

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
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F. MATTISON
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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

EVIDENTIARY DOCUMENT NUMBER 2387
TITLE: "Character of TAISEI YOKUSANKAI (IRAA)" (1945)
and "1933 Diary of KONOYE", two items from KONOYE
Document Series
SOURCE: Prince KONOYE Residence

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2387

Date 2 July 46

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: *Character of TAISEI YOKUSANKAI (I.R.A.A.)⁽¹⁹⁴⁵⁾ and "1933 Diary of KONOYE"; two items from KONOYE Document Series.*

Date: _____ Original (X) Copy () Language: *Jap.*

Has it been translated? Yes (X) No ()

Has it been photostated? Yes () No (X)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable)

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL:

Prince KONOYE ~~Residence~~

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

~~KONOYE, MIYAHARA, YANAGAWA, ISHIWATA, HAZAMA; ABE, NAGAI, SUETSUGU, SAWAMOTO; many others (see list)~~

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

IRAA

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

Doc. No. 2387 *Character of TAISEI YOKUSANKAI (I.R.A.A.)*

This document discusses the relationship of the I.R.A.A. to the Imperial Constitution, contains Premier KONOYE's explanations regarding the purposes and aims of the organization; (centering around unification and manifestation of total energy of the people to bring about complete development of the country); reveals plans for reorganization, developments of Central Co-operative Conference and results achieved, and like topics correlated with I.R.A.A. and revealing its character.

Doc. No. 2388 *Translation of 1933 diary of KONOYE (appointment book) obtained by Maj. W.H. Bassett and Lt. Col. B.G. Sackett*

Analyst: *2d. Lt. Blumhagen*

Doc. No.

(over) lists appointments, sometimes subjects, but no details.

on 16 Dec. 45 from TOKYO residence of Prince KONOYE.
Diary reveals KONOYE had appointments with numerous
people including MATSUOKA and present defendants
SHIRATORI; SUZUKI; KIDO; HIRANUMA; ARAKI; OKA; SATO;
MATSHI; SHIGEMITSU; HATA; KIMURA; MINAMI.

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2387, 2388

6 July 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: "Character of TAISEI YOKUSANKAI (IRAA)" (1945) and "1933 Diary of KONOYE", two items from KONOYE Document Series

Date: Original Copy Language: Japanese

Has it been translated? Yes No

Has it been photostated? Yes No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Prince KONOYE Residence

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: IRAA

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Doc. No. 2387

Character of TAISEI YOKUSANKAI (I.R.A.A.).

This document discusses the relationship of the I.R.A.A. to the Imperial Constitution, contains Premier KONOYE's explanations regarding the purposes and aims of the organization; (centering around unification and manifestation of total energy of the people to bring about complete development of the country); reveals plans for reorganization, developments of Central Cooperative Conference and results achieved, and like topics correlated with I.R.A.A. and revealing its character.

Doc. No. 2388

Translation of 1933 diary of KONOYE book. Lists appointments, sometimes subjects, but no details.

Doc. Nos. 2387, 2388

Doc. 59
Re: Konoye

(Low priority)

FINAL

Translated by Mitoichi SADAYASU

No. 10 The Character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI (Imperial Rule Assistance Association)

On its relation to the Imperial Constitution.

From the very beginning there were people who held doubts concerning the character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI. At the special meeting of the Central Co-operative Council, too, the question arose as to the relation between ^{the} TAISEI YOKUSANKAI (Imperial rule assistance) and the Imperial Constitution. Despite the explanations on the part of the YOKUSANKAI staff on this subject, it seemed that the people at large were not convinced by the explanations. As was expected, when the 76th Session of the Diet was opened the doubts held by the people at large were expressed chiefly by Katsu KAWASAKI in the Lower House and by Chuzo IWATA in the House of Peers.

The main points were as follows:

From the beginning the YOKUSANKAI was planned on a very large scale and when it is completed it is likely to become larger than any Government organ, except the Army and Navy, Common sense will not permit the formation of such a huge organization without any legal basis under our constitutional government. And yet the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI has been established and ^{is} operating without any legal basis.

According to Article IV of the Constitution, "The Emperor is the head of the country, controls sovereignty and exercises it in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution." This provisions is absolute and positive. In other words, the exercise of sovereignty must always be based on the provisions of the Constitution. It follows that agencies which assist in the exercise of sovereignty are limited to organs recognized by the Constitution. It does not mean by any means that any agency may be created which

does not run counter to the Constitution. The TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is, of course, not an agency recognized by the Constitution. It is more than clear that to assist in the exercise of sovereignty through this agency is inconsistent with the provisions of Article IV of the Constitution.

Against the foregoing argument, Premier KONOYE, Home Minister HIRANUMA, and Director MURASE of the Bureau of Legislation reiterated their explanations. In the plenary budget meeting of the House of Representatives held on February 5, Premier KONOYE expressed his opinion as follows:

The Premier's explanations

"I wish to make clear the Government's opinion on the character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI. ~~In regard to~~ the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, I believe that you already know about ~~it~~ from the explanations which I gave at the ~~new structure preparatory~~ ^{to prepare the new organization,} meeting held in August, 1940, but I wish to take this opportunity to state briefly its purport.

