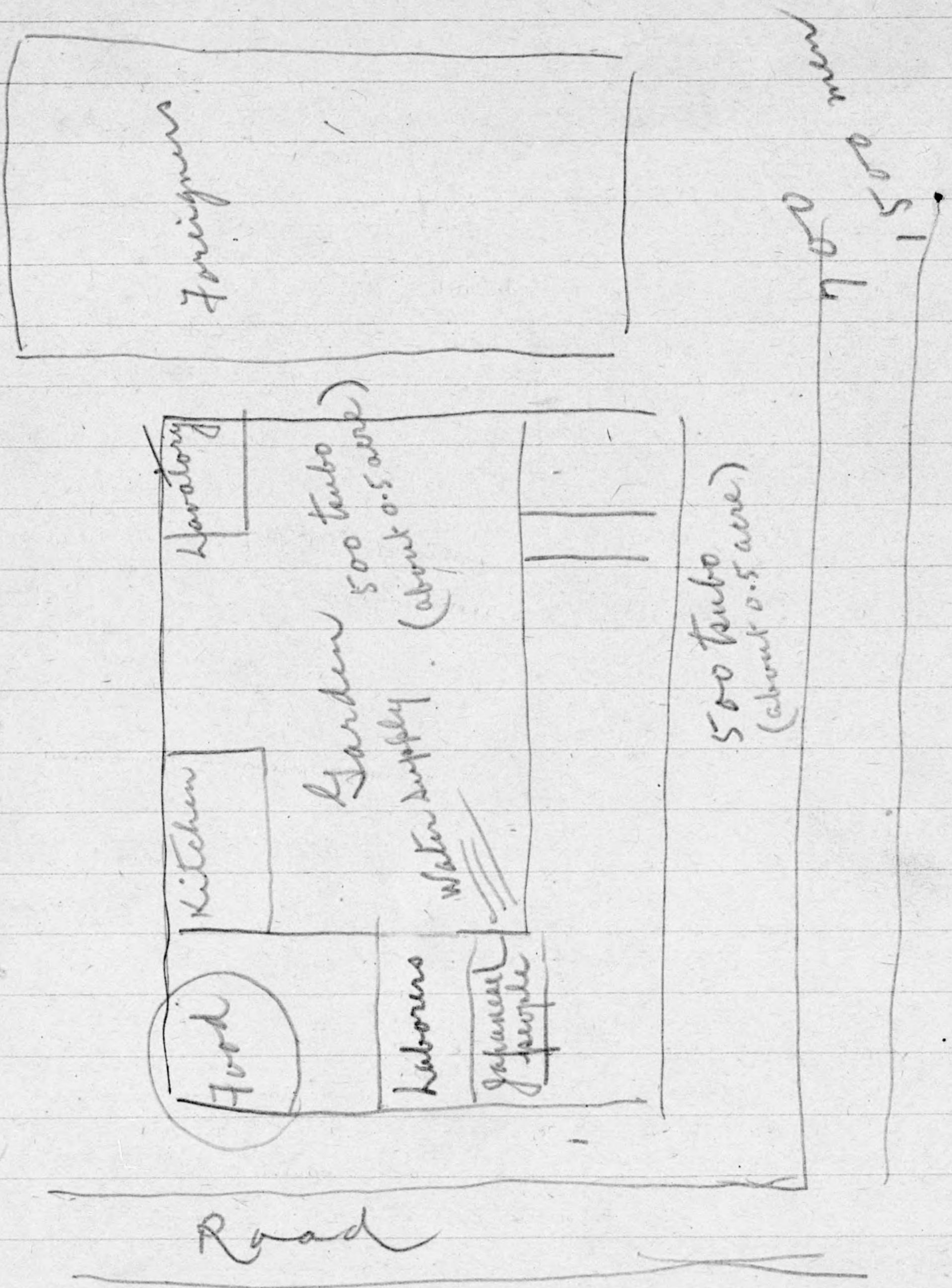
Home Ministry

Welfare Ministry

responsible

Japan proper.

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YOSHIKAWA, chief of labor section
 of HOKKAIDO TANKO KAISHA (Hokkaido Coal
 Mining Company)

Translated by J. Iwawaga

1. Organization of Japan-China

Labor Association

~~This was~~ a corporation aggregate ~~was~~
was located

having its head office in Tokyo.

I and NISHIMURA, SUE^{TO}~~TO~~ became
as chief director,

directors, and I stayed in Tokyo

to keep ^{liaison} ~~in touch~~ with the Greater

East Asia Ministry ~~as~~ ^{the} chief director

while Director NISHIMURA served

in SHANGHAI.

2. Objective

The objective was to recruit ~~and collect~~
healthy men ^{as boys} from in and about the city of Shanghai,
~~SHANGHAI~~ who were jobless and ~~were~~
~~to get~~ had no food, clothing, or
~~to keep their living~~, having no clothes
shuttles, and houses, and to have them
employed by the coal mining companies
in Japan in order to promote the
friendly relation between Japan and
China.

Method of Recruitment
3. The way for collection.

I let a ^{Mrs.} ~~made~~ person by name ~~of~~ NAGANUMA,
SEIZO, whose business was to ~~collect~~ recruit

laborers in SHANGHAI and Mr.

YOSHIKAWA, chief of labor section of

HOKKAI TANKŌ KABUSHIKI KAISHA

(Hokkaido Coal Mining Company, Ltd.)

negotiate with the Embassy in SHANGHAI

and had them freely ^{recruit} ~~collected~~

the laborers by using posters ^{which} with

stipulated the ^{conditions of the} recruitment.

~~The collection terms printed on.~~

4. The treatment of ~~the~~ laborers
recruitment.

after ~~they were collected.~~

(a) A house was hired in the city

of SHANGHAI. The laborers who ~~came~~

to responded to the call for ^{their} service - were

immediately delivered to HOKKAI

TANKŌ KAISHA (Hokkaido Coal Mining

Company, Ltd.) and at the Company, after

the Japanese physician made health

examinations, Those who suffered disease

were placed under medical ^{care} ~~treatment~~.

To each laborer, new clothes and

all other daily necessities were given

free of charge, and 50 yuans was paid

to ordinary laborers ^{per day} and 100 yuans to

foremen. Foremen were selected from

among the laborers and meals and
all other matters were ^{left in} ~~committed to~~
~~to~~ charge of these foremen. As ~~in~~
efforts were made to ~~restore~~ ^{restore} the health
of the laborers during the period till
their embarkation, all of them became
fresh and lively beyond recognition
and cheerfully went ~~on~~ aboard the ships.

^{In the recruiting}
(b) For ~~collection~~ ^{recruiting} of the laborers, the Embassy
~~were~~ directly supervised, and after
^{recruiting}
The ~~collection~~ was completed, the laborers
were delivered to TANKŌ KAISHA (Coal

Mining Co.) Till the time of their

embarkation, supply of food, payment

of wages and other business regarding

arrangement for ships and permission

for import of the laborers were carried

out by us, ^{the} directors of the Association.

Translated by J. Kondo

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(C) Director NISHIMURA of the Laborers'

Association supervised ^{locally} on the ~~spot~~

spot, and TERAKAWA, Nobuyuki

and MURAKAMI, Haruo of the

same Association were in charge

of food distribution, while at

the Embassy, I attended to the procedures

(See Back Page - He says there was an Embassy agent

necessary for importation into Japan ^{in Shanghai} ^{Rep}

~~Inspector~~ ^{Inspector} WATANABE from

the Greater East Asia Ministry came

and supervised. From the Hokkaido

Coal Mining And Steamship

Company came five persons

, including the Labor Section Chief

YOSHIKAWA, who took over

the laborers on the spot and

looked after them.

(5) Conditions after importation

into Japan.

Because at the time of recruitment

~~It was reported that at~~

the posters stated Formosa ^{or Japan}

~~first~~ the Chinese laborers were

surprised to find themselves

transported to Hokkaido instead

of Formosa. ~~because~~ ^{recruiting} the posters

~~for recruiting~~ read that they

would be imported to Formosa

~~or Japan.~~ Before long, how-

ever, they were working with

great satisfaction. The lower prices

and lower wages ^{compared with that} ~~than~~ in

China seemed to trouble them

for a time, but ^{they came to an understanding} ~~after~~ the Company's

^{explanation} succeeded in ~~convincing~~ them.

Translated by K. SOMA

(4) Conditions after the termination of the war.

Among the laborers of the HOKKAI Coal Mining Company, Ltd., about 10 remained in Japan, who were sick or escaped from the train during their return to China.

Others returned home safely.

(a) at the beginning of December, 1947, Mr. WU Shen-fang, who remained in Japan on account of ~~his~~ illness ^{acquired} at the HOKKAI Coal Mine Company, called on me at my office and requested me to get the expense for the medical treatment from the company, in order ^{that he may} ~~return~~ return home as soon as he ~~recovers~~ ^{recovers} from the illness, ~~as he was suffering from~~ ^{an} illness ~~consumption~~ caused by coal dust inhaled in the lungs. Therefore, I negotiated with the company and gave him about 270,000 yen in ⁴ in-

statements ~~of 4 times~~. However, it ^(that he did) seemed ~~not to have~~ used this money for ~~the~~ medical treatment, but ^{for} ~~a~~ pleasure ~~instead~~.

(b) About January 1948 Mr. LI,

who remained on account of his illness ~~acquired~~ at the HOKKAII Coal Mine Company, called on me. He told me that he had been publishing a newspaper in HOKKAIDO, but he came up to TOKYO for certain reasons and wanted to ~~publish~~ a newspaper in TOKYO. As Mr. LI and 4 other persons visited my office with the above-mentioned desire, I offered ^{them} part of my office free of charge to enable them to publish the newspaper. They were gentlemen of character indeed.

(c) about March 11 1948 Mr. HO PING, now chief of the NAGASAKI Branch of the Chinese National Party, and Mr. TSAI, both ~~of whom remained from~~ ~~the~~ the HOKKAII Coal Mine Com.

pany called at my office under
the guidance of 'WO Shen-fang.
I invited them to KŌRAKU, Chinese
Restaurant at GINZA, to pay them
my respects. After that they
called on me every day and
demanded ~~me~~ persistently that I
pay 10,000 - 100,000 yen as my
responsibility since the daily
wages paid to them by the coal
mine company was only about
6 yen, ~~no~~ ^{when} ~~rather~~ they were
imported to Japan under promise
that a daily wage for an
ordinary laborer should be
250 yen and that for an executive
300 yen, as stated on recruiting
posters shown in SHANGHAI.

Translated by
Hiroko Nomura

6.

6. I acted according to the order

of the Japanese government, ^{and} I did not

make a profit of it, not even one

SEN. I explained by comparing the

prices of commodities and told them that

if we compared the difference in the

value of money in SHANGHAI and

Japan, we would find that one

packet of cigarette which cost 200

YUAN in SHANGHAI cost 7 SEN

in Japan.

However, they were by no means
 satisfied. They ^{persistently} demanded that it was
 most unpardonable that I should
 not supply money when I had
 such a fine office, lived in such
 a fine house and had so much
 money. Furthermore they said that
 if I did not settle this question, they

would announce, ^v my weak points
 to the newspaper. since

I was running for a
 Diet member, I repulsed them
 unyieldingly saying that I did

not care what they would write about me.

When my clerk, seeing that they
were to ^{harm me,} ~~inflict an injury on me,~~

tried to send an urgent message

to the NIKONBASHI Police Station,

Mr. TSAI and Mr. PING were

surprised and turned upon me

with a hammer.

7) As I feared that ^{harm} ~~an injury~~ may ~~be~~ inflicted to our members, if I do not settle amicably the matter, I handed ~~them~~ ^{them checked} with ~~the~~ ^{promises} ~~of~~ ^{that they would be cashable} ~~pay~~ on the 28th March, in ~~the amount of~~ ^{the amount of} 500,000 Yen to Mr. HO and 70,000 Yen to Mr. WU-Shen-fang and came to a satisfactory settlement.

(D) as I had no money, I arranged with the ^{Coal Mining} ~~Company~~ and the ^{Foreign Ministry} ~~Kanusho~~ to ~~explain~~ ^{explain to} the China Representatives Corps ~~stating~~ ^{stating} this situation of which ~~being~~ ^{being} ~~unable~~ ^{unable} to pay, I submitted ^{a letter} to the Corps. ~~a letter.~~

(E) as the payment was not ~~made~~ ^{made} on March 28th, ^{on} the date of ~~check~~ ^{check}, WU-Shen-fang came to ^{my} office, ~~traveled~~ ^{traveled} in my office and behaved rudely, the chief of the NPIS came and led him away. We all went to the ~~with him~~

NPIS and ^{explained,} presented the circumstances
of that time ⁱⁿ ~~by~~ writing -

8)
F) Messrs. O WU, Ho-ping, TSAI and others
threatened me to ~~harass~~ ^{harass} me ~~if~~
~~in~~ ~~go~~ if I ~~would not~~ ^{did not} raise ^{the} money, ~~so~~ I
~~closed~~ ^{closed} my Nihon-bashi office, ^{and} did not
return to my Meguro house, ~~and~~ ^{but}
lodged in my relation's house at
Mukojima with my wife and children.

