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HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(Pacific)

~~ANNEX B~~

M F + Civ Sup

INTERROGATION NO. 55
(Obtain from G-2)

Place: Tokyo

Date: 5 Oct 45 Time: 1000

Person of Origin: MFC.

SUBJECT: **Functions of Labor Management Section.**

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Suetaro OKAMATSU - head of Labor Management Section of Ministry of Commerce.

Taketoshi TAMURA - Ass't to Head of Labor Management Section of Ministry of Commerce. " "

Hiroshi IRIE - " "

Where interviewed (office): **Labor Management Section of the Ministry of Commerce.**

Interrogator: **Lt. Comdr DeWolf**

Interpreter: **Lt Cary**

Allied Officers Present: **None.**

Summary: (No more than two paragraphs. This is the gist of the interview and should indicate topics discussed, periods covered, and outstanding facts and conclusions. Should serve as a guide for detailed reading of interrogation.)

1. **Functions of Labor Management Section.**
2. **General Information about manpower allocation.**

Distribute: all Persons

~~NOTE: See reverse side for comments on use of this form.~~

COMMENTS

- a. It is advisable that interpreter, as well as interrogator, proof-read all reports. This is to insure that no confusion has resulted from language difficulties, but since interpreters' absence may frequently delay the report, necessary revisions by interpreter will go forward later to distribution list.
- b. Summarize the interrogation. If a transcript is made, the summary may be brief. If the interrogation is not suitable for a transcript, the summary must be a clear and accurate resume of the information obtained.
- c. A transcript should always be made of the particularly significant portions of any interview. This is essential to provide maximum authenticity and to avoid misunderstanding of statements in the summary.

U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
APO 234, c/o POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
MANPOWER, FOOD AND CIVILIAN SUPPLIES

5 October 1945.

~~Interview with Suetaro OKAMATSU, Head of Labor Management
Section, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.~~

1. Suetaro OKAMATSU, head of the Labor Management Section of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was interviewed for approximately two hours at his office on 5 October. Two assistants, Taketoshi TAMURA and Hiroshi IRIE, participated. Lt. Cary acted as Interpreter; none of the Japanese speaking more than a few words of English.

2. Functions of Labor Management Section: Although the Labor Management Section ostensibly had responsibility for workers in the Mining, Chemical and Iron industries, the Section was in OKAMATSU'S own words, a "flat wheel". He explained that the Section was largely a vehicle of convenience for the Ministry of Welfare. Although the Section supposedly had authority to lay down rules for hours of work, working conditions and food rationing for workers in Mining, Chemicals and Iron it appears that this authority was largely limited to recommendations to the Eight District Munitions management ministries and to the prefectural governors who had charge of food in their respective provinces. The Section also dealt through the five sectional mining bureaus on questions relating to mines. A list of these offices is appended as Annex A.

3. General Information: Near the end of 1943, the officials said, the Iron, Chemical and Mining industries began to run short

of manpower, largely because of military draft demands. They indicated that later the military somewhat relaxed the draft of workers in these industries. The officials said that difficulty was experienced in keeping up production schedules in all three industries, but most particularly in coal mining. Effort was made to increase coal production by allocating more men to the mines but the calibre of labor was such that even though more manpower was allocated to a mine, production failed to rise. Some mines had in excess of 50 per cent Korean labor.

4. Evaluation: The interview was unsatisfactory in virtually all respects. Although the Japanese were cooperative, there was a dearth of decisive information. IRIE probably was the best informed of the three and might be worth a separate interview later.

ANNEX (A)

Annex A

DISTRICT MUNITIONS OFFICES

HOKKAI Area (SAPPORO)
Northsea

TOOHUKU Area (SENDAI)
Northeast

KANTO SHINETSU Area (TOKYO)

TOOKAI HIKURIKU Area (NAGOYA)

KINKI Area (OSAKA)

CHUUKOKU (HIROSHIMA)

SHIKOKU (NAKAMATSU)

KYUSHU (FUKUOKA)

DISTRICT MINING OFFICES

HOKKAI Area (SAPPORO)

TOOHOKU (SENDAI)

TOOBU (TOKYO)

SHIBU (OSAKA)

KYUSHU (FUKUOKA)

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

R E S T R I C T E D

INTERROGATION NO. 55
(Obtain from G-2)

DIVISION OF ORIGIN: MFC

SUBJECT: Functions of Labor Management Section

PERSONNEL INTERROGATED AND BACKGROUND OF EACH:

Suetaro OKAMASU - Head of Labor Management Section
of Ministry of Commerce.