"Our country is now confronted with an unprecedented emergency. In order to provide proper measures to cope with this situation and ^{to bring about} ~~aspire at~~ the ^{complete} ~~great~~ development of our country, it goes without saying that we must perfect our national defense structure ^{and and display manifest} and unify the total energy of the people, ~~and display it~~ to the fullest extent. The foundation of this ~~so-called~~ ^{'super'} ~~high degree~~ ^{organization} national defence ~~structure~~ lies in the perfection of a powerful internal ^{organization} structure. And for this purpose the establishment of a people's ^{participation in assisting imperial rule is necessary.} ~~organization to make possible the entire people's~~ organization is to concentrate the total energy of the people and make ^{our} ~~the one~~ hundred million people, united as one body, fulfill their duties as subjects in assisting ^{The} imperial rule. And for the attainment of this object measures must be taken to enable the whole people to perform their duties of assisting Imperial rule in their respective occupations, day and night. It is only

under such a system that the national policies can penetrate into the peripheral parts of the people's life and thereby make possible the swift and accurate realization of their objects and the true reflection of the actual condition of the people's life on ^{the} government. I believe that in this way the total energy of the people can be concentrated in the government.

"The TAISEI YOKUSAN movement is a movement of the whole people ~~with aimed~~ ^{at the aim of} bringing about a structure for the performance of ~~subject's~~ ^{the} duties ^{of the subject} by the establishment of a people's organization for the whole people's cooperation with the Government and performance of their duties in assisting Imperial rule, and by streamlining the operation of such an organization. This movement arose out of the need for the establishment of ^{a highly-perfected} ~~a high degree~~ national defence ^{organisation} ~~structure~~. It is a super-party movement which aspires to overcome rivalries and strife in all phases of national life and ~~bring~~ ^{put} everyone ⁱⁿ to the spirit of performing ^{the} ~~subject's~~ ^{of the subject} duties. It is a people's movement under the joint cooperation of the government and people.

"The TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is an organization which aims to push forward such a people's movement. Its primary mission is to take the lead in performing ~~subject's~~ ^{the} ~~duties~~ ^{of the subject} and to serve as the propelling force of the movement, of which it is the ~~kernel~~ ^{nucleus}. In order to achieve this mission, I believe that the organization must especially perfect its machinery for making the government's mandates known to the people and the people's condition to the government, and for ~~fully displaying~~ ^{exhibiting in action} its functions of cooperating with government agencies in connection with the formulation and prosecution of national policies. Coupled with the strengthening of its spirit of solidarity, ^{it must manifest the full strength of its powers} ~~its powerful force~~ of putting things into practice ~~must be fully displayed.~~

"Thus the activities of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI differs in respect ~~of~~
function and aim from those of ^{previous} the past Spiritual Mobilization Headquar-
~~ters~~ ters and of the political parties. Herein lies also the reason why its ~~is said~~
~~character~~ character is ^{be largely} said to ~~possess a high degree of~~ political character. It is only proper that
the actual operation of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI should conform with the prim-
ary aim and purport of the organization. In its relation to the Government and
also, it aims to contribute to the smooth and thorough enforcement of national
policies by cooperating with the Government. As to its mission of making
the conditions of the people known to the people, the object is to let the
authorities know the conditions of the people ~~so as to serve~~ as reference ^{for them}
in the formulation and enforcement of policies. It does not mean that the
TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is to formulate its own independent policies separate
from those of the government, and to seek their adoption. It should be
obvious without my saying it that the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI will never engage
in such political activities as trying to gain political power.

"Thus the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, by its very nature, does not engage in
political activities involving rivalries and strifes, let alone conduc-
ting activities with the object of making its own independent political
assertions separate from those of the Government. This is the reason why
the Government has construed that the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI does not fall un-
der the category of political association (SEIJIJO NO KESSHA) mentioned
in the Police Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Peace and hence is
not subject to the regulations applicable to the political associations
mentioned in the above-mentioned Police Regulations. However, inasmuch
as the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is one form of an association, I ~~should~~ think it
only natural that it ^{should be} ~~is~~ subject to the provisions concerning associations
in general and also public associations, ^{if not} ~~apart from~~ the provisions concer-

ning political associations. Again, it is only proper that, in respect to the individual acts of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, such acts ^{should be} ~~are~~ subject to the provisions applicable to them.