(G) On the 10th of April, when I was at UENO-
station at 7 A.M. to take ~~the~~ ^{the} 9 A.M. express ~~to~~
~~9 A.M.~~ to go to SENDAI, Messrs. Ho-ping
and TSAI came ~~to me~~ and told me that
~~they were going to take me~~
~~take me with them~~ to the Representatives
Corps' office, I told them that I would
go to the NP but not to the Representatives'
office, and that I will ~~contact~~ ^{get contact} with the
NPIS by ^{telephoning at} ~~phone~~ ^{phone} of the UENO-station Police ^{Station.}

~~they went out leaving word with the
Japanese police to take charge of ITO
as they would arrange with the
Representatives Corps to take over him
by motor-car at 10 A.M.~~

Then the two of them told the Japanese
police that they will immediately go to the
Representative Corps office to get an
automobile to get ITO ~~so~~ and asked them
to ~~take~~ take charge of him until 10 o'clock
when they will return. Saying this, they left.
~~and~~

Trans. by Y. Watanabe

(page 9 of the original)

(H) I immediately ~~contacted the RTO~~ made contact with

NPIS from ^{the} RTO, and some American
with 4 Japanese police as aides
military personnel came to LIENO station,

where they
~~who~~ waited ~~there~~ until 10:30, ~~with 4~~

~~the expected~~
Japanese policemen as ^{the} ~~assistants~~. They,

~~never~~ However, ~~they~~ did not ~~make their appearance~~

so ~~that~~ the American military personnel,

~~the~~ Japanese policemen and I returned

~~for the time being~~
to NPIS as a ~~temporary measure~~.

Later
(I) ~~Afterwards~~, I left my office in

~~in charge~~
NIHONBASHI, TOKYO ~~into the hands of~~

one of my friends and, having moved
to SENDAI, I started the enterprise
of civil engineering and construction.

(J) About the middle of July this year,
Mr. Wu Shin-fang came to SENDAI without
paying for a train ticket as he had
no money ~~enough~~ to do so, and he came
to my office guarded by some MP's

of SENDAI for reasons of his ^{alleged} necessity
to see me. He asked me to

take him to TOKYO and ~~find him~~ ^{negotiate to}
~~a job in~~ ^{with} the mining company ^{for him,} saying

he had little money and was ~~rather~~

physically ~~was~~ ^{ill}. As I was there

^{too} busy, ~~to go to TOKYO,~~ I told him to visit the

Foreign Ministry and get into contact

with the company.

(page 16, original)

He insisted, however, that he

would not leave me until I go to

TOKYO, ~~because~~ ^{saying} he would not be

treated ~~seriously~~ ^{seriously if} anywhere when he has

~~alone~~ no one to accompany him. As

I saw no other way, I reported to

the CID in SENDAI about ~~it~~ ^{this}, whereupon

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C.I.D. agent

the ~~people of the~~ authorities came ~~to~~

and ordered him to return to TOKYO

immediately. I gave him ¥3,000

for his travelling expenses, ~~but~~ ^{but} he

would ~~not~~ ^{not} leave my place, ~~until~~ ^{and now}

the ~~men of~~ ^{agents became} CID ~~were also~~ perplexed.

Finally,
~~After all,~~ he stayed at my office

until I went ~~up~~ to ~~FOA~~ TOKYO

together with him. I wrote to

The Foreign Ministry from SENDAI

~~them~~
informing ~~it~~ of the above situation

and ~~demanding~~ ^{had the Ministry} ~~to~~ send Wu to the

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president of the HOKKAI Mining Company

and arrange for his medical treat-

ment. I introduced Mr. Wu to

the Chief of the Administration Board

of the Foreign Ministry and then I

returned to SENDAI.

I don't know what happened

~~immediately~~

~~thly~~ after that, but it present

I hear that Wu became an

~~office-boy~~ ^{office-boy} for the Chinese ^{Corps} Representative ~~party~~

and is living in TOKYO together with HO.

(page 11, original)

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Conclusion:

Mr. Wu SHM-fang is still a child
after all and ~~also~~ troubled with his
~~sick~~ illness ^{is also}. It will do him
^{more harm than} ~~no~~ good ~~in the end~~ to give
him a large amount of money
on the presumption that he would
return to China satisfied if
the mining company hospitalize
him and give him medical treat-
ment as the responsibility of
the Japanese government. He
speaks very good Japanese
and so gets considerably ^{amount} ~~of~~ of

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money from the members of the
mining company.

Mr. Ho Ping and Ma TSAI are
also running short of money so
that they are demanding more pay-
ment for them emphasising the
difference of terms, ^{given} in the advertise-
ment ^{as it appeared} in SHANGHAI. In regard
to this matter, there is already
a negotiation with the Japanese
government that they ^{to be} are ^{given}
250 Yuan a day which sum
is said to be covered if they

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work well for a ^{Japanese} mining company

according to the established contract

system they can get 5 yen

a day when on probation and about

15 yen when they become trained

workers. These sums, if exchanged ~~into~~

into ~~the~~ ^{currency} of the Chinese Federated Bank,

will reach the sum of 250 yuan.

At that time Japan's 1 yen

was equivalent to 18 yen in

the Chinese Federated Bank note. I

explained this situation to them, but

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they could not understand it.
(p. 12, original.)

As I ran for ~~parliament~~ membership
to ^{the Diet} the ~~Parliament~~ in TOKYO,

and my office and house are

rather large, they ~~imagine~~ ^{think} that

I can get money as much as

I desire. That is why, I think,

they made ^{such} an unreasonable demand

to me. But I did not comply

~~with~~ ^{to} this demand. They, then, ^{got into} ~~contacted~~

with various circles and ^{have often} sent many people

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to me for contacts up to the present.

~~Mr.~~ Furthermore, Mr. Ho ping and Mr. TSAI

visited my house in MECTURO and made
demands of ~~requested~~ me. Then my wife told

them that I could not comply with

their request. Since that time I

have not seen them for two

months. Such being the case,

please take a fair measure

in dealing with
~~toward~~ the present matter.

AFFIDAVIT

ITO, Kotaro, after having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

My name is ITO, Kotaro. I am 49 years of age, married and have four children. My education consisted of completing Primary School in Iwate Prefecture, where I was born. At present I am connected with the construction business and publishing business. I went to work for the Transportation Ministry in 1917 as a train conductor and later served as a clerk on a ship on the ferry run from Hokkaido to Aomori. I served in this occupation until 1922 when I came to Tokyo and joined the Yasuda Hozensha as a clerk in the transportation department. I was stationed at Kominato in Chiba Prefecture. While in this job I was still connected with the Transportation Ministry.

I was occupied in this position until 1924 when I joined the Tokyo Times as a reporter. I remained in this position until 1927 when I went to Formosa and joined the staff of the Taiwan Sangyo Shimpo, a newspaper in Taihoku. I was here until the Manchurian Incident in 1932 when I returned to Japan and then went to Dairen where I was married.

I entered the construction business in Dairen through my father-in-law, who was a construction contractor. We did construction jobs in Dairen, Mukden and Changchun. I remained there until 1937 when I went to Tsingtao. In Tsingtao I went into trading business where I dealt in everything that I could get my hands on. I was also engaged in construction business. In 1941 my activities branched out and I went to Shanghai where I opened a branch office; my family, however, remained in Tsingtao and I also kept an office in Tsingtao. In Shanghai I continued my business as a trader, buying and selling all merchandize I could get my hands on. I also operated construction business in Shanghai.

In 1944 I organized the Sino-Japanese Labor Association, a non-profit organization, under order of the Greater East Asia Ministry. In the spring of 1944, I believe it was late March or during April, Rear Admiral ISHIKAWA, Shingo, who was then Chief of the Mobilization Bureau of the Munitions Ministry and had known me through business relations for about a year outlined the then existing problem of labor shortage in Japan and invited me to organize an agency to procure and import Chinese Laborers to Japan. This was the origin of the idea. Detailed plans were worked out during the next two or three months in conjunction with Mr. TAKUCHI, vice Minister of the Greater East Asia Ministry and with the Greater East Asia Labor Division and other GEA officials, including AICHI, Kiichi. As a result Mr. NISHIMURA, Sueju and myself organized the Sino-Japanese Labor Association with offices at 1-1 Nagata-Cho, Koji Machi, Tokyo, on or about the first of June, 1944. I was the Director and Chief of the organization which was a legal corporation with offices in Tokyo, for the purpose of helping needy, unemployed, able-bodied Chinese nationals in Shanghai to volunteer as laborers and work in the coal mines in Japan; and thus establish better Sino-Japanese relations. The procedure was to be in liaison with Mr. NISHIMURA at Shanghai, where he also had another business of his own. During the course of working out details with the GEA Ministry I met a number of higher officials whose names I cannot now remember. I also met the Minister AOKI, Kazuo. This was a formal meeting by way of introducing me to him as the organizer of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association. By that time the plan had already been worked out in detail and the company had been legally formed so that Mr. AOKI was cognizant of the situation in this respect. This meeting was a conventional matter of form and there was no conversation other than the remark of Mr. AOKI to the effect that he hoped I would do my best and get good results.

I know of ABE, Genki by reputation as a Home Minister higher official associated with the Home Ministry Police Bureau. But in organizing the Sino-Japanese Association, I had dealt with only the Munitions and Greater East Asia Ministry.

ITO Kotaro

I first visited Shanghai in connection with the Sino-Japanese Labor Association in July or August 1944, in company with Mr. WATANABE (FNU) an inspector in the Labor Division of the Greater East Asia Ministry. The official channels were from GEA in Japan through the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai to HIRAI (FNU) who was the direct representative of the Japanese Embassy (not Consulate) in Shanghai. The Japanese Consulate at Shanghai was a separate office at another location from the office of the Embassy representative.

HIRAI, representing the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai, acted as coordinator between YOSHIKAWA, Chief of the Labor Section, Hokkai Mining Company; MANDA, Hidetaro and NAKANO (FNU), Chiefs of the Labor Department and the Harbor Transportation Department, respectively, of the Toho Mining Company; NISHIMURA, Sueju; Mr. NAGANUMA, Suezo, who made a regular business of recruiting laborers in Shanghai, and myself, ITO, Kotoro, Directors of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association. All transactions were with HIRAI's knowledge and approval -- such as the writing of the terms of recruitment on a poster which was distributed throughout Shanghai with a view to attracting laborers.

In recruiting Chinese labor for Japan, NAGANUMA received about ¥7 for each laborer, which was equal to about 120 Chinese yuan. This amount was paid by the employing firm, either the coal mining association or the stevedoring company. Our company was responsible for the clothes, shelter, transportation, food, custody, etc., of laborers from the time they were gathered in Shanghai until they were delivered to their destination in Japan.

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association establishment at Shanghai was located in a warehouse leased from the Japanese Army in Yangjipo, Shanghai.

I stayed about two and a half months in Shanghai until plans previously made for shipping 1500 coolies had been accomplished.

YOSHIKAWA, MANDA and NAKANO were locally in charge of coolies assembled at the warehouse at that time.

I stated before that the warehouse in Shanghai for the Chinese laborers had a wooden floor. That is incorrect. It was concrete. I also stated that I went to Shanghai in July or August of 1944. I now recall that it was the early part of July, perhaps the 7th or 8th. I left Shanghai to return to Japan on the 20th of October 1944.

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association was capitalized at ¥100,000. There were two investors, myself and NISHIMURA, thus making ¥50,000 each. I did not receive remuneration from this company. I had my own private income. This corporation, a non-profit, charitable organization working for the good of the nation, was legally organized with the permission of the Greater East Asia Ministry. It was not subject to taxes.

My instructions from the Japanese government came through TAKIICHI, vice-Minister of the GEA. I had no connection with the Ministry of Home Affairs, although I do recall a Mr. NIWA who was with the Foreign Affairs Section of the Home Ministry. However, as an observer of the GEA I did know some of the rules and regulations of the Home Ministry regarding importation of Chinese labor. It may have been that I met a Mr. OKAZAKI (I am not sure about the name) at a meeting at which it was decided to bring Chinese laborers into Japan. Represented at the meeting, in addition to the Greater East Asia Ministry, were the Home, Munitions, Welfare and Transportation Ministries, and there might have been others.

12/27/44



I now recall that there were several meetings of Section Chiefs and below. The only two I attended were 1) at the Greater East Asia Ministry on or about June 1944, and 2) at the Welfare Ministry, about the same time. I am not certain but I believe a certain MATSUI of the Labor Section of the GEA Ministry officiated at the meeting. I do not recall if there were a representative of the Japanese Embassy in China present or not.

During the years 1937 to 1944, I was in China most of the time. All through these years my main business was contracting and construction, and I did various construction jobs for both the Japanese Army and the Japanese Navy in the TSINGTAO area; building barracks, repairing roads, etc., but also selling merchandise to the Army and Navy. On the whole, this was unsuccessful and I did not get many contracts. I also tried selling merchandise in Shanghai but was unsuccessful. At TSINGTAO, from 1937 until the fall of Nanking, the Fifth Division of the Japanese Army was at Tsingtao and the army unit I did business with. My dealings were with field grade officers of the Intendence Department of the Division. This department took care of handling construction jobs, etc., for the military. My dealings with this unit lasted about one year, off and on, during which time I fulfilled several construction contracts and supplied various commodities.

In Shanghai I tried selling copper to the Army but competition was strong and I did not get a contract for this. During the period 1941 to 1944 in Shanghai I did sell produce, vegetables, etc., to the Army from time to time. My dealings were with the Army Railway Headquarters unit, which was not part of any particular army unit. The office was on Yamagata Street. I dealt with the Intendence Department, including a Captain KAWAMOTO who was in charge of the local office. I sold vegetables, fruit. Another Army unit in Shanghai with which I had dealings was the Army Port and Harbor Section. This unit had its office at the docks, and I dealt with the Intendence Department. The Harbor unit was on Yangjipo Road, near the wharf and dock area. I dealt with Major SUZUKI of the Intendence Department, and sold vegetables and fish. This was off and on from 1941 to 1944. I don't remember any other names or particulars about my dealings with the Japanese Army in China.