Taketoshi TAMURA - Ass't head of Labor Management
Section of Ministry of Commerce.

Hiroshi IRIE - Ass't to Head of Labor Management
Section of the Ministry of Commerce.

Where interviewed: Labor Management Section of the Ministry of
Commerce.

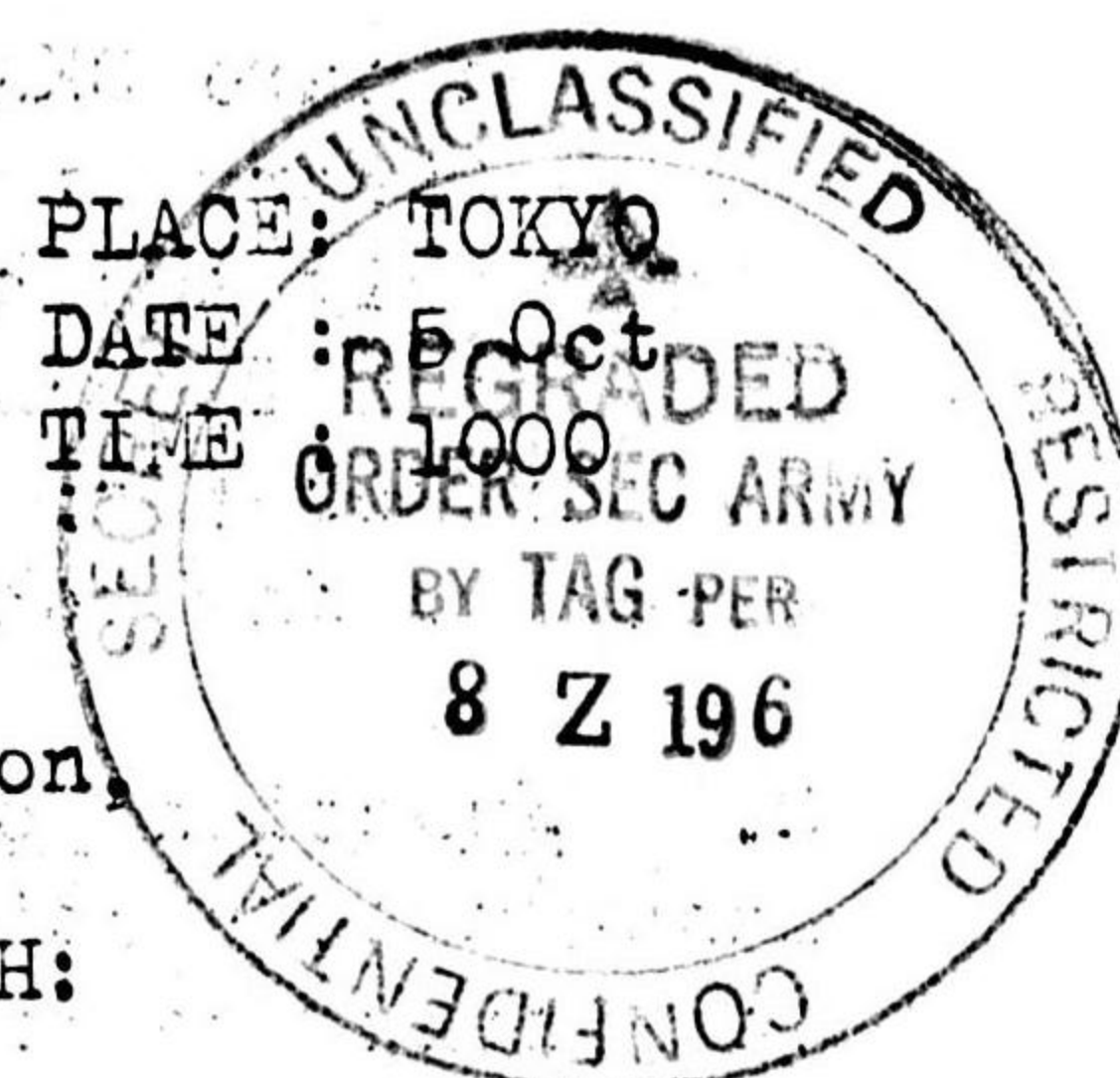
Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. DeWolf.