"Both the War and ~~the~~ Navy Ministers have stated that ~~the~~ direct membership in the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI of army and naval servicemen ^{on} ~~in~~ the active list, ^{with the exception of} ~~except the participation of~~ ministers, vice ministers, directors of the military (naval) affairs bureaus, and others holding ^{specific} ~~specified~~ posts ^{with} ~~for~~ the ^{specific} purpose of maintaining liaison ~~with~~ and extending cooperation to, the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI in connection with their official duties, cannot be recognized in the light of ~~the~~ fundamental principles of ~~the foundation of~~ our Army and Navy. This statement was ~~made~~ not ^{intended to mean} ~~with the intention of meaning~~ that army and naval servicemen in the active list cannot be permitted to join the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI because it falls under the category of "political association" mentioned in the Police Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Peace, but was made for the reason that ~~the~~ individual direct membership in the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI of army and naval servicemen at large in the active list should ^{not} be permitted from the ^{point of view} ~~standpoint~~ of maintaining the solidarity and discipline of the Army and Navy.

"Owing to the short lapse of time since the formation of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, it is to be regretted that its purport has not been fully understood and its functions not yet fully ^{manifest} ~~displayed~~. It is our wish, however, to make improvements in its structure and operation so as to realize the desired results. ~~Moreover,~~ ^{We} will strictly guard against committing the error of deviating from the primary object and mission of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI.

"The situation at home and abroad truly demands the unity of ~~the one our~~ hundred million people. The TAISEI YOKUSANKAI movement was born out of and

fostered by this acute situation. It is probably impossible to accomplish the difficult task of overcoming the present emergency without the effective development of this movement. As already stated by me in my administrative address, the Government wishes the swift and active development of the TAISEI YOKUSAN movement. It is the Government's intention to do its best with a firm determination to foster and develop the TAISEI YOKUSAN movement. In this connection I earnestly solicit your further cooperation."

It seemed that Premier KONOYE's explanatory reply failed to satisfy ^{his} ~~the~~ ^{interrogators} ~~interpellators~~, but the Government persisted ⁱⁿ its ^{point of view} ~~interpretation~~, saying that it was a difference of opinion. It is another question whether the question was solved by this stand, or the public satisfied by it.

Is the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI Red?

The question concerning the character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI gave rise to many questions regarding the mission and /or object of the association. The questions asked in the House of Representatives and the House of Peers may be summarized as follows:

According to the Government's explanation, the mission and /or object of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is to make known the Government's mandates to the people, and the conditions of the people to the Government. If that be the case, the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI would be nothing more than a kind of ^{transmitting} ~~transmission~~ ^{machine} ~~organ~~. Its mission and /or object would be to transmit faithfully the Government's mandates and the people's conditions. The TAISEI YOKUSANKAI as such would not be permitted to entertain its own independent opinions, to formulate its own independent policies, and to suggest them to and force the Government to adopt them.

However, the activities which the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is actually doing are quite different from ~~what~~ the Government ^{is explanation of them.} had explained. As is well known, the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI has a Policy Bureau and a Planning Bureau. It is ^{no secret} ~~an unhidden fact~~ that these bureaus are formulating various policies and deciding the association's own independent political opinions. As a matter of fact, the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI not only formulated and published in the newspapers its own opinion on the new economic structure and the revision of the election law for the members of the House of Representatives, but also ~~appealed~~ ^{transmitting machine?} to the Government on these questions. Can such acts be permitted to a merely ~~transmission organ?~~ ^{transmitting machine?} Can it be said that the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI has abided by its mission as a ~~transmission organ?~~ ^{transmitting machine?} In all probability no person of fair judgment will answer in the affirmative.

If the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI should be permitted to ~~perform such acts,~~ ^{behave like this} it would probably come to have in the future immense political power and, if its leaders ^{proved to be men} ~~were comprised~~ of superior ability and talent, it would surely ^{sway} ~~drag~~ the Government and move even the Diet and do as it pleases. Is not such an organization nothing more than the so-called one-party government and ^{The} ~~a~~ "SHOGUNATE-like entity" which Premier KONOYE dislikes most?

Even now there are among the members of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI extremely ^{Self-opinionated} arrogant persons who dare to advocate such principles as the destruction of all past systems, exclusion of all "old" characters, the carrying out of a great social revolution and the denial of private property, which are similar to communistic doctrines. ^{Not a few} ~~There are a no small number~~ of them ^{are superficial} ~~who have become~~ converts from communism. ~~on the surface.~~ This has led the public to fear that the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is a nest of ~~the~~ Reds. It is preposterous that the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, which is supposed to a ^{be merely} ~~transmission~~ ^{thing}

^{machine}
organ, should become, as it were, a propaganda organ of the Reds, thereby causing great uneasiness to the public, particularly the ~~pure~~ ^{unsophisticated and} docile people of the provincial ~~districts~~ ^{es.}. Is the Government unaware of it? If so, it is the height of ~~stupidity~~ ^{folly}. Is it aware of it but overlooking it with folded arms? If so, it is the height of irresponsibility.

Is the Government prepared at this time to alter the framework of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI and change completely its personnel?

Such were the questions asked in the Diet. The ~~interpellators~~ ^{rog-}, one after another, pointed out the actual cases which they had observed in the provincial districts, ~~and pressed hard~~ ^{keeping up a heavy pressure} on the Government. In reply Premier KONOYE and Home Minister HIRANUMA reiterated that the framework of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI would be ~~appropriately~~ ^{as required} altered and its personnel changed without fail.