In China, during the period 1937 to 1944, I also had dealings with the Japanese Navy. In Tsingtao, in 1938 only, on a contract basis I constructed barracks and an office for Rear Admiral SHIBATA. I had no direct dealings with the Admiral, but did so with Mr. ONISHI (fnu), a civilian official in charge of the Chinese Affairs Board (KOA-IN) in Tsingtao. Onishi was under Shibata's supervision. The C.A. Board (Koa-In) office was located on Ryusan Road, Tsingtao. I had no dealings with the Navy in Shanghai.

I was in Shanghai in September 1944. I did not witness any Chinese being delivered to the Sino-Japanese Labor Association by Chinese police or by Japanese Kempei Tai. Mr. NAGANUMA Seizo, who made a regular business of recruiting Chinese laborers in Shanghai, was the only source from which Chinese laborers were procured for the Sino-Japanese labor association in Shanghai. He did not procure any laborers from police or military agencies. I never saw any laborers being delivered under guard.

I do not know how many laborers were on hand at Shanghai while I was there. However, the total number handled by the Sino-Japanese Labor Association, in which I was principal director, was 1300, and I think they were all shipped to Japan by the end of September 1944. The first shipment by the Association was made after the middle, I think toward the end, of July 1944. They were consigned to the HOKKAIDO Mining Co. and to the TOHO Mining Co. The first shipment of Chinese laborers to the KAKUDA Coal Mining Co. of Hokkaido was in August.

1944年9月

During the time I was in Shanghai, the laborers on hand at the Sino-Japanese Labor Association compound were not under guard. Leaders were selected from amongst the Chinese themselves, and were responsible for the other coolies. The leaders saw to it that none of the coolies got away. As I recall, if a coolie did get away, nothing was done about it. I did not witness any punishments and did not observe what the disciplinary measures were.

There were several shipments of coolies exported from Shanghai during September 1944. Each shipment consisted of about 300 laborers. I do not recall the details of any particular shipment. One, or two, of these shipments were consigned for the KAKUDA Company. I remember Mr. YAMADA (fma) and Mr. FUGI (fnu), who were agent representatives of the Kakuda Company and escorted a shipment of Chinese laborers away from Shanghai. I did not address or speak to the group escorted by YAMADA nor to the group consigned to HOKKAIDO TANKO KISEN KABUSHIKI KAISHA in late September. I did not order one of the coolies in that shipment to be beaten. I did not witness anyone being beaten. No incidents were reported to me. I do not recall a Chinese named CHING KUO or any incident concerning him. So far as I know, during my entire stay in Shanghai no Chinese laborers were beaten.

Whenever any consignment of Chinese laborers was processed for shipment, each individual in the group was photographed and had his thumb-prints taken. This was routine, for purposes of personal identification under Japanese government regulations. I do not recall any incident arising over a coolie refusing to be thus processed. No Chinese police or Kempei Tai were present at the compound of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association when the consignment escorted by YAMADA and FUGI was dispatched.

NISHIMURA, Suez, my business associate, was the man immediately in charge of local activities at the Sino-Japanese Labor Association in Shanghai, as an official of that Company. NISHIMURA and I, ITO, Kotaro, were the only partners and directors. Also, at Shanghai then were Mr. MANDA, Hidetaro, and Mr. NAKANO (fnu), as agent representatives for their respective business companies.

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association, of which NISHIMURA and I, ITO, were sole partners, was locally responsible at Shanghai for the food, clothes, shelter, transportation, custody, medical care and processing of the Chinese laborers from the time they were collected at Shanghai until they were delivered to their destination in Japan.

As a rule, the individual coolie, when recruited, had only worn-out clothing. Each was given a complete set of clothing, consisting of coat, trousers, a shirt, complete underwear, leggings, rubber shoes, socks, hat, gloves, a set of toilet articles, towel, soap and tooth-brush. The coat and trousers were of cotton material, dark in color, resembling a uniform. The clothing was not stencilled or conspicuously marked. There were no POWs among the recruited laborers. We issued no bedding, as it was summer and very hot. Straw bedding was provided. There was adequate water from a tap in the center of the yard. There was no bath house, but there was an indoor lavatory. The coolies washed themselves and their clothing there. Bowls were provided. There was an enclosed pit-latrine, emptied when necessary, and disinfected. A small room was used as an infirmary. The only sicknesses I recall was skin disease and some diarrhea. I observed no malaria or serious dysentery. Sanitation was part of the general discipline delegated to the Chinese leaders themselves to look out for, which they did, in their own way, rather like Army system.

I, ITO, finished my business in Shanghai at the end of September 1944, and returned to Japan, arriving in October. My partner, NISHIMURA, remained at Shanghai. I did not travel in company with a consignment of laborers, but traveled via a land route through Tientsin and Korea. I spent a night at Nanking, a night at Tientsin, a night in Mukden, then traveled via Korea, thence by sea to SHIMONOSEKI, Japan. However, in Shanghai, I did observe the operations of transporting and loading Chinese on ships.

[Handwritten signature]

The coolies were transported to the water front in trucks provided by a Japanese trucking company. NISHIMURA made the arrangements for this. There were no police or Kempei Tai escort from the Sino-Japanese Labor Association compound to the docks. The whole dockyard area, was, however, guarded, of course. The truck trip took about 20 minutes, from the compound on Shisen Road, via Yangjipo Road, to pier #3, next to the Dairen Shipping Coal pier. From the trucks, the Chinese went at once over a gang-plank onto river boats or lighters and in them were lightered out to the ocean-going ship, anchored offshore in the river. I stayed ashore, did not board the river boats, never inspected the ocean-going ships or the conditions aboard them for the coolies. That part was NISHIMURA's job, as the officer of the company who was immediately responsible for management and operations in Shanghai in the matter of Chinese laborers.

In Shanghai, NISHIMURA and I divided our work as partners. My part consisted of contract work and transactions with the Japanese Embassy and Government authorities -- getting pass-ports, making applications for entry to Japan, and so on. Therefore, NISHIMURA did, and I did not, look out for practical care and processing of the coolies at Shanghai, although I made the primary arrangements as to the procurement of food and supplies, etc.

My direct observations of the handling of the Chinese laborers in transit from China to Japan ended at Shanghai. I observed nothing in this connection at Shimonoseki. I understand the Home Office supervised the operations there and the transportation to the various work destinations of the respective consignments of laborers.

After my return to Japan from Shanghai as of October, 1944, I traveled promptly from Shimonoseki to Tokyo, and resumed business operations with NISHIMURA, who remained in Shanghai. These were trading operations, selling merchandise. NISHIMURA had a trading office in Tokyo, and I worked for him at this office. We supplied merchandise to the Army, food and supplies.

From October 1944 until the end of 1945 my further relations with the Japanese governmental authorities as regards imported Chinese laborers were as follows: All contact with the Government was with and through the GEA Ministry. I submitted only one report, in April 1945. The various companies using Chinese labor in Japan reported on the deaths of Chinese, supported by death certificates. These basic materials I forwarded to the Economic Section, GEA Ministry. The same materials were the basis for my own report to the same Section. I made a consolidated and detailed list and handed it personally to Mr. Aichi, Kiichi, Shanghai, and kept another copy for myself. My copy was destroyed, being burned by the fires resulting from the air raid on Tokyo, 25 May 1945. NISHIMURA should still have his copy of my report, and other papers from Shanghai pertaining to payments to families of the laborers, etc.

During the period from October 1944 to the end of the war, I had to report to Mr. Aichi in his capacity as Chief of the Economic Section, GEA Ministry, once a month. On these occasions, if I did not see him I would see his subordinate, Mr. MATSUI (fnu). I had no written instructions from the GEA authorities, but only such oral instructions as came up at the monthly meetings. At these meetings, I reported orally on the status of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association and its operations; another subject concerned organizations in Shanghai which got together to send clothes to Chinese laborers in Japan. We discussed ways and means whether, and if so, how, these could be accepted and brought to Japan.

After my return to Japan in October 1944, I made one trip in Japan and visited four work locations where imported Chinese laborers were at work. The unit locations were YAYOI Coal Mines, in Hokkaido; the harbor transport or stevedore units at MURORAN and HAKODATE respectively, both in Hokkaido, and the KAKUTA Coal Mine, in Hokkaido. This was, I think, in February 1945, and I remember the weather was very cold with snow on the ground. I stayed

1945 10月

one day at each location. There was about 250 laborers in the KAKUDA group. My impression was that on the whole the laborers were in good shape physically, although a number were suffering from tuberculosis, about 15 in all. 200 or more were working daily. The camp was well managed. There were four large barracks. There was a stove in the center of each, a hallway, and rooms on either side. About four or five laborers bunked in each room. On the wooden floors were mats, and on the mats were futons. Each laborer had two futons, one to lie on, one to cover himself with. Because of the stoves going all the time, I think it was warm enough. The laborers were well clothed, with thick warm jackets and trousers and 'Tabi' shoes.

At the KAKUTA Coal Mine, I met and had dinner with the Chinese leaders, and made a talk to the main body of laborers. The talk was more or less an apology for the cold weather; that they were at that camp instead of a warmer place where some had expected to be; that we would do our best to look after their health and comfort. The Chinese asked for better pay, and I promised to take the matter up with the GEA Ministry. There were no written or oral complaints about food, clothing, medical attention or care and treatment, no complaints about maltreatment or brutality, or about burials. I saw some photographs concerning burials. I asked if there were any complaints, and were the Chinese satisfied. There were no complaints. The Chinese gave me a good send-off from the railway stations.

Another transaction I had with the Japanese government authorities was with the Home Ministry after 15 August 1945, in connection with the deaths of imported Chinese laborers who died in Japan, and the repatriation of others back to China. This was about 20 days after the cessation of hostilities. The Home Ministry had drafted a plan for processing and shipping laborers back to their homeland. This was in compliance with orders from the Occupation authorities. A conference was called in Tokyo by, and at, the Home Ministry. All Ministries concerned with Chinese were represented at the conference. The meeting was held by the Police Bureau of the Home Ministry. I cannot recall who presided, but I think he was an official of the Foreign Section of the Home Ministry. The GEA Ministry was represented by Mr. MAISUI (fnu), the assistant to Mr. Aichi, Kiichi, Chief of Economic Section, GEA Ministry. I do not remember the names of any other representatives of Ministries present at that conference.

The plan was that all Chinese laborers who had been imported to Japan who were still living should be exported back to China as soon as possible. My recollection is that a total of about 40,000 Chinese were reported as having originally been imported. The plan was that all repatriates should be shipped from various localities in Japan by train to Shimonosetti and from there shipped by sea to China, to various destinations in China. In this connection, of the original total of approximately 1300 Chinese laborers collected by my, ITO's, and NISHIMURA's, "Sino-Japanese Labor Association" Company, from Shanghai to Japan, about 1200 survived and were repatriated. I and my Company were not responsible for repatriating them, we simply assisted the Japanese government authorities in seeing to it that the Chinese were shipped to Shimonosetti according to plan. The plan was to be executed immediately, and was carried through promptly. The only practical step our Company performed was supplying food to laborers bound for Shimonosetti. I did not visit that place, nor Hokkaido. My company was represented by Mr. MURAKAMI Haruo, of my Tokyo office, and YAIGASHI Jirozo representing the Association.

I have nothing further of a material nature to add to this statement.

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Major Patterson

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(28 September 1948 p.m.)

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Q There is a difference of about 100 Chinese between those brought in and those returning to China. That is approximately 10 percent.

A They died during the one year in Japan and a certain number of them remained in Japan.

Q Saying that 10 percent loss from death would be a minimum, is a fair statement is it not?

A Yes.

Q Perhaps 15 percent?

A Yes.

Q Would you say a loss of more than 1 percent per month per each month would be efficient management or bad management?

A I cannot say that it was either bad or good management. The management at the stevedoring companies was not so good.

Q Why was there such a high death rate?

A I think it occurred through tuberculosis which came about from working in dark coal mines and breathing impurities.

I have nothing to add substantially or materially to the above statement.

AFFIDAVIT

ITO, Kotaro, after having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

My name is ITO, Kotaro. I am 49 years of age, married and have four children. My education consisted of completing Primary School in Iwate Prefecture, where I was born. At present I am connected with the construction business and publishing business. I went to work for the Transportation Ministry in 1917 as a train conductor and later served as a clerk on a ship on the ferry run from Hokkaido to Aomori. I served in this occupation until 1922 when I came to Tokyo and joined the Yasuda Hozensha as a clerk in the transportation department. I was stationed at Kominato in Chiba Prefecture. While in this job I was still connected with the Transportation Ministry. I was occupied in this position until 1924 when I joined the Tokyo Times as a reporter. I remained in this position until 1927 when I went to Formosa and joined the staff of the Taiwan Sangyo Shimpo, a newspaper in Taihoku. I was here until the Manchurian Incident in 1932 when I returned to Japan and then went to Dairen where I was married.