Interpreter: Lt. Cary

Allied Officers Present: None.

SUMMARY:

1. Functions of Labor Management Section.
2. General Information about manpower allocation.



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R E S T R I C T E D

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions

R E S T R I C T E D

1. Suetaro OKAMATSU, head of the labor management section of the ministry of commerce and industry, was interviewed for approximately two hours at his office on 5 October. Two assistants, Taketoshi TAMURA and Hiroshi IRIE, participated. Lt. Cary acted as interpreter; none of the Japanese speaking more than a few words of English.

2. Functions of Labor Management Section: Although the labor management section ostensibly had responsibility for workers in mining, chemical and iron industries, the section was in OKAMATSU'S own words, a "flat wheel". He explained that the section was largely a vehicle of convenience for the ministry of welfare. Although the section supposedly had authority to lay down rules for hours of work, working conditions and food rationing for workers in mining, chemicals and iron it appears that this authority was largely limited to recommendations to the eight district munitions management ministries and to the prefectural government who had charge of food in their respective provinces. The section also dealt through the office section with mining bureaus in questions relating to mines. A list of these offices is appended as Annex A.

3. General Information: Near the end of 1943, the officials said, the Iron, Chemical and Mining Industries began to run short of manpower, largely because of military draft demands. They indicated that later the military somewhat relaxed the draft of workers in these industries. The officials said that difficulty was experienced in keeping up production schedules in all three industries, but most particularly in coal mining. Effort was made to increase coal production by allocating more men to the mines but the calibre of labor was such that even though more manpower was allocated to a mine, production failed to rise. Some mines had in excess of 50 percent Korean labor.

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ANNEX A

DISTRICT MUNITIONS OFFICES

KOKKAI Area (SAPPORO)

Norths

TOOUKU Area (SENDAI)

Northeast

KANTO SHINETSU Area (TOKYO)

TOOKAI HIKJRIKU Area (NAGOYA)

KINKI Area (OSAKA)

CHUOKOKU (HIROSHIMA)

SHIKOKU (NAKAMATSU)

KYUSHU (FUKUCKA)

DISTRICT MINING OFFICES

HOKKAI Area (SAPPORO)

TOOHOKU (SENDAI)

TOGOBU (TOKYO)

SHIBU (OSAKA)

KYUSHU (FUKUOKA)

R E S T R I C T E D

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Section of Ministry of Commerce.

Taketoshi TAIJUN - Ass't to Head of Labor Man-
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Hiroshi IRIE - Ass't to Head of Labor Manage-
ment Section of the Ministry of Commerce.

Where interviewed: Labor Management Section of the Ministry
of Commerce.

Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. DeWolf.

Interpreter: Lt. Cary.

Allied Officers Present: None.

Summary:

1. Functions of Labor Management Section.
2. General Information about manpower allocation.

DISTRIBUTION:
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ANNEX (A)

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Northsea
TOOBUKU Area (SENDAI)
Northeast
KANTO SHINETSU Area (TOKYO)
TOOKAI HIKURIKU Area (NAGAYA)
KINKI Area (OSAKA)
CHU-KOKU (HIROSHI A)
SEIKOKU (NARIMATSU)
KYUSFU (FUKUOKA)

DISTRICT MINING OFFICES

HOKKAI Area (SAPPORO)
TOCHOKU (SENDAI)
TOBUKU (TOKYO)
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