The Government's Viewpoint and its Pledge to Effect Reorganization.

In the plenary budget meeting of the House of Representatives held on February 22, Chairman MASUDA, with the object of making the Governments' assurance doubly sure, exchanged the following questions and answers with Home Minister HIRANUMA, who ~~replied to interpellations~~ ^{was answering questions} with full responsibility on behalf of Premier KONOYE during the latter's absence on account of illness:

Question: I assume that the Home Minister will ~~reply to interpellations~~ ^{answer questions} on behalf of the Premier with full responsibility. First of all I wish to ask in regard to the character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI. Is it correct for us to regard the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI as a public association (~~KOJI NO KESSHA~~) stipulated in Article III of the Police Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Peace?

Answer: As stated by the Chairman, I have ^{had full discussions} ~~fully discussed~~ with the Premier and ^{am replying for him} ~~reply to the interpellations~~ with full responsibility. We recognize the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI to be a "public association" stipulated in Article III of the Police Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Peace.

Question: If the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is a "public association," I firmly believe that the association should not engage in political activities ^{such as those within the purview of} ~~which are conducted by~~ "political associations" (SEI KESSHA) stipulated in Article I of the Police Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Peace. What is the Government's opinion?

Answer: We believe that the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI should not engage in ~~those~~ ^{The} political activities which ^{come under} ~~belong to~~ the "political associations" of Article I of the Police Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Peace.

Question: In that case, I assume that the Government is determined to strictly control all political activities of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI which ~~be~~ ^{come} under ~~The~~ ^{to} "political associations" stipulated in Article I of the Police Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Peace. What ~~is~~ is the Government's opinion?

Answer: We ^{are so} ~~have the determination~~ to strictly control those political activities of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI which ^{come under} ~~belong to~~ the "political associations" stipulated in Article I of the above-mentioned Police Regulations.

Question: ^{second} The question concerns the framework of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI. It is to be greatly regretted that the present set-up of the both central and local divisions do not conform in many respects

to the purport stated by the Home Minister just now. I assume that the Government is therefore, prepared and determined to speedily effect a drastic reorganization. What do you say to that?

Answer: The Government intends to speedily effect the reorganization of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI.

Question: Thirdly, ^{apart from} ~~inasmuch as~~ the Government ^{holds} ~~the~~ view that the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is not a "political association" and hence should not engage in the activities of a "political association," and ~~is also~~ ^{its} determined ^{to} effect a great reorganization in its setup, there is need to effect a drastic renovation in its personnel also. What is the Government's ^{decision} ~~determination~~?

Answer: It is the Government's intention to renovate also the personnel of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI.

Question: ^{Fourthly,} ~~If~~ the setup of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI is revised and its personnel renovated, some of the funds included in the budget of subsidy to that association will surely become unnecessary. I believe the Government should make an appropriate reduction of the subsidy in carrying out the budget. What is the Government's view on this point?

Answer: In case ^{any superfluous items appear} ~~funds provided for~~ in the budget ~~become unnecessary~~ as the result of the reorganization of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, it ~~is~~ will be ~~our~~ ^{any superfluous} policy not to use such ~~necessary~~ funds. Consequently, ~~no~~ ^{the} subsidy will be ^{diminished by} ~~paid for~~ this amount. ^{at any time we find it necessary to} ~~If there is a necessity~~ ~~for ordering~~ the return of a part of the funds, such a step will be taken.

Question: I think there will be a great deal of ^{harm done} ~~costs~~ if the provincial districts are made to bear the expenditures of the TAISEI YOKU-

SANKAI or if donations are solicited. Has the Government any intention to prohibit them?

Answer: In view of the character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, its expenditures should not be defrayed out of provincial expenditures. However, ~~as exceptions~~, there will be ^{exceptional} cases where the local branches of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI will ~~be made~~ ^{have} to cooperate in the prosecution of the affairs of purely local organizations. In such cases only, I believe ~~that~~ there is no objection to giving subsidy out of local expenditures. In respect to donations, I think they may be accepted provided they are ~~truly~~ ^{really} votive offerings, ~~However~~ ^{Though} the Government's approval must be obtained each time a donation is accepted.

Thereupon Chairman MASUDA declared as follows:

"The replies made so far by the Home Minister to the ^{questions} ~~interpellations~~ of the committee chairman were made on behalf of Premier KONOYE. Inasmuch as Premier KONOYE is the head of the Cabinet and at the same time President of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, it goes without saying that he has the responsibility of carrying out as early as possible the statements made here through the Home Minister. I earnestly wish that the Government would ^{clear} ~~wipe~~ away the people's doubts by speedily effecting the ^{reorganization} ~~recognition~~ of the setup of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI and the renovation of its personnel, and strive to perfect a system capable of ^{procuring genuinely universal endorsement from} ~~truly assisting in Imperial rule by the participation of the whole people.~~ ^{genuinely Universal endorsement}"

Thus the Government ~~was placed in the position of being~~ ^{found itself} obliged to carry out the reorganization of the setup of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI and the renovation of its personnel.