I entered the construction business in Dairen through my father-in-law, who was a construction contractor. We did construction jobs in Dairen, Mukden and Changchun. I remained there until 1937 when I went to Tsingtao. In Tsingtao I went into trading business where I dealt in everything that I could get my hands on. I was also engaged in *construction* the business ~~of a professional labor procurer~~. In 1941 my activities branched out and I went to Shanghai; *where I opened a branch office* my family, however, remained in Tsingtao and I also kept an office in Tsingtao. In Shanghai I continued my business as a trader, buying and selling all merchandize I could get my hands on. *I also operated construction business in SHANGHAI.*

~~In 1944 I was commissioned by the Greater East Asia Ministry to procure Chinese coolie labor to be sent to Japan.~~

In 1944 I organized the Sino-Japanese Labor Association, a non-profit organization, under order of the Greater East Asia Ministry.

Interrogation by Major Patterson, 17-September 1948

(Interrogation of ITO, Kotaro, Continued)

In the spring of 1944, I believe it was late March or during April, Rear Admiral ISHIKAWA, Shingo, who was then Chief of the Mobilization Bureau of the Munitions Ministry ~~telephoned my office and requested me to call on him~~ *(and had known me through business relations for about a year)* outlined the then existing problem of labor shortage in Japan and invited me to organize an agency to procure and import Chinese laborers to Japan. This was the origin of the idea. Detailed plans were worked out during the next two or three months in conjunction with Mr. ~~AICHI, Kiichi~~ ^{TAKIUCHI,} the head of the Economic Section of ~~the Greater East Asia Ministry~~ ^{vice Minister of} the Greater East Asia Labor Division and with the Greater East Asia Labor Division and other GEA officials, ^{including AICHI, Kiichi.} As a result Mr. NISHIMURA, Sueju and myself organized the Sino-Japanese Labor Association with offices at 1-1 Nagata-Cho, Koji Machi, Tokyo, on or about the first of ~~August~~ ^{June} 1944. I was the Director and Chief of the organization which was a legal corporation with offices in Tokyo, for the purpose of helping needy, unemployed, able-bodied Chinese nationals in Shanghai to volunteer as laborers and work in the coal mines in Japan; and thus establish better Sino-Japanese relations. The procedure was to be in liaison with Mr. NISHIMURA at Shanghai, where he also had another business of his own. During the course of working out details with the GEA Ministry I met a number of higher officials whose names I cannot now remember. ~~I met the then Vice Minister (now dead) whose name I also forget.~~ I also met the Minister AOKI, Kazuo. This was a formal meeting by way of introducing me to him as the organizer of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association. By that time the plan had already been worked out in detail and the company had been legally formed so that Mr. AOKI was cognizant of the situation in this respect. This meeting was a conventional matter of form and there was no conversation other than the remark of Mr. AOKI to the effect that he hoped I would do my best and get good results.

(Affidavit of ITO, Kotaro,
Interrogation by Major Patterson, 17 September 1948)

I know of ABE, Genki by reputation as a Home Minister higher official associated with the Home Ministry Police Bureau. But in organizing the Sino-Japanese Labor Association I had dealt with only the Munitions and Greater East Asia Ministry.

I first visited Shanghai in connection with the Sino-Japanese Labor Association in July or August 1944, in company with Mr. WATANABE (FNU) an inspector in the Labor Division of the Greater East Asia Ministry. The official channels were from GEA in Japan through the Japanese Embassy in ~~Beiping~~ ^{SHANGHAI} to HIRAI (FNU) who was the direct representative of the Japanese Embassy (not Consulate) in Shanghai. The Japanese Consulate at Shanghai was a separate office at another location from the office of the Embassy representative.

HIRAI, representing the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai, acted as coordinator between YOSHIKAWA, Chief of the Labor Section, Hokkai Mining Company; ~~HIRAI~~ ^{MANDA} Hidetaro and NAKANO (FNU) Chiefs of the Labor Department and the Labor ~~Department~~ ^{transportation} of the Toho Mining Company; NISHIMURA, Sueju; Mr. NAGANUMA, Suezo, who made a regular business of recruiting laborers in Shanghai, and myself, ITO, Kotaro, Directors of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association. All transactions were with HIRAI's knowledge and approval -- such as the writing of the terms of recruitment on a poster which was distributed throughout Shanghai with a view to attracting laborers.

In recruiting Chinese labor for Japan, NAGANUMA received about ¥7 for each laborer, which was equal to about 120 Chinese yuan. This amount was paid by the employing firm, either the coal mining association or the stevedoring company. Our company was responsible for the clothes, shelter, transportation, food, custody, etc., of laborers from the time they were gathered in Shanghai until they were delivered to their destination in Japan.

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association establishment at Shanghai was located in a ~~factory~~ ^{warehouse} leased from the Japanese Army ~~on North Suisen Road,~~ ^{in YANGJIPO} Shanghai.

I stayed about two and a half months in Shanghai until plans previously made for shipping 1500 coolies had been accomplished.

~~YOSHIKAWA~~ ^{MANDA and NAKANO} were locally in charge of ~~the~~ ^{assembled at the warehouse} coolies ~~at the factory~~ at that time, and ~~Chief of the Labor Section of the Hokkaido Mining Association Coal Company, a position he still holds at this time.~~

(Affidavit of ITO, Kotaro,
Interrogation by Major Patterson,
20 September 1948)

I stated before that the ~~factory~~ ^{warehouse} in Shanghai for the Chinese laborers had a wooden floor. That is incorrect. It was concrete. I also stated that I went to Shanghai in July or August of 1944. I now recall that it was the early part of July, perhaps the 7th or 8th. I left Shanghai to return to Japan on the 20th of October 1944.

~~_____~~

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association was capitalized at ¥100,000. There were two investors, myself and ^{NISHIMURA} ~~another~~, thus making ¥50,000 each. I did not receive remuneration from this company. I had my own private income. This corporation, a non-profit, charitable organization working for the good of the nation, was legally organized with the permission of the Greater East Asia Ministry. It was not subject to taxes.

My instructions from the Japanese government came through ^{AICHI} ~~_____~~ ^{Kawachi} ~~_____~~. ^{TAKIICHI, vice minister} ~~_____~~, Chief of the ~~Economic Section~~ of the GEA. I had no connection with the Ministry of Home Affairs, although I do recall a Mr. NIWA who was with the Foreign Affairs Section of the Home Ministry. However, as ^{an observer} ~~representative~~ of the GEA I did know some of the rules and regulations of the Home Ministry regarding importation of Chinese labor. It may have been that I met a Mr. OKAZAKI (I am not sure about the name) at a meeting at which it was decided to bring Chinese laborers into Japan. Represented at the meeting, in addition to the Greater East Asia Ministry, were the Home, Munitions, Welfare and Transportation Ministries, and there might have been others.

I now recall that there were several meetings of Section Chiefs and below. The only two I attended were 1) at the Greater East Asia Ministry on or about June 1944, and 2) at the Welfare Ministry, about the same time. I am not certain but I believe a certain MATSUI of the Labor Section of the GEA Ministry officiated at the meeting. I do not recall if there were a representative of the Japanese Embassy in China present or not.

Text altered slightly to
read more coherently.

ITO Kotaro

During the years, 1937 to 1944, I was in China most of the time. All through these years my main business was contracting and construction, and I did various construction jobs for both the Japanese Army and the Japanese Navy in the TSINGTAO area: building barracks, repairing roads, etc., but also selling merchandize to the Army and Navy. On the whole this was unsuccessful, and I did not get many contracts. I also tried selling merchandize in Shanghai but was unsuccessful. At TSINGTAO, from 1937 until the fall of Nanking, the Fifth Division of the Japanese Army was at Tsingtao and was the only army unit I did business with. My dealings were with field grade officers of the Intendence Department of the Division, this Department took care of handling construction jobs, etc., for the military. My dealings with this unit lasted about one year, off and on, during which time I fulfilled several construction contracts and supplied various commodities.

In Shanghai, I tried selling copper to the Army but competetion was strong and I did not get a contract for this. During the period 1941 to 1944 in Shanghai I did sell produce, vegetables, etc., to the Army from time to time. My dealings were with the Army Railway Headquarters unit, which was not part of any particular army unit. The office was on Yamagata Street. I dealt with the Intendence Department, including with a Captain KAWAMOTO who was in charge of the local office. I sold vegetables, fruit. Another army unit in Shanghai with which I had dealings was the Army Port and Harbor Section. This unit had its ~~my dealings with the Japanese Navy in China were as follows~~ office at the docks and I dealt with the Intendence Department. The Harbor unit waa on Yangjipo Road, near the wharf and dock area. I dealt with Major SUZUKI of the Intendence Department, and sold vegetables and fish. This was off and on from 1941 to 1944. I don't remember any other names or particulars about my dealings with Japanese Army in China.

In China, during the period 1937 to 1944, I also had dealings ~~in connection with~~ with the Japanese Navy, in Tsingtao in 1938 only, when on a contract basis I constructed barracks and an office for Rear Admiral SHIBATA. I had no direct dealings with the Admiral, but did so with Mr. ONISHI (fnu), a civilian official in charge of the Chinese Affairs Board (KOA-IN) in Tsingtao. Onishi was under Shibata's supervision. The C.A. Board (Koa-In) office was located on Ryusan Road, Tsingtao. I had no dealings with the Navy in Shanghai.

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I Was in Shanghai in September 1944. I did not witness any Chinese being delivered to the Sino-Japanese Labor Assoc by Chinese police or by Japanese Kempei Tai. Mr. NAGANUMA SEIZO, who made a regular business of recruiting Chinese laborers in Shanghai, was the only source from which Chinese laborers were procured for the Sino-Japanese labor association in Shanghai. He did not procure any laborers from police or military agencies. I never saw any laborers being delivered under guard.

I do not know how many laborers were on hand at Shanghai while I was there. However, the total number handled by the Sino-Japanese Labor Association, in which I was principal director, was 1300, and I think they were all shipped to Japan by the end of September 1944. The first shipment by the Association was made after the middle, I think toward the end, of July 1944. They were consigned to the HOKKAIDO Mining Co. and to the TOHO Mining Co. The first shipment of Chinese laborers to the KAKUDA Coal Mining Co. of Hokkaido was in August.

During the time I was in Shanghai, the laborers on hand at the Sino-Japanese Labor Association compound were not under guard. Leaders were selected from amongst the Chinese themselves, and were responsible for the other coolies. The leaders saw to it that none of the coolies got away. As I recall, if a coolie did get away, nothing was done about it. I did not witness any punishments and did not observe what the disciplinary measures were.

There were several shipments of coolies exported from Shanghai during September 1944. Each shipment consisted of about 300 laborers. I do not recall the details of any particular shipment. One, or two, of these shipments were consigned for the KAKUDA Company. I remember Mr. YAMADA (f.n.v.) and Mr. FUGI (f.m.v.), who were agent representatives of the Kakuda Company and escorted a shipment of Chinese laborers away from Shanghai. I did not address or speak to the group escorted by YAMADA, nor to the group consigned to HOKKAIDO TANKO KISEN KABUSHIKI KAISHA in late September. I did not order one of the coolies in that shipment to be beaten. I did not witness anyone being beaten. No incidents were reported to me. I do not recall a Chinese named CHING KUO or any incident concerning him. So far as I know, during my entire stay in Shanghai no Chinese laborers were beaten.

Whenever any consignment of Chinese laborers was processed for shipment, each individual in the group was photographed and had his thumb-prints taken. This was routine, for purposes of personal identification under Japanese government regulations. I do not recall any incident arising over a coolie refusing to be thus processed. No Chinese police or Kempei Tai were present at the compound of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association when the consignment escorted by YAMADA and FUGI was dispatched.

NISHIMURA, Suez, my business associate, was the man immediately in charge of local activities at the ^{Sino}~~Sino~~-Japanese Labor Association in Shanghai, as an official of that ~~Association~~ Company. ^{NISHIMURA and I,} ~~Also there were Mr. ITO Kotaro,~~ were the only partners and directors. Also at Shanghai then were Mr. MANDA Hidetaro and Mr. NAKANO (f.n.v.), as agent representatives for their respective business Companies.

The Sino-Japanese Labor Association, of which NISHIMURA and I, ITO, were sole partners, was locally responsible at Shanghai for the food, clothes, shelter, transportation, custody, medical care and processing of the Chinese laborers from the time they were collected at Shanghai until they were delivered to their destination in Japan.

As a rule, the individual coolie, when recruited, had only worn out clothing. Each was given a complete set of clothing, consisting of coat and trousers, a shirt, complete underwear, leggings, rubber shoes, socks, hat, gloves, a set of toilet articles, towel, soap and tooth-brush. The coat and trousers were of cotton material, dark in color, resembling a uniform. The clothing was not stenciled or conspicuously marked. ~~Witnessed these details.~~ There were no POWs among the recruited laborers. We issued no bedding, as it was summer and very hot. Straw bedding was provided. There was adequate water, from a tap in the center of the yard. There was no bath house, but there was an indoor lavatory. The coolies washed themselves and their clothing there. Bowls were provided. There was an enclosed pit-latrine, emptied when necessary, and disinfected. ~~was a slit-trench latrine in a covered shed in the yard.~~ A small room was used as an infirmary. The only sicknesses ~~of~~ I recall was skin disease and some diarrhoea. I observed no malaria or serious dysentery. Sanitation was part of the general discipline delegated to the Chinese leaders themselves to look out for, which they did, in their own way, rather like Army system.

