

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
APO 234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO.: 84

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE: 18 October 45

Division of Origin: Manpower, Food & Civilian Supplies

SUBJECT: Production Statistics, Cost of Living Indices,
and Allied Subjects in Field of Civilian Supplies.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr YAMAMOTO, Research Director, Bank of Japan, formerly represented Bank of Japan at Bank for International Settlements in Basle. During the war he spent several years in Berlin.

Where interviewed: Bank of Japan

Interrogator: Lt Harold Fassberg

Interpreter: None - conducted in German

Allied Officers Present: None

SUMMARY:

The following statistical series were obtained:

1. Cost of living index 1930-1940 annually, 1940-45 monthly.
2. Retail price index for Tokyo Area 1930-1940 annually, 1940-45 monthly.
3. Wholesale price index for Tokyo area 1930-1940 annually, 1940-45 monthly.

Three volumes of the "Economic Statistics of Japan 1931, 1935, 1937, which contain some production series for the Major Staples were also procured.

INTERROGATION

1. This interrogation, which took place at 1000, 18 October 1945, at the Bank of Japan, was conducted entirely in German since Mr YAMAMOTO spent several years in Germany and spoke the language quite fluently. The information requested from the Bank included the following:

- a. Production series from 1930 to 1945 for the major items in the civilian supply field.
- b. Cost of living index for the same time period.
- c. Retail and wholesale price index.
- d. National income and Gross National Product figures.
- e. Consumers expenditures.
- f. Black market prices.
- g. Special reports written with respect to the civilian economy during the war years.

2. Information regarding national income and Gross National Products was unobtainable by the Bank from the Government since 1941-- a situation frequently encountered in interrogations of bank officials -- and the Director could offer no suggestions as to where this information might be procured.

Mr YAMAMOTO turned over, however, three annual volumes of the "Economic Statistics of Japan" for 1931, 1935, and 1937 which contain statistical series of retail and wholesale price indices, price tables of the principal commodities, export and import figures for the articles concerned, as well as production series for the major staples. Fortunately, the text is in both English and Japanese. In addition, retail and wholesale price indices and a cost of living index for the years 1940-45, broken down by months was extracted from a special report which the bank had received from the Cabinet Bureau of Statistics.

Mr YAMAMOTO confirmed the fact that black market

activities were very extensive, hence the cost of living index, which was computed from the prices set by the government, is not representative of actual conditions. Furthermore, as of Sept 1, 1945, the Bank of Japan has been compiling black market prices which will be available to the Survey within the next few days. According to Mr YAMAMOTO, the Cabinet Bureau of Statistics kept the information which he was unable to supply.

No special reports concerning the economic effects of the war have been prepared or received by the Bank of Japan. Mr YAMAMOTO will be interrogated again within a few days.