The Reorganization of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI

Having finally decided to reorganize the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, the

Government ~~solicited since~~ ^{began in} the middle part of February ^{to request} the views of the Army and Navy, Diet, Cabinet Counsellors, and others ~~and worked over them~~ to ~~draw up a draft at the hands of~~ ^{through the medium of} the Chief Cabinet Secretary, ~~Director of the Legislation Bureau, President of the Board of Information, etc.~~ ^{Compiled from} ~~Government's~~ ^{file} ~~the draft was~~ ^{the afternoon of} finally adopted in the Cabinet meeting of April 1, and announced by the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI on April 2.

Outline of the Reorganization of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI

1. Basic policy of the reorganization.

The fundamental object of the reorganization is to facilitate the ~~infusion~~ ^{through penetration} of the purport of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI movement and the ~~displaying~~ ^{visible and healthy} of the sound functions ^{im} of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI and at the same time ~~to draw~~ ^{like} the association's ~~closer relations with~~ ^{to} the Government. Efforts shall be made to strengthen the association's ^{effective} powers of ~~putting things into practice~~ ^{action.} It goes without saying that the primary purport and character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, and ^{its} ~~the~~ direction of ~~its movement~~ ^{and tendencies,} will remain unchanged.

2. Principal points of the reorganization plan.

- a. As the organs ^{a two-fold system of} of the central headquarters, bureaus and committees shall be ~~jointly~~ ^{to embody and manifest by suitable activities} used for ~~appropriate purposes with a view to facilitating the~~ ~~full display of~~ the functions of the association.
- b. The business bureaus shall be rationalized and simplified, and ~~stress~~ ^{the principle} of ~~first things first adhered to,~~ ^{of first things first adhered to,} ~~laid on important matters~~ in order to achieve greater efficiency (That is, stress shall be laid on the establishment of a people's organization for the realization of ~~the fruits of~~ Imperial rule assistance by the whole people, and on the part ^{responsible for this national movement} ~~which aims to streamline its operations~~).
- c. Means shall be devised in the management of the association ~~so as to~~ to

enable ~~each~~ ^{all} branch of the machinery to ~~fully~~ display ^{their own} ~~its own~~ functions ^{properly} and operate in such a way as to maintain ~~mutual~~ close relations with each other as an organic whole.

3. The main points of the Reorganization Plan.

a. The President and the Advisers shall be the same as heretofore.

b. A Vice President shall be newly appointed to assist the President and take charge of the ~~Management of the association.~~

c. A business organ and a deliberative organ shall be established ^{under the Vice-President.}

d. The business organ shall have:

(1) One Secretary General as its head, and under him General Affairs ^{Organisation Bureau,} Bureau, East Asia Bureau, and Central Training School. ^{Sections will} ~~Each bureau~~ ^{have a office and department heads} and the ~~Central Training School shall have a director.~~

(2) Councillors under the direct control of the Secretary General.

e. The deliberative organ shall consist of investigation Committees, which shall investigate and deliberate on important matters. Each investigation committee shall have committee members and a secretary. In the actual operation of each investigation committee, close liaison shall be maintained with the Secretary General, and the business organ shall act the role of secretary for each investigation committee.

f. The Central Cooperative Council shall be retained.

~~Prior to this,~~ ^{Then} The Government decided to appoint Justice Minister YANAGAWA as Vice President, and Ex-Finance Minister Sotaro ISHIWATA as Secretary General, of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI following its reorganization. On March 29 the Regulations of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI were revised to create the post of Vice President and the appointments of Vice President YANAGAWA and Secretary General ISHIWATA and the resignation of Secretary General ARIMA were gazetted.

Other points worthy of note are the abolition of the Policy Bureau, Planning Bureau and the Diet Bureau, the establishment of the East Asia Bureau, and the appointments of Ex-Vice Home Minister Shigeru HAZAMA as Director of the Organization Bureau, of Ex-Superintendent-General of the Metropolitan Police Board Genki ABE as Director of the General Affairs Bureau, and of Ex-Communications Minister Ryutaro NAGAI as Director of the East Asia Bureau.

New Page!
In Capitals

No. 11 The Central Co-operative Conference

Essential Character of the Council is unchanged.

The First Central Co-operative Conference which was held from June 16, 1941 attracted much public attention because it was held immediately after the reorganization of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI. Following the usual ceremonial observances, such as bowing toward the Imperial Palace, singing of the National Anthem, reading of the Imperial Rescript granted on the 2600th Anniversary of the founding of the Empire, vote of thanks to the war dead and prayer for the success of our soldiers on the front, Mr. Sadasuke IMAIZUMI, as representative of all circles, read ^{aloud} the following ~~text~~:

"In obedience to His Majesty's wishes we pledge ourselves to ^{cooperate} harmoniously ~~cooperate~~ with each other to fulfill our duties as subjects in assisting Imperial rule."