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I, ITO, finished my business in Shanghai at the end of September 1944, and returned to Japan, arriving in October. My partner NISHIMURA remained at Shanghai. I did not travel in company with a consignment of laborers, ~~the~~ but traveled via a land route through Tientsin and Korea. I spent a night at Nanking, a night at Tientsin, a night in Mukden, then ~~However, while at Shanghai I did observe the operations in connection with transporting and loading Chinese aboard ships in that harbor~~ traveled via Korea, thence by sea to SHIMONOSEKI, Japan. However, in Shanghai

I did observe the operations of transporting and loading Chinese on ships.

The coolies were transported to the water front in trucks provided by a Japanese trucking company. NISHIMURA made the arrangements for this. There was no police or Kempei Tai escort from the Sino-Japanese Labor Association compound to the docks. The whole dockyard area was, however, guarded of course. The truck trip took about 20 minutes, from the compound, on Shisen Road, via Yangjipo Road, to Pier #3, next to the Dairen Shipping Co. pier. From the trucks, the Chinese went at once over a gang-plank onto ~~the~~ ^{River} boats or lighters and in them were lightered out to the ocean-going ship, anchored offshore in the river. I stayed ashore, did not board the river boats, never inspected the ocean-going ships or the conditions aboard them for the coolies. That part was NISHIMURA's job, as the officer of the company who was immediately responsible for management and operations in Shanghai in the matter of Chinese laborers.

In Shanghai, NISHIMURA and I divided our work as partners. My part consisted of contact work and transactions with the Japanese Embassy and Govt authorities -- getting pass-ports, making applications for entry to Japan, and so on. Therefore, NISHIMURA did, and I did not, look out for practical care and processing of the coolies at Shanghai., ~~while~~ ^{although} I made the primary arrangements as to the procurement of food and supplies, etc.

My direct observations of the handling of the Chinese laborers in transit from China to Japan ended at Shanghai. I observed nothing in this connection at Shimonoseki. I understand the HOME Office supervised the operations there and the transportation to the various work destinations of the respective consignments of laborers.

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After my return to Japan from Shanghai as of October, 1944, ~~if~~ I traveled promptly from Shimonoseki to Tokyo, and resumed business operations with NISHIMURA, who remained in Shanghai. These were trading operations, selling merchandize. NISHIMURA had a trading office in Tokyo, and I worked for him at this office. We supplied merchandize to the Army, food and supplies.

From October 1944 until the end of 1945 my further relations with the Japanese governmental authorities as regards imported Chinese laborers were as follows. All contact with the Govt was with and through the GEA Ministry. I submitted only one report, in April 1945. The various Companies using Chinese labor in Japan reported on the deaths of Chinese, supported by death certificates. These basic materials I forwarded to the Economic Section, GEA Ministry. The same materials were the basis for my own report to the same Section. I made a consolidated and detailed list and handed it personally to Mr. ~~AIICHI~~ ^{AIICHI} ~~AIICHI~~ ^{Kiichi}, Chief of Economic Section, GEA Ministry. I sent one copy to NISHIMURA in Shanghai, and kept another copy for myself. My copy was destroyed, being burned by the fires resulting from the air raid on Tokyo 25 May 1945. NISHIMURA should still have his copy of my report, and other papers from Shanghai pertaining to payments to families of the laborers, etc.

During the period from October 1944 to the end of the War, I had to report to Mr. ~~AIICHI~~ ^{AIICHI} in his capacity as Chief of the Economic Section, GEA Ministry, once a month. On these occasions, if I did not see him I would see his subordinate, Mr. MATSUI (fnu). I had no written instructions from the GEA authorities, but only such oral instructions as came up at the monthly meetings. At these meetings, I reported orally on the status of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association and its operations; another subject concerned organizations in Shanghai which got together ~~and~~ to send clothes to Chinese laborers in Japan. We discussed ways and means whether, and if so, how, these could be accepted and brought to Japan.

何故か
1945年5月
25日

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After my return to Japan in October 1944 I made one trip in Japan and visited four work locations where imported Chinese laborers were at work. The unit locations were: YAYOI Coal Mines, in Hokkaido, the harbor transport or stevedore units at MURORAN and HAKODATE respectively, both in Hokkaido, and the KAKUTA Coal Mine, in Hokkaido. This was, I think, in February 1945, and I remember the weather was vary cold with snow on the ground. I stayed one day at each location. There was ~~an average of~~ about 250 laborers in the KAKUDA group. ~~each unit~~. My impression was that on the whole the laborers were in good shape physically, although a number were suffering from tuberculosis, about 15 in all. ~~100/~~ 200 or more were working daily. The camp was well managed. There were 4 large barracks. There was a stove in the center of each, a hallway, and rooms on either side. About 4 or 5 laborers bunked in each room. On the wooden floors were mats, and on the mats were futons. Each laborer had two futons, one to lie on, one to cover himself with. Because of the stoves going all the time I think it was warm enough. The laborers were well clothed, with thick warm jackets and trousers and 'Tabi' shoes.

At the KAKUTA Coal Mine, I met and had dinner with the Chinese leaders, and made a talk to the main body of laborers. The talk was more or less an apology for the cold weather; that they were at that camp instead of a warmer place where some had expected to be; that we would do our best to look after their health and comfort. The Chinese asked for ^{Better} pay, and I promised to take the matter up ^{with the GEA Ministry.} There were no written or oral complaints about food, clothing, medical attention or care and treatment, no complaints about maltreatment or brutality, or about burials. I saw some photographs concerning burials. I asked if there were any complaints, and were the Chinese satisfied. There were no complaints. The Chinese gave me a good send-off from the railway station.

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Another transaction I had with the Japanese Govt authorities was with the Home Ministry ~~and the Ministry of Economic Affairs~~ after 15 August 1945, in connection with the deaths of ^{imported} Chinese laborers who died in Japan, and the repatriation of others back to China. This was about 20 days after the cessation of hostilities. The Home Ministry had drafted a plan for processing and shipping laborers back to their homeland. This was in compliance with orders from the Occupation authorities. A conference was called in Tokyo by, and at, the Home Ministry. All Ministries concerned with Chinese were represented at the conference. The meeting was held by the Police Bureau of the Home Ministry. I cannot recall who presided, but I think he was an official of the Foreign Section of the Home Ministry. The GEA Ministry was represented by Mr. MATSUI ~~(F.N.A.)~~, the assistant to Mr. ~~AIKAWA~~ ^{RICHI, Ruchi}, Chief of Economic Section, GEA Ministry. I do not remember the names of any other representatives of Ministries present at that conference.

The plan was that all Chinese laborers who had been imported to Japan who were still living should be exported back to China as soon as possible. My recollection is that a total of about 40,000 Chinese were reported as having originally been imported. The plan was that all repatriates should be shipped from various localities in Japan by train to Shimonosetti and from there shipped by sea to China, to various destinations in China. In this connection, of the original total of approximately 1300 Chinese laborers collected by my, ITO's, and NISHIMURA's, "Sino-Japanese Labor Association" Company, from Shanghai to Japan, about 1200 survived and were repatriated. I and my Company were not responsible for repatriating them, we simply assisted the Japanese Govt authorities in ~~the~~ seeing to it that the Chinese were shipped to Shimonosetti ~~and~~ according to plan. ~~plan~~. The plan was to be executed immediately, and was carried through promptly. The only practical step our Company performed was supplying food to laborers bound for Shimonosetti. I did not visit that place, nor Hokkaido. ~~This operation~~ My company was represented by ~~my employees~~ Mr. MURAKAMI Haruo, of my Tokyo office, and YAIGASHI Jirozo representing the Association.

I have nothing further of a material nature to add to this statement.

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ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES }

I, _____, being duly sworn on oath, state that I had read to me and understood the translation of the foregoing transcription of my testimony, consisting of _____ Page, and that it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 1948.

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES }

I, _____, being duly sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that, after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing _____ page, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 1948.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, _____, certify that on the _____ day of _____, 1948, personally appeared before me _____ and, according to _____, gave the foregoing testimony; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said _____ had read to him by the said interpreter the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

(Place)

(Date)

(Interrogation of ITO, Koroto)
28 September 1948, Interrogation by Major Patterson.

Q Were you in Shanghai at the Sino-Japanese Labor organization during September 1944?

A I was in Shanghai in September 1944.

Q Did you witness any Chinese personnel delivered to the Sino-Japanese Labor establishment in Shanghai by the Chinese police and/or Japanese Kempetai?

A No.

Q In answer to the previous question you stated that the Chinese laborers were procured through NAGANUMA, who made a regular business of recruiting laborers in Shanghai. Was NAGANUMA the only source by which laborers were delivered to the Sino-Japanese labor establishment in Shanghai?

A Yes, only from this man.

Q Did NAGANUMA obtain any Chinese laborers from the Shanghai police authorities or Kempetai?

A No.

Q Did you ever observe any Chinese persons delivered to the establishment in Shanghai under armed guard?

A No.

Q Approximately how many Chinese laborers were on hand during the first half of September 1944?

A I do not know the exact number at that time. The total number we handled was 1,300 and I think ~~it was~~ all taken care of by the end of September. *they were all shipped to JAPAN by*

Q Approximately when did the first shipment of laborers depart from Shanghai for Japan?

A I think it was after the middle of July. It could have been toward the end of the month.

Q What commercial company were they consigned to?

A Hokkaido Coal Mining Company. ~~The first shipment was to Toho Coal Mining Company.~~ *and*

Q When was the first shipment consigned to the Kakuda Company?

A I think it was one of the shipments that left in August.

Q During the time you were in Shanghai were the Chinese laborers at the Sino-Japanese Labor establishment under guard or not?

A They were not.

Q If the Chinese attempted to escape or did escape, what disciplinary measures were taken to restrain them?

A Men were selected from the coolies themselves to be responsible for their actions, and these supervisors saw to it that none of the coolies got away.

Q What disciplinary action was taken when a coolie escaped?

A As I remember, if anyone got away there was nothing they could do about it. Any other measures I did not witness and know nothing about.

Q Do you recall a shipment of coolies to Japan about the middle of September 1944?

A I do not exactly remember any particular shipment which took place in the middle of September.

Q Were there any shipments during September?

A Yes.

Q Were there more than one shipment during September?

A Yes, there were several shipments; each shipment had about 300 persons.

Q Were any of the shipments to the Kakuda Company?

A Yes, there were about ~~three~~ ^{two} shipments to them.

Q Do you recall two employees or agents who represented ~~your~~ ^{KAKUDA} company named YAMADA and FUGI?

A Yes.

Q Did you or did you not address or speak to that group of Chinese who were escorted by YAMADA.

A I ~~do not remember~~ ^{did not}.

Q When a consignment started off to Japan did they take any pictures or thumbprints or what were the processes of clearance of the Chinese coolies.

A Yes.

Q Did you order a Chinese to be beaten. This man was in the consignment under YAMADA and FUGI.

A No.

Q Did you witness a Chinese being beaten, a member of this same group?

A No.

Q Did you hear of the incident? Was anything reported to you?

A No.

Q During your entire stay in Shanghai were any of the Chinese laborers connected with your establishment beaten -- yes or no?

A No, as far as I know, they were not.

Q Do you remember an incident of any description about a Chinese Yautsu Tong (check the spelling of this name)

A No.

Q When the shipment under YAMADA and FUGI were being processed were there any Chinese police or Kempetai present in the compound?

A No.

Q Was NISHIMURA, Suezu (?), in Shanghai during the time you were there in 1944?

A Yes, he was the man in charge in Shanghai, and there all ~~of~~ the time.

Q You were there together?

A Yes.

Q What did you mean by saying YOSHIKAWA, ~~was~~ locally in charge?

A I meant to say ~~YOSHIKAWA~~ ^{MANDA and NAKANO were} was in charge of the ~~Sino-Japanese Labor Organization part.~~ ^{they were} ~~procuring laborers~~ ^{from our association for their respective firms.}

Q I don't understand which one is in charge?

A ~~YOSHIKAWA was in charge of Chinese coolies in Shanghai who were connected with the Sino-Japanese Labor establishment.~~ NISHIMURA was in charge of the affairs of the Sino-Japanese Labor organization.

Q NISHIMURA was your partner in this company?
A Yes.

Q You and NISHIMURA were the only partners in this company?
A Yes.

Q Was the Sino-Japanese Labor company of which you and NISHIMURA sole partners responsible for the food, clothes, shelter, transportation, custody, medical care and possession of the laborers from the time they were gathered in Shanghai until they were delivered to their destination in Japan?
A Yes.

Q Describe in detail the measures taken with respect to clothing for the Chinese laborers.
A The clothing which they had were nothing but rags, and were discarded. The coolies were given a complete set of clothing, composed of coat and trousers, a shirt, complete underwear, leggings and rubber shoes, hat and gloves, and a set of toilet articles, towel, soap, tooth brush, etc.

Q Did you witness this?
A Yes.

Q Of what material were the coat and trousers, and what color?
A Cotton material. They were black or a dark color.

Q Like a uniform?
A Yes, something like the Army uniform.

Q Was there markings on the back?
A No.

Q Were there any former Chinese POW among the laborers?
A No.

Q What kind of bedding did they receive?
A We did not give them any bedding. It was summer and very hot.

Q What about water -- not sanitation but water supply?
A There was running water in the compound in about the center of the yard.

Q What were the laboratory facilities for washing, both for the coolies themselves and their clothing. What about drinking water?
A Was there a regular laboratory and bathroom?
A They did not have any bathhouse, but there was a laboratory with running water and they did their washing there.

Q Were there bowls, etc?
A Yes.