First of all Premier KONOYE delivered the following address:

"The aim of the TAISEI YOKUSAN movement is ^{for one one hundred million people} to establish a peerless structure for performing the ^{as} duties ~~of~~ subjects by ~~having the one hundred million people~~ upon being confronted with an unprecedented emergency, rousing ⁱⁿ themselves ^{in their} with full ^{might} ~~force~~ with the consciousness that they are people of this country. In our country a high-^{power} ~~degree~~ national defence structure can be accomplished only ^{after} ~~by~~ the establishment of ^{some} such ~~a~~ power-

ful structure for the performance of subjects' duties.

The world situation ~~now surrounding~~ ^{in which} our country ^{has finds itself} has become ~~farther~~ ^{not} increasingly acute and the war between GERMANY and BRITAIN is steadily expanding, with the result that there is no telling when the whole world might ^{not} become the scene of battle. In order to ~~break through~~ ^{surmount} such an emergency and set at ease His Majesty's mind, ~~the~~ ^{our} one hundred million people must ~~have the de-~~ ^{be resolved not to} ~~termination to~~ ^{lag behind in} perform ^{ing} their duties as subjects in their respective ^{places and} occupations, ~~and~~ ^{but} voluntarily ^{to} tackle ~~with the~~ ^{all} difficulties. In order to secure an unshakable foundation for the future of our country and thereby maintain the Imperial way, ~~co-act~~ ^{co-aeval} with heaven and earth, it is now time for ^{us} subjects ^{to} ~~bestir~~ ^{co-aeval} ourselves in unison.

"Born to ~~propagate~~ ^{be the active power behind} this whole people's movement, the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI bears a truly great responsibility. Sometime ago its headquarters was reorganized in order to facilitate the ^{through penetration} infusion of the purport of its movement and ~~the full display of its sound~~ ^{visible and healthy} functions ^{ing} and at the same to further its close relations with the Government and strengthen more than ever its ^{effective} powers of ^{action.} ~~putting things into practice~~ ^{Of course} However, as I have just stated, no change whatever has occurred in the primary purport and character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI and ~~its~~ ^{action.} methods of ~~carrying out its movement.~~ It is my earnest wish that this association ~~would~~ ^{will} in coping with the present difficult situation, speedily ^{develop} carry out a sound ^{and energetic programme of action.} ~~vigorous movement.~~

"We are holding today the First Central Co-operative Conference. Needless to say, this conference ~~sets the role~~ ^{is performing the part} of making known the condition of the people to the Government, which is a very important function of the YOKUSANKAI movement, and also seeks to discover ^{for the people} better means of performing their duties ^{as} subjects ^{by} through mutual encouragement, ~~of the people~~. Accordingly, I believe that the way it is operated and the results accomplished by it will

have great bearing on the achievement of the mission of the YOKUSAN movement."

The Address of Chairman SUETSUGU.

Next, Chairman SUETSUGU delivered an address as follows:

"It is my conviction that JAPAN alone holds the final key to the world war, but this is by no means an easy task. It requires ~~a great deal of~~ ^{extraordinary} preparations and ~~an~~ ^{various} extraordinary determination. We must speedily perfect our ^{organisations} internal ~~structure~~ and leave nothing more to be desired for coping with the situation. Great, indeed, is the significance and the responsibility of this council, which is held in the ^{face} ~~midst~~ of such a super-emergency at home and abroad.

"The discussions will be conducted informally and frankly in a peaceful, harmonious atmosphere, but this does not mean in the least that the speeches of the members will be restricted. There are probably persons who think that they must patiently refrain from saying what they want to say because the unity of ~~the~~ ^{our} one hundred million people demands it under the present situation. This is a mistaken view of the unity of ~~the~~ ^{our} one hundred million people. There is no reason to be shy about ~~it~~ expressing what one thinks is for the good of the country at this ^{turning point in our nation's varying fortunes.} ~~crossroad of the rise or fall of our~~ ~~country.~~

"If a featureless political situation wherein there are no arguments and criticisms, but obedience only, should become the general fashion of the age, this would deprive the people of their spontaneity and creative power and kill their welling patriotic fervor. ^{The country can suffer no greater loss.} ~~No loss is greater than~~ ~~this to the country.~~ It is inconceivable that, with such a situation in the country, this unprecedented emergency can be tided over. The greater the emergency, the greater ^{I believe,} is the need for free expression and coupled

with the manifestation of the people's sincerity, the concentration of the ^{national} people's spirit on the ^{national} ~~single point~~ of construction ^{of} a high-degree ^{power} national defence, ~~country organization~~.

"The ~~decisions~~ of conference will be ^{conducted} made according to the method of making decisions by ^{general consultation,} the Chairman on the basis of the opinions expressed by the members, but this does not mean that arguments will be suppressed. The main point is ~~the fact~~ that it differs from the past ^{conferences} practice of ~~which relied on~~ riving at decisions by majority vote. ~~The Free~~ ^{and universal expression of facts} expressed actual conditions of all quarters and ~~the~~ ^{are both abundant and} pure and sincere patriotic fervor ~~small~~ in this conference ^{(of what we call} into the so-called "making the condition" of the people known to the Government." When this becomes united harmoniously with the guidance based on a long-range view of things, that is, making ~~known~~ the Government's mandates to the people, a true unity of ^{our} the one hundred million people is brought about. It should be the ideal of the council to have ^{realistic} all-round constructive opinions ^{matured see them} ~~known~~ and reflected in actual government,

"The existence or non-existence of the political character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI should be concretely proved in this council. If we can discover political character within ^{its} the organic activities ^{consisting as they do of} of mutual role ~~combining and unifying~~ ^{national} ~~vision and unification~~ of the prosecution of national policies and the people's life, and furthermore if we can expect a serious solution of these problems, find a way for ~~the so-called~~ "making known the people's conditions to the Government and the Government's mandates to the people," and ^{give} ~~the~~ the people cherish hopes in government, I confidently believe that we will be able to ^{see} ~~discover~~ the ^{realisation} ~~manifestation~~ of a high-degree ^{power} political character and political force. Herein lies the expectation which the general public places in the Cooperative Council."

The speech of Secretary-General ISHINATA.

~~Following Chairman SUETSUGU's address, Secretary-General spoke as follows:~~

"~~In regard to~~ The reorganization of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, ^{has provoked} ~~there have~~ been ^{frequent counter-arguments or criticisms from the public} ~~now and then people who argue about or criticize it~~, but, as stated by the President in his address, the recent ^{by effected} reorganization does not mean in the least ^{any retrogression} ~~the retreat of the movement~~ of this association. In my opinion, this reorganization was effected to meet the necessity of ^{letting} ~~making~~ the association ^{function in the steady manner appropriate} ~~display its sound functions suited~~ to the stage of concrete practical application to which the activities of the association ^{have now} ~~had~~ developed from the stage of ^{foundation-laying} ~~building up the basis~~ and ^{education.} ~~providing enlightenment.~~

"This association was started in response to a national demand for the drastic reenforcement of our national strength in accordance with the great ^{pioneering} ~~foundational~~ spirit of our country, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{as a measure to} ~~thereby~~ cope with the critical situation at home and abroad ^{for the} ~~and~~ ^{new of} ~~establish~~ the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere. ^{On no account must there be any retreat.} It goes without saying that not a minute of delay and vacillation, let alone retreat, should be allowed. I believe that this association should take up the various important problems confronting the country at this time, look squarely at the concrete, actual state of affairs, and exert its utmost ^{efforts} to solve them in cooperation with the Government. In the light of this mission of our association, great, indeed, is the significance and responsibility of this Co-operative Council!

"This year's total budget of the association is 8,012,000 odd yen for both receipts and expenditures. The receipts comprise: subsidy from the national treasury 8,000,000 yen, and interest, donations, etc. 12,000 odd yen. The expenditures comprise: Headquarters' expenses 1,191,000 odd yen, expenses for enterprises 1,273,000 odd yen, and branch expenses

4,819,000 odd yen."

^{The references of -}
President KONOYE and Secretary-General ISHIWATA ~~references~~ to the reorganization of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI were made in response to the general public's desire to hear about this point. Chairman SUETSUGU of the Central Co-operative Conference ^{scored a hit} ~~hit the vital spot~~ when he urged the free expression of the people's will in view of the critical situation. These utterances appeared to have pleased the general public.

Representing the Army and Navy, Vice Minister of the Navy SAWAMOTO said as follows:

"The attitude of the Army and Navy toward the TAISEI YOKUSAN movement and the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI was expressed by the War and Navy Ministers before the ~~New Structure~~ ^{for the new organization} Preparatory Committee held in September, 1940. It was stated at that time that under the present situation which urgently calls for the establishment of a national defence ~~structure~~ ^{organization} to overcome the crisis, the Army and Navy expressed whole-hearted approval of the purport of the TAISEI YOKUSAN movement and ~~possessed the soul~~ ^{showed themselves more than willing} to accord positive support for the development of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, which forms the kernel of the movement.

"The TAISEI YOKUSANKAI was recently reorganized, but the purpose of the reorganization was to facilitate the ~~inclusion~~ ^{through penetration} of the purport of the YOKUSAN movement and the ~~display of the sound functions~~ ^{visible healthy} of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI and at the same time to strengthen further its ~~ability~~ ^{powers}. Needless to say, no change whatever has been made in the primary purport and ~~the~~ character of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI ~~in the direction of its movement~~ ^{or its tendencies and}. It follows that there has been no change in the attitude of the Army and Navy toward the YOKUSAN movement and the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI. We sincerely hope that this association ~~would make a sound development~~ ^{will develop vigorously}, conduct a vigorous YOKUSAN

movement, display ^{strong and effective power of action} ~~a powerful force of putting things into practice~~, and thereby fully meet the demands of the present critical situation."