Q Was there an infirmary; a separate place for sick people?
A Yes.

Q What kind of illness did you observe?
A The only sickness I recall was skin diseases of various kinds.

Q No malaria, dysentary?
A No.

Q How about general sanitation and cleanliness? What measures were taken in regard to this?
A The coolies were divided into groups and there was a leader to give instructions in cleaning the compound; very much like the Army system.

Q Describe the latrine facilities and conditions?
A The latrine was in the corner of the compound and enclosed. It was disinfected every so often, and at intervals was taken away. It was the pit system.

Q Are you prepared to swear under oath that to the best of your knowledge and belief, that no Chinese coolies were delivered to the Sino-Japanese Labor establishment in Shanghai by the Chinese police or Japanese Kempetai?

A Yes.

Q Are you prepared to swear under oath to the best of your knowledge and belief during the period of your observation of the Sino-Japanese Labor establishment at Shanghai from July to September 1944, no Chinese laborers were beaten or otherwise mistreated physically?

A Yes, I swear that as far as I have seen there were no such treatment.

Q Are you prepared to swear under oath to the best of your knowledge and belief the laborers were not under guard and were not escorted to and from the labor establishment by Chinese police and Japanese kempetai?

A Yes, except when they were taken to the boat, there were *Japanese* policemen at the docks.

Q Do you remember a shipment of Chinese toward the end of September, almost the last of September?

A Yes, there were shipments throughout September.

Q Approximately how many deaths of Chinese laborers occurred during the month of September at the compound?

A ~~I do not remember if it was in September but my memory is that there were only two or three deaths in the whole period.~~

none.

Q Do you remember making a talk to a consignment of about 250 Chinese being shipped out from Shanghai for the ~~Kobe~~ (???) at the end of September?

KABUSHIKI Maisha

HOKKAIDO TANRO KISEN

A I do not recall.

Q Were they photographed and thumbprinted in the processing procedure -- this particular group at the end of September (September 28-30)?

A Yes, all were processed.

Q Do you remember an incident of a Chinese refusing to be photographed and thumbprinted and being punished for this?

A No.

Q Did any Chinese ever refuse to be photographed or thumbprinted?

A Not that I know of.

Q Do you remember a Chinese Ching Koute?

A No

(Interrogation, ITO, Kotoro,
28 September 1948 (p.m.) by Major Patterson)

- Q Describe the particulars as to your leaving Shanghai to return to Japan.
- A I finished my business approximately at the end of September and returned to Japan promptly, probably arriving in early October. My parter NISHIMURA remained in Shanghai. I did not travel in company with any shipment of Chinese laborers. *I returned to JAPAN via land route - through TIENSIN and KOREA.*
- Q During the time you were in China did you observe the operations of transporting and loading Chinese laborers aboard ships at Shanghai?
- A Yes.
- Q Describe this briefly -- how escorted and loaded aboard the ships, conditions on board as you observed them, etc.
- A They were all loaded on trucks, about 25 men to a truck. The trucks were hired by NISHIMURA from a Japanese trucking company.
- Q What was a Japanese trucking company doing in Shanghai?
- A There were a lot of Japanese in trucking business in Shanghai.
- Q What companies?
- A I do not remember the names.
- Q Were there guards or police on the trucks?
- A No.
- Q You said this morning there were Chinese police and Japanese Kempetai on duty during the loading of Chinese coolies.
- A ~~Yes, at the docks.~~ *Just Japanese police at the docks.*
- Q Did police accompany the Chinese from the compound to the waterfront?
- A There was no police escort.
- Q Describe the trip -- how long did it take, etc.
- A It took about 20 minutes.
- Q What street did it follow?
- A Yangjipo Street.
- Q What pier?
- A Pier No.3 in Shanghai. It was right next to Dairen Shipping Company Warf.
- Q What road ran in between?
- A It was a big highway but I cannot remember the name.
- Q You were in business in Shanghai in 1941?
- A Yes, on Shisen Road.
- Q Well, what is the name of the road?
- A Part was Yangjipo Road but after that I can't recall.
- Q Describe the detailed operations.
- A After we arrived at the harbor there were a lot of ~~Chinese~~ *Japanese* police. Since it was known that there would be a shipment we went right through to the harbor area and went right up to the gangplank and the coolies were unloaded.
- Q Was this to the same ship that would take them to Japan.
- A No, they were light, river boats, and the big boats were outside.
- Q Did you ever go out in a river boat?
- A ~~Yes.~~ *no.*

Q Did you ever go aboard one of the sea-going vessels which carried Chinese to Japan?

A ~~Yes, on the river boats going out to the sea-going vessels.~~
No.

Q Describe the details, water facilities, food, sanitation, etc.
A The coolies were put on the boat along with the food and supplies because it was just a short way out to the harbor. These small boats went back and forth until all coolies were loaded. The supplies were loaded first.

Q Did you board any of these ocean-going vessels?

A No. I have not been on the big ones.

Q Your company was responsible, why did you not go on some of the ships?

A NISHIMURA made trips to the boats.

Q Did you yourself ever board these ships?

A No.

Q Why?

A Since the association was handled by myself and NISHIMURA and since it was NISHIMURA's job to be in Shanghai and take care of this side of the business, he was taking care of it.

Q You have said that the purpose of the organization was to help Chinese nationals in Shanghai and to establish better Sino-Japanese relations and that the organization was a non-profit one working for the good of the government; now since this was to help establish better relations and you did not receive pay for your work, is it not odd that you did not even visit the ships transporting these coolies?

A Yes, I was a partner of this non-profit organization, that is true, and NISHIMURA was one of the Directors. Since he was in charge of affairs in Shanghai, I didn't have to do that myself.

Q But this is an important step in the whole enterprise. I don't understand why you didn't investigate it, especially since you were in Shanghai for three months.

A The work between NISHIMURA and myself was divided. I had the contact work with government officials and embassy -- getting passports, making applications for entry, etc. My partner did the actual handling in and around Shanghai.

Q Did you make arrangements concerning food and clothes, transportation, supplies, etc., in Shanghai?

A Yes, I made the arrangements.

Q When did you arrive in Japan from Shanghai in 1944?

A It was either the last part of September or the first part of October 1944.

Q Where did you land?

A I took an extended trip and came home via Korea to Shimonoseki.

Q If you left Shanghai at the end of September and went to Korea how did you arrive the early part of October in Japan?

A My trip was only about five days -- 1 night in Nanking, 1 night in Tientsin, 1 in Mukden, then I came to Korea, thence by boat to Japan.

Q Give me the details concerning Chinese laborers at Shimonoseki.

A I did not witness or see any unloading of Chinese laborers from the boats.

- Q What were the arrangements at the boat?
A After the processing affairs in Japan, my association had nothing further to do. My connections ended at Shanghai when the laborers were loaded on the boat. I understood that when they reached Shimonoseki they were turned over to the Home Ministry.
- Q After your arrival at Shimonoseki what did you do?
A I took the train and returned to Tokyo. I stayed at my home in Nakata-Cho in Tokyo and did trade business in connection with NISHIMURA in Shanghai.
- Q What do you mean by trade business?
A Selling of merchandize. NISHIMURA had a branch office in Tokyo and I worked under him in this branch office. We supplied material to the Army, food and supplies.
- Q In Shanghai what business did you have with the military in any description whatsoever. What transactions with Japanese military affairs?
A When I was in Shanghai the first time, I did a little selling to the Japanese army.
- Q Was this in 1941 or what do you mean by the first time?
A 1942.
- Q How long were you there the first time. What happened between 1941 when you first went there and your connection with the GEA.
A My home office was in Tsingtao. In 1941 I branched out to Shanghai and up to about the early part of 1943 I remained in the Shanghai area as a contractor and trader. In the early part of 1944 I met NISHIMURA in Shanghai and I made arrangements with him to go to Japan and have a branch office in Tokyo so in the spring of 1944 I returned to Tokyo to start a branch office for NISHIMURA. It was at this time that I was asked to form the association to bring in Chinese laborers.
- Q NISHIMURA had his business and you were a junior partner, but in the Sino-Japanese Labor organization you were equal partners.
A Yes.
- Q What were your dealings with the Japanese army in Tsingtao during the period from 1937 until 1944?
A All through these years my main business was contracting and construction and I did various construction jobs for both the Japanese army and navy in the Tsingtao area; building barracks repair of roads, etc., but selling merchandize to the Army and Navy was unsuccessful and I did not get many contracts. I tried to sell merchandize in Shanghai but was not successful.
- Q What were the military organizations and names of officers with whom you dealt in Tsingtao?
A The Fifth Division. My dealings were with field grade officers of the Intendence Department. This Intendence Department takes care of handling of construction jobs, etc.
- Q Was the Fifth Division there all that time, 1937 - 1944?
A They were there about one year, untill the fall of Nanking.
- Q Was this the first division you had dealings with?
A The Fifth Division was the only army outfit that I dealt with.
- Q How many years altogether did you have dealings with the army in Tsingtao?
A My dealings with the Army would be only while the outfit was there -- about one year -- there were several contracts for constructions and supplying various commodities.
- Q During the time that you were Tsingtao in the contracting business, do you testify that you dealt only with the Fifth Division of the Japanese army and for only approximately one year?
A Yes, that is correct.

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Q Describe your dealings with the Japanese army in Shanghai?
A I tried to sell the army copper in Shanghai but there was a great deal of competition and because of prices, I did not get ~~the~~ ^a contract from the Army.

Q Did you have any business transaction with the Army in Shanghai?
A Other dealings involved selling produce to the army -- fresh vegetables, etc.

Q During what period of time did you have any dealing with the Japanese Army in Shanghai?
A While I had an office there, from 1941-44.

Q What units did you deal with?
A There were two army units I dealt with, The Army Railroad Unit known as the Army Railroad Unit Headquarters.

Q Identify the unit?
A It is known as the Army Railroad Headquarters Unit.

Q What army?
A I don't know.

Q What division?
A This is a separate railroad unit.

Q Where was it located?
A The office was ~~on~~ ^{on} Yamagata ~~and~~ ^{Street}.

Q Whom did you deal with?
A My dealings were with the Intendence Department, and a Captain KAWAMOTO was in charge.

Q What dealings -- copper, fresh vegetables?
A I sold the army vegetables and fish.

Q Now about the dealings with the navy in Tsingtao from 1937 on, what navy units, what kind of transactions, what navy departments, names of personnel involved?

A Another statement about the Army. The Army Port and Harbor Section in Shanghai was another army unit with whom I dealt. This unit had its office at the docks and I dealt with the Intendence Department. This Harbor Unit was at Yangjipo Road, near the wharf area and I dealt with a Major SUZUKI of the Intendence Department. I sold fresh vegetables and fish. This was on and off from 1941 to 1944. This was all of the dealings I have had with the Army. I don't remember the names of any other people.

Q What were your dealings with the navy?
A My dealings with the navy in Tsingtao during the period 1937-1944 were as follows: I had an office at Tsingtao and my only dealings with the navy were in 1938 when I constructed offices and resident barracks for Rear Admiral SHIBATA. I had no direct dealings with the Admiral, but with a Mr. ONISHI (FNU), a civilian who was in charge of construction for the Chinese Affairs Board (Koain) in Tsingtao. Mr. ONISHI was under the supervision of Rear Admiral SHIBATA. The office of the China Affairs Board was located at Ryusan Road. This is the only navy work I did in Tsingtao. I had no dealings with the navy in Shanghai between the years of 1941-44.

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Q Did you have any other dealings with officials in Tsingtao besides the Army and Navy?

A No, there were no others.

Q After your return to Tokyo in October, 1944 will you tell us the routine and various circumstances that were related to the activities of the Japanese government in connection with the Chinese laborers.

A After returning to Japan the work of the Sino-Japanese Labor Association was only two things (1) to look after the sending of money back to their families, which there was none and (2) the return of the Chinese to their homeland after the contract was up.

We received 5¥ per head as expenses for each laborer brought in. This money was paid by the three companies that employed the 1300 laborers. The only government department that we had to deal with was the GEA Ministry concerning the Chinese laborers.

Q What contracts did you have with the government from October 1944 until the end of the war.

A The first report that we made to GEA concerning these imported Chinese laborers was about ~~the~~ *the death or injuries of Chinese laborers.*

Q What contracts did you have with the Japanese government from the period 1944 to the end of the war?

A Up to the end of the war my contract with the government was through the GEA and whenever reports came in concerning ~~deaths and~~ *deaths and injuries* we had to report to this ministry. The process on reporting ~~deaths~~ *injuries* was that whenever ~~a death occurred~~ *a death occurred* in the camp, the company would send a ~~report~~ *report* with a certificate; and this would be reported to the GEA Ministry. ~~These reports were~~ *deaths* handed over to the Economic Section. These ~~certificates~~ *deaths* were sent in just once in April 1945. I made a list of all details from the list of ~~deaths~~ *deaths* and personally ~~delivered it to~~ *delivered it to* ~~the GEA.~~ *the GEA.* The other copy was sent to the Shanghai office under the care of NISHIMURA. I kept one copy for myself.

Q How many of these reports were there?

A Just one made in April 1945.

Q Where is your copy?

A It was lost in fire May 25, 1945. NISHIMURA would have his records in Shanghai in preparation for making payments to the families. Before any payments were made it had to go through his hands.

Q Who requested you to make this report?

A It was a rule of the GEA Ministry and my company was under their jurisdiction.

Q During this time in Tokyo and until the end of the war, did you receive any communication from AIKICHI.

A Yes, I had to report to his office every month.

Q Did you see AIKICHI personally on those occasions?

A No. I did not meet AIKICHI when I made these monthly calls, but I talked with a Mr. MATSUI, (FNU)

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- Q Did you receive written instructions from the Economic Section on these monthly reports; were they oral instructions or not; what happened to these reports?
- A Most of the meetings were reports on the status of the Association and another thing that we talked about were organizations in Shanghai that got together to send clothes to Chinese laborers, and we talked on how this should be accepted and brought over.
- Q Written instructions?
- A No, I don't remember any written order or statement .
- Q Was this in the nature of a regular monthly conference?
- A Yes.
- Q Did you visit any of the camps and mines where the Chinese were working?
- A Yes.
- Q Details? When was the first time?
- A I made one trip only when I visited four different places where all the Chinese laborers were working:
Yayoi coal mines,
Kakuta coal mines,
~~Muyoyan~~ (?) Stevedoring company,
Hakodate Stevedoring company.
- Q When?
- A I am not too sure of the exact date, but I think it was February of 1945.
- Q How long was your stay at Kakuta?
- A I stayed one day in each of these places.
- Q Was the weather cold at Kakuta?
- A Yes, very cold, with several feet of snow.
- Q Approximately how many laborers were there at the time of your visit?
- A There were about 250 laborers at the camp.
- Q What was their condition of health?
- A My impression of the camp as a whole was that those who were able to work were quite well physically, but I do remember there were a lot of people suffering from tuberculosis.
- Q Do you recall how many were working out of the total?
- A When I visited the camp I remember there were about 15 suffering from tuberculosis and the rest were working.
- Q There were over 200 working and you say that on the average they were in a fit physical condition?
- A Yes.
- Q Describe living quarters -- beds, bedding, heat, water, etc.
- A The set-up at the camp was very well taken care of. There were four large barracks. There was a stove in the center of each, in a hallway, and rooms on either side. There were about 4 or 5 laborers in each room. On these wooden floors there were mats, and on the mats were futons. One futon was to lie on and one to cover the laborer. Each man had two futons.
- Q Was the bedding adequate for winter?
- A Because of the heat of the stove going all the time I think it was warm enough.
- Q How were they clothed?
- A They were well dressed. They had thick warm jackets and trousers.
- Q And shoes?
- A They wore tabi.

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- Q Did you talk with the Chinese laborers and address them as a group?
A I did. The talk was more or less an apology for the cold weather, and that they were at the camp instead of being in a warmer place, where some of them had expected to be; that we would do the best we could to look after their health and comfort. The Chinese gave me a big sendout at the station.
- Q Did any of the Chinese talk with you individually?
A Yes, there was a request from the Chinese coolies for better pay, and I said that I would look into it and see that they received it, and that the matter would be placed before the GEA Ministry.
- Q Were there any complaints about physical care or treatment or mistreatment?
A No.
- Q Any complaints about the food?
A No.
- Q Did any of the Chinese tell you that the food was satisfactory?
A No.
- Q Any complaints about clothing?
A No.
- Q Any complaints about medical care and attention?
A No.
- Q Any complaints about the burials?
A I heard no complaint but I saw photographs of some of the funerals.
- Q Any complaints about physical mistreatment or mal-treatment?
A I did not hear of any such complaints.
- Q Did you talk with Chinese leaders?
A Yes, I talked to most of them.
- Q What did they say?
A I don't remember any complaints. After I made a talk I had dinner with the leaders and it was my understanding that they were satisfied.
- Q What did you talk about?
A During the course of the dinner we talked informally and I asked them if there were any complaints and if they were satisfied. There were no complaints. I asked for written complaints if there were any.
- Q Did you receive any written complaints?
A No.
- Q But there was the matter of pay that they wanted increased?
A Yes, only that.
- Q Do you remember the name of any of the Chinese leaders at that camp?
A No, I do not know.
- Q Describe the second transaction you had with the Japanese government.
A The first was about ~~deaths~~ and the second repatriation. On this matter steps were taken after the ending of the war, about 20 days afterwards. The Home Ministry was responsible and they had a draft plan for processing and shipping the laborers back to their homeland and this was in accordance with orders from the occupying authorities. This conference was held in Tokyo at the Home Ministry. All of the Ministries that had a hand in dealing with the Chinese laborers were present. I don't know the exact date but it was right after the termination of the war. It was held by the Police Department of the Home Ministry. I cannot recall who presided, but I think it was someone in the Foreign Section of the Home Ministry.

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Q Who represented the GEA Ministry?

A MATSUI (FNU)

Q Was he a subordinate of AIICHI, the Chief of the Economic Section, GEA?

A Yes.

Q Were there any others from the Home Ministry?

A I do not remember any representatives from any other section of the Home Ministry.

Q What were the details of the plan worked out for repatriation of Chinese?

A The plan was that all Chinese laborers imported to Japan, would be sent back to China as soon as possible. My recollection was that there were about 40,000 Chinese laborers. The plan was that all of these Chinese would be shipped from the various areas of Japan by train to Shimonoseki and from there to various sections of China. Out of the coolies recruited from Shanghai there were 1200 in this group repatriated. This was the plan and it was to be carried out immediately. It was carried through.

Q What was the responsibility of the Sino-Japanese Labor company of which you and NISHIMURA were partners, in repatriating these laborers?

A With the termination of the war we were not solely responsible for everything. Together with the Japanese Government my association saw to it that the Chinese coolies were sent by rail to Shimonoseki.

Q What was your responsibility?

A Practically nothing, the only thing we did was deliver food to ~~the troops.~~ *laborers on the way to SHIMONOSEKI.*

Q Did you go to Hokkaido and Shimonoseki?

A No.

Q Who went?

A MURAKAMI, Haruo of my office and YAMAGASHI, Jirozo, representing the association.

Q This conference on repatriation occurred probably in September or not later than October 1945, is that correct?

A I think it was the month of September.

Q At the conference it was established that there were approximately 1200 Chinese to be sent back to Shanghai?

A Yes, there were 1200 and some odd Chinese for Shanghai and that was under my group.

Q There were approximately 1300 originally shipped from Shanghai?

A Yes, to be exact, 1,300.

Q Did they commence work in Japan in or before October 1944?

A Yes.

Q The period of time between arrival and departure was 1944-1945?

A Yes.

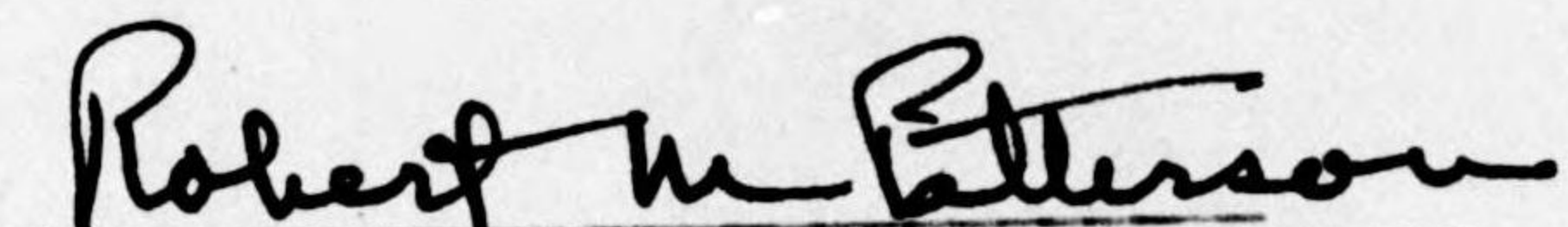
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C E R T I F I C A T E

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)
CITY OF TOKYO, JAPAN) SS

On this date, 21 September 1948, in the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, a written statement in Japanese, from ITO, Kotaro, has been accepted under oath, with his full knowledge, consent and realization of the consequences of certifying to falsehood under oath:


ROBERT M. PATTERSON, ASN O-153811
Major, Cav., Legal Section, W.C.T.
GHQ, SCAP.

City of Tokyo, Japan
 September 1948

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)
) SS
CITY OF TOKYO, JAPAN)

I, ITO, Kotaro, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have had translated to me by MATSUDA, Hiroshi, the translation of my statement and that all contents therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

KOTARO ITO
ITO, Kotaro

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of September 1948.

Robert M. Patterson
ROBERT M. PATTERSON, ASN O-153811
Major, Cav., Legal Section, W.C.T.
GHQ, SCAP.

IWAMOTO, Chikara D.

I, ~~MATSUDA, Hiroshi~~, being of lawful age, and being duly sworn upon oath, state that I have truly translated the statement given by ITO, Kotaro; that after having read the same to the witness, the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

Chikara D. Iwamoto
~~MATSUDA, Hiroshi~~
IWAMOTO, Chikara D

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ of September 1948

Robert M. Patterson
ROBERT M. PATTERSON, ASN O-153811
Major, Cav., Legal Section, W.C.T.
GHQ, SCAP.

STATEMENT OF ITO, Kotaro

- Statement re:
1. The Organization and Purpose of the Japan-China Labor Association.
 2. The Method of Recruitment.
 3. The Treatment of the Laborers after their Recruitment in Shanghai.
 4. My Situation from the time the Japan-China Labor Association was Established up until the Present.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE JAPAN-CHINA LABOR ASSOCIATION.

This was a corporation aggregate whose head office was located in Tokyo. NISHIMURA, Sue^{ju(ki)}hisa and I were the directors, and I, as the Chief director, stayed in Tokyo and kept in touch with the Greater East Asia Ministry as a "non-regular member of the Greater East Asia Ministry." Director NISHIMURA stayed in Shanghai and "kept liaison with the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai as Chief of the Shanghai Affairs Bureau." "The capital was 100,000 yen which the two of us (NISHIMURA) invested 50,000 yen each.

2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this association was the voluntary recruitment from in and out of Shanghai able-bodied men who had no food, clothing, or shelter because of unemployment so that they could be utilized in the coal mining companies and the harbor stevedoring companies in Japan. It was intended "to secure means of livelihood of Chinese laborers" as well as to promote friendly relations between China and Japan.

3. METHOD OF RECRUITING LABORERS.

After deliberation in the presence of HIRAI, an administrative official, at the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai, in which YOSHIKAWA, chief of the Labor Section, HOKKAI Mining Company; MITSUDA, Hidetaro and NAKANO, chiefs of the Labor Department and the Harbor Labor Department of the TOHO Coal Mining Company, respectively; NISHIMURA, Sue^{JU(ki)}hisa and ITO, Kotaro, directors of the Japan-China Labor Association, took part, and writing the terms of recruitment on a poster, "the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai gave approval" to Mr. NAGANUMA, Suezo who made a regular business of recruiting laborers in Shanghai. Having obtained this permission, NAGANUMA, Suezo recruited voluntary laborers.

"Important matters written on the poster:

伊藤 孝太郎

- (1) Recruitment of laborers wanting to go to Formosa or Japan.
- (2) Daily wages: common laborers250 yuan
 skilled laborers300 yuan
- (3) Food, clothing and all other personal necessities free of charge."

3. TREATMENT OF LABORERS AFTER THEIR RECRUITMENT IN SHANGHAI.

We rented at "YANJUPO /t.n. phonetic/, Shanghai a storehouse of about 700 "tsubo" with a courtyard of about 500 "tsubo." The floor of this building was made of concrete, so we spread straw mats on it and then some mat-rush on top of them, and since it was summer, we made this their lodging. "Here, the laborers recruited were turned over to the coal mining companies and the harbor stevedoring companies who immediately made them undergo medical examinations by Japanese doctors and issued to each laborer new clothing as well as all personal necessities free of charge. Furthermore, they paid 50 yuan a day to common laborers and 100 yuan to foremen. They gave food free of charge and selected foremen from among the laborers recruited and left them to look after the distribution of food and everything else regarding the supervision of the laborers.

2-4 " *Attached as part of this Statement and designated "Page*
KP *thereof is a diagram showing the "YANJUPO" quarters at Shanghai* *KI*

3. The Particulars of the Contracts between the Japan-China Labor Association and the Coal Mining Companies as well as the Harbor Stevedoring Companies.

a. In Shanghai in July of 1944, the Japan-China Labor Association shall enter into a contract with the HOKKAI Coal Mining Company, the TOHO Coal Mining Company and the harbor stevedoring companies with the approval of the Greater East Asia Ministry to the effect that the Association will recruit 1,500 voluntary laborers and deliver them to those companies under a one year contract.

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b. The Japan-China Labor Association shall supply the four men, ITO, Kotaro, NISHIMURA, Suehisa, ^{JU}_{KI} MURAKAMI, Haruo, and TERAGAWA, Torayuki with the money for their actual expenses (daily allowances, transportation fares and hotel charges in Shanghai) at each coal mining company and harbor stevedoring company when they start on an official trip to Shanghai to recruit laborers.

c. Each coal mining company and harbor stevedoring company shall pay for all expenses necessary for recruiting the voluntary laborers in Shanghai. Those to be paid are the expenses for recruitment (which must be paid to MAGANUMA, Seizo), clothing as well as all other daily necessities, foods for the laborers, their daily wages, rents, and equipment expenses.

d. The Japan-China Labor Association shall, with personal consent of the laborers, record their address, name, age, occupation, etc. and take a half-length picture of each laborer, and then with the approval of the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai, go through the procedures for transporting them to Japan Proper.

e. After bringing them to Japan, each coal mining company and harbor stevedoring company shall complete, within one year, payment to the Japan-China Labor Association on the basis of 5 yen per laborer. The Association shall, therefore, handle the remittances of laborers' money to their homes and also handle the procedures to send them back after the expiration of the term of their contract.