This statement by the Navy Vice Minister probably had some influence on some of the members of the council.

The results achieved by the Central Co-operative Council.

The First Central Co-operative Conference was held for four days from June 16 to 20. ^{There was a brisk and} ~~active~~ ^{expression of views by the conference members,} ~~views were exchanged~~ at the plenary meeting, committee meetings and round-table conference. The meeting adjourned in the afternoon of June 20. The conference took up the following main problems: the establishment of a policy for the Southern Regions, boosting food production particularly with reference to the price of rice, the necessity of establishing a supreme office for the all-round adjustment of ~~all the~~ ^{different} ~~various~~ policies of control economy, the urgent need for ~~the adoption of~~ national ^{land} ~~territorial~~ planning, the need for the establishment of national defence industrial zones, the ^{overhaul} ~~renovation~~ of ~~foreign~~ trade policy, the ~~problem~~ ^{necessity for} ~~of~~ efficiency, the ^{encouraging} ~~of~~ middle and small scale merchants and manufacturers, ~~the~~ scientific guidance for the improvement of the people's living conditions, etc. All these were stressed ^{as being national problems,} at the meeting with a view to making them known to the Government authorities.

^{At the close of the conference} ~~In his closing address~~ Chairman SUETSUGU ^{spoke} ~~summarized the achievements of~~ the conference as follows:

"I believe that we have derived enormous benefit and instruction from — the sincere and zealous ~~discussions by the members~~ at both the plenary meeting and the committee meetings, ^{and the} ~~statements of every~~ ^{with which they were imbued} ~~their~~ burning patriotism, and especially their debates and ^{investigations, backed by the whole force of their extensive} ~~studies based upon their credits~~ knowledge of ~~actual si-~~

~~The situation~~ ^{have} ~~greatly enlightened and benefited us.~~ I can assert definitely ^{That} the Government, as well as the YOKUSAN Headquarters, has gained ^{by being able to} ~~from the~~ ^{hear this first hand} expression of true public opinion, not ~~a~~ small degree of benefit

for its future
which will contribute to government administration.

"The fact
That the proposals, speeches, and debates in the present conference were highly constructive ~~was~~ ^{shows} a great ^{improvement} progress in comparison with the previous ~~Temporary~~ ^{Extraordinary} Central Co-operative Council. I believe that we have been able to realize ~~the result~~ ^{our aim} of assisting administration in ~~unison~~ ^{The} with the ^{complete unity} Government. What heartened me most was the clear manifestation of the people's determination that the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere must be established at all costs, ^{and in particular their resolve} especially that the establishment of a self-sufficiently zone must be achieved ^{and maintained} through ^{think and then}.

Probably not a single person who witnessed this conference failed to be deeply impressed by the ^{Spectacle of such loyalty and devotion} loyal spirit ~~of~~ striving to overcome the crisis with a unit ^{ed} front, transcending party strifes. We can observe here ^{overwhelmingly} a clear manifestation of a true political character. It is earnestly hoped that the members of this conference ^{will} ~~would~~ transmit to ^{out} the one hundred ^{million} people either ^{via their functional} through occupational organizations or through geographical organizations the earnest voice of the people as manifested in this hall.

"We ~~do not~~ ^{have no} doubt ~~at all~~ ^{whatever} that the Government, too, will ^{adopt} ~~take up~~ the ^{results} suggestions of this conference and ^{utilize} ~~do its best to adopt them in~~ administration."

This ~~address~~ ^{address} was a concise summary of the results of the conference. Premier KONOYE's ~~following~~ pledge apparently reassured not only the members of the conference, but also the people at large: —

"Your voices are the ^{call of truth} true ~~cries~~ concerning the vital problems now confronting the ^{whole nation} people ^{its functional or} in their ~~respective occupational~~ activities and geographical ^{aspects} ~~locations~~. The subjects proposed and discussed are all important matters which cannot be neglected ⁱⁿ ~~for~~ the establishment of a high ^{power} ~~degree~~ national defence ^{organisation} ~~structure~~. Among the subjects taken up, those which can be immediately carried out ^{will be translated into action} ~~shall be carried out~~, while those

which require further study shall be fully studied by the respective organs of the Government and the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI in order that the aims of the conference shall be achieved."

The holding of the First Central Co-operative Conference was not meaningless after all. If, ~~through~~ the subsequent activities of the TAISEI YOKUSANKAI, ^{have dispelled} the fears ~~held in the innermost hearts~~ ^{cherished by a} of certain ^{number of our} people that communism is latent in the YOKUSAN movement, and their detestation of its reckless overdoings have been dispelled, ^{we must admit that it was a stroke of fortune} ~~it was fortunate~~ for not only ~~the~~ ^{for the} YOKUSANKAI, but also for Premier KONOYE, who labored for its establishment as its founder, and for the Cabinet which he headed.