In about April of 1944, I became acquainted with Mr. NISHIMURA, ^{JU}~~Suenaga~~_{KI} who was directing the FUKUKI & Co. in Shanghai. It was said that he was specially affiliated with the MITSUBISHI Commercial Company and possessed a respectable amount of property. In May of the same year, I came back to Japan with him, and then started the Japan-China Labor Association with some funds borrowed from him. At that time, I was working in various lines of business in Japan together with Mr. NISHIMURA, but during the war, my office and residence at No. 2, Nagata-cho, 1 chome, Kojimachi-ku was burned, and only the house at No. 499, Kugenuma, Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture remained. Later, with the termination of the war, I started a business as a public contractor. In February of 1946, the Japanese Government froze all the assets of the Japanese people, leaving 30,000 yen to each householder and 5000 yen to each member of the family. I sold my household belongings and contracted to build the barracks of the U. S. 11th Airborne Division at Nigamasu, Harano-machi, Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture, and furthermore, I have supplied materials to the Occupation Forces up to the present in the name of the ITO Company, Ltd. I ran as a candidate for the House of Representatives twice, but in both cases

K3
10/10/46

I was not elected. As a result, my debts have grown to a considerable sum. I am now engaged in the business of a public contractor in Awomori, Iwate, and Miyagi Prefectures. I sold my office in the Arasho Building at No. 5 Tomisawa-machi, Nihonbashi in Tokyo, which I used until May of 1948, to Mr. ARAI, Shotaro (present owner of the building) and I am continuing my present business only.

The purpose of recruiting Chinese laborers to be brought to Japan was to help the Japanese Government cover the shortage of labor power and to promote Sino-Japanese friendship as well as to make secure the livelihood of the Chinese laborers. It was never intended for profiteering. The Chinese laborers for whom my Association handled proceedings for importation numbered not more than 1,500, and the money received from the companies by the Association amounted to about 74,000 yen, excluding the actual expenses for the trips made to Shanghai. The Association lost approximately 200,000 yen for which we requested compensation from the Japanese Government, but nothing has been received to date. At present, my personal circumstances are such that it has become necessary for me to suspend publication of the magazine "Outlook of Politics and Economy" since July of this year due to lack of money.

ITO, Kotaro

伊藤幸太郎

I, ITO, Kotaro, swear upon my conscience that the above statement as written is absolutely correct.

ITO, Kotaro

伊藤幸太郎

21 September 1948

伊藤幸太郎

ITO'S FIRST STATEMENT

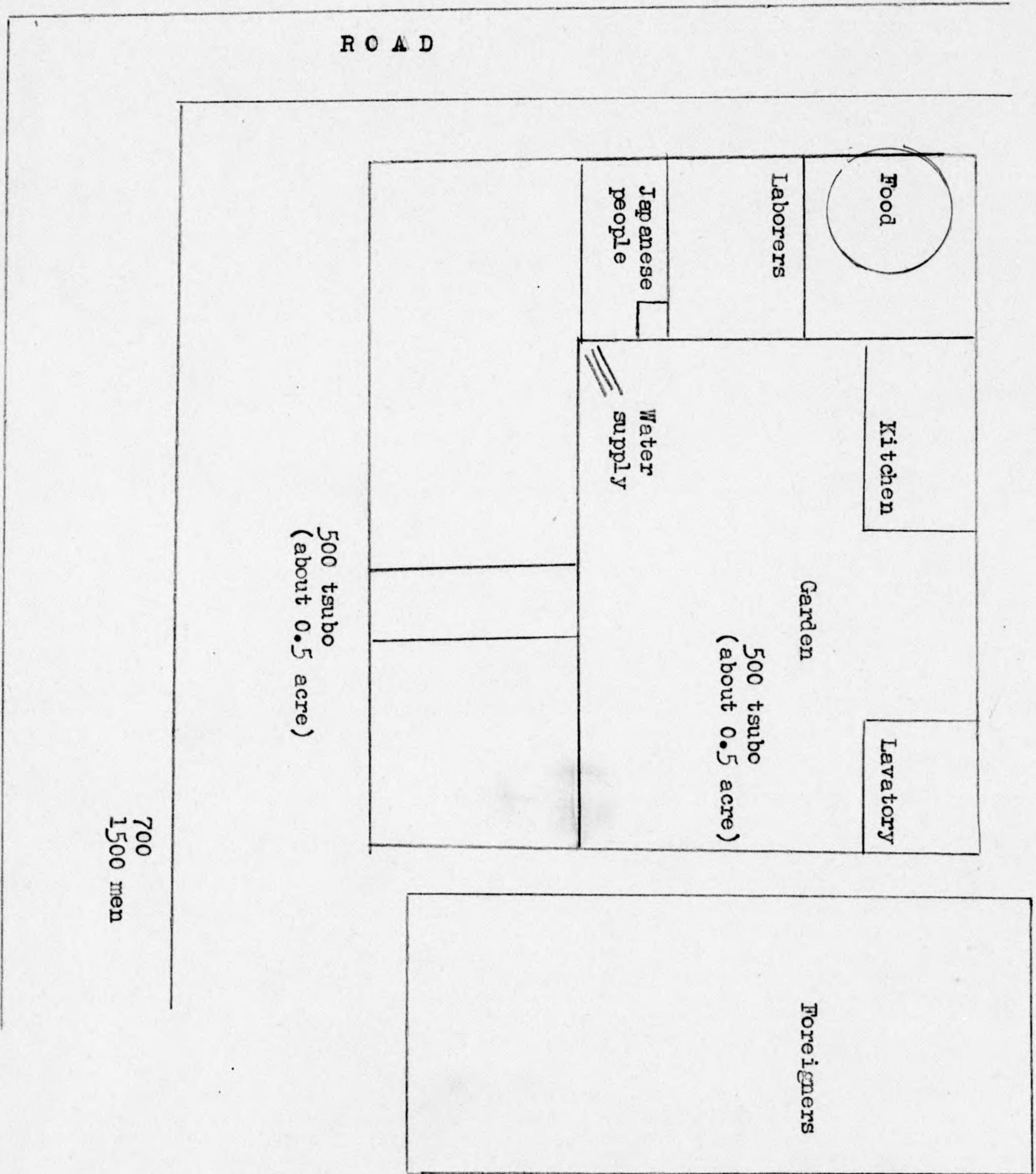
/back sheet of page 3/

Japan-China Labor Association responsible for matters not approved by the Greater East Asia /Ministry/.

Japanese territories outside Japan proper.

Home Ministry, Welfare Ministry responsible for Japan proper.

/back of 1st page/



By [Signature]

~~YOSHIKAWA, Chief of Labor Section of HOKKAIDO TANKO KAISHA
(Hokkaido Coal Mining Company).~~

一、日華常務協會之組織之目的

二、募集之方針

三、上海之新定募集後之常務者之取扱方

四、私的協會後之進行現在之方針

何力博幸之書

昭和十三年五月マダ居住マシタ東京都日本橋區
澤町五番地其所に此の私ノ事務所ニ其所住太
郎(現在此ノ主人)此の事務所ニ現在ノ事
業ヲ續ケテ居ル此の事務所ニ御座リマス 就キマシテハ
歐米中ノ華人常務者ノ由地移入募集ノ仕事
ハ日本政府ニ許可ヲ得テ又是ノ許可ヲモ 援助ス
ル目的ト中日親善ト華人常務者ノ生活安定ヲ
計ル為メマシマシテ 決シテ 利息ノ為メハアリマセ
又華人常務者ノ私ノ事務所ニ一々五百名是ヲマシテ各
會社ニ 協會ガ事務所ニ属スルハ日本ニハ七萬也四千

協会の事務所
手続ヲナシテ
又華人常務者ノ私ノ事務所ニ一々五百名是ヲマシテ各

一、日華事務協會ノ組織

社団法人ニシテ東京ニ本部ヲ置キ、私ト西村未高ノ
 二名ガ理事トナリ、私ハ理事長トシテ東京ニ居リ、大東亞
 有報社トナリ『大東亞有報』ノ連絡ニ當リ、西村理事ハ上
 海ニ居リ『上海事務局長』トシテ上海大日本帝國大伴館
 事務所ノ連絡ニ當リマシタ。資本金ハ拾萬圓ガ五萬
 圓ニ名(西村)ガ出資シマシタ。

二、目的

上海市内外ニ於テ職業ガナリ、食ヲ事ニ出テ其ノ着物
 元無イ者トナリ、者ガ健康ト男子ヲ自由募集シ

日本一炭礦會社、淺井荷役會社、佛カシメ、日支
親善ヲ計ルト共ニ中國常務者ノ生活ノ安定ヲ計
ル目的アリマス。

三、常務集ノ方法

上海ニ於テ常務者ノ常集ヲ正業トシテ在ル。長江沿
道ニ對シ、上海大日本帝國土保航業事務所ニ於テ平
井事務官立合ノ上ニテ、北極炭礦株式會社、吉川

常務課長、東邦炭礦株式會社、堀田秀太郎、

常務課長、中野港、淺井常務課長、日華常務協會理事

西村秀壽、伊藤幸太郎、馬場協議ニホスターニ集

(4)

私ハ昭和十九年四月頃上海ニ於テ
~~三井物産株式會社~~ 株式會社
 ト特別ナル關係ヲ持ツ上海ニ於テ
 資立任 駐在員ニ
 持ツテ居ルト言フ 福記洋行ヲ經
 信ニテ居リマス西村
 末士對比ト知り合ヒトナリ
 今年ノ五月西村比ト共ニ日
 本ニ歸リ西村比ヨリ資本ヲ借リテ
 日華労働協會ヲ
 設立シマシタ。 当所私ハ西村比ト共ニ
 日本テ各種ノ事
 業ヲ手傳フテ居リマシタガ
 蕪羊中野町及永田町下ニ
 事務所兼自宅ヲ燒失シ
 神奈川県藤沢市鶴沼四九九
 〇ノ自宅ノミ残リマシタ。 其ノ後
 終戦ト共ニ土木
 建築事業ヲ始メマシタが昭和三十
 一年二月日本政府ガ日

30703

25
21
6

米
四 日華商務協會卜 炭礦會社並 港揚荷役會社卜ノ

和太約事項

昭和十九年七月日華商務協會ハ 上海ニ於テ 北梅産礦

會社、 栗和産礦會社、 港揚荷役會社ニ 對シテ

協定者 甚ク 巨額ノ 自由貿易ヲ 爲シ 一ヶ年 契約ヲ

以テ 引渡ス 事ヲ 大東亞者ノ 認可ヲ 得テ 契約ス

ハ 甚ク 莫ク 爲ス 上海ニ 出張スニ 當リ 日華商務協會ハ 伊

藤幸太郎、 西村未壽ヲ 上 春夫、 寺川實之ノ 四名ニ

對シ 各 炭礦會社並 港揚荷役會社ニ 於テ 會費(日

金) 五圓 五仙 價、 上海ニ 於テ 宿料 一ヶ日 支給ス

川 各炭礦會社香港揚荷役會社ニ於テハ上海ニ於テ自

由募集ニ要スル一切ヲ支拂フ

支拂フテハ、募集費(長江運送ニ於テハ)着所

其他身廻品一切、常務者一食費一切、常務者一日當

俵家料及設備費用一切、

三) 自由募集シタル常務者ニ對シ、日華常務協會ハ本人

ノ私訖ヲ得テ、常務者一人毎ニ住所及在年及職

業身ヲ記載シ、更ニシテ與(單身)型ヲトリ、上海大日本

帝國大傳館事務所ノ認可ヲ得テ内地移入ノ手續ヲ行ス

亦) 内地移入後ハ日華常務協會ニ對シ、各炭礦會社香港

揚荷役會社事務所ノ常務者一人ガリ五円也、一ヶ年以内ニ歸入

スル事、依テ日華常務協會ハ移入常務者ノ圓元送金、

取立則由該事務所ノ歸國手續ヲ行ス

以上

集條件ヲ書キ上海日本帝國大探館事務所ニ所テ認可シ

長坂清造カ認可ヲ受テ自由募集ヲ致シマシタ。

○ホスターニ記載シテ重要事項

一 台場ニ日本内地行キ事務所ヲ募集

二 日賃金普通常務者二百五十元

練達常務者三百元

三 食費及着物其他身廻品一切無料ヲ給ス。

以上

三 上海ニ於テハ募集後ノ常務者ノ取扱方

上海市ヤンシヤホウニ建拜約七百拜中ニ應約五百拜

一、倉庫ヲ借り此ノ家ハコソクリート張りニテソレニ
ムニ口ヲ敷キ更ニアソラヲ敷キ夏デアツタルテ此
一處ヲ宿泊所ニ定メ、~~幕~~幕集シタル常務者ハ
此ノ場所ニ於テ各炭礦會社並ニ港湯何役會社ニ
引渡し、引取りタル會社ハ直ニ日本人醫師ガ
健康診斷ヲ行シ各常務者ニ新品ノ着物外身
廻品一印ヲ無料支給ヲ行シ更ニ日當ル毎日普通勞
務者五十元、幹部常務者百元ヲ支給ト尚食費ニ
無料配給ヲ行シ、幕集シタル常務者中ヨリ幹
部ヲ選定シ其ノ幹部ニ食事ノ配給ト常務
者ノ取締事一印ヲ委セマシメ。