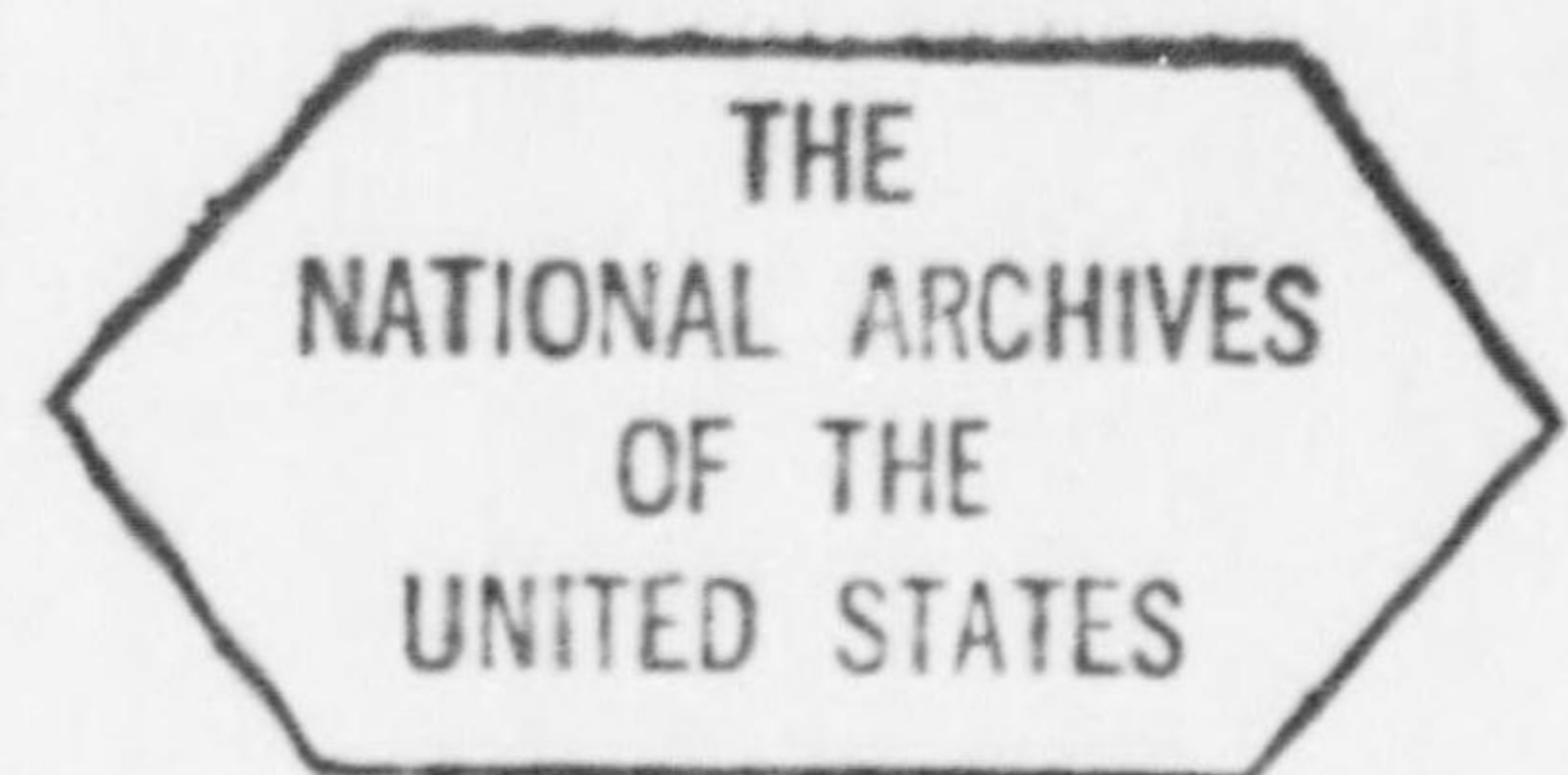


**GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)**  
**Description of contents**



- (1) Box no. 2032
- (2) Folder title/number: (45)  
Tottori Prefecture National Elections

(3) Date: Apr. 1947

(4) Subject:

Classification	Type of record
331	d

(5) Item description and comment:

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(7) Film no. Sheet no.

Report on Surveillance  
of  
National Election of 20 April 1947  
House of Councillors Election

1. Report for Tottori Prefecture

2. Number of registered voters:

Men	142,440
Women	<u>174,056</u>
Total	316,496

3. Number actually voting:

Men	112,920
Women	<u>107,227</u>
Total	220,147

The overall voting average of 69.6% is somewhat lower than that achieved in the 5 April Local Election. This recession was apparently due to a decrease in public intent, and to extremely fine weather which kept farmers and fishermen at work throughout the voting day.

4. Number of persons claiming franchise but not permitted to vote:

Men	3
Women	<u>2</u>
Total	5

5. Number of surveillance teams:

31

6. Number of polling places:

576

7. Number of polling places visited:

339

The decrease in percentage of stations visited from total reported for 5 April election is the result of Military Government's policy of dispatching teams to more remote and inaccessible areas which were not reached on the first election. Another cause is the occurrence of two serious

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motor accidents on election day. Both involved teams supplied by 5/1 Punjab Regiment of Tottori City. Casualties included one Indian driver killed and several Indian Officers, men and Japanese interpreters injured.

8. Number of ballot counting stations:

176

9. Number of ballot counting stations visited:

114

10. Since candidates for national office are screened by the Tokyo central committee, their questionnaires were available only at the offices of the prefectural Electoral Administration Committee.

11. Considerable publicity was given to this fact through the press and official prefectural channels.

12. A mere five persons visited the committee office to inspect the questionnaires of candidates for the House of Councillors. Actually, all information contained in the questionnaires was included in prefectural bulletins issued prior to the election.

13. a. Number of seats in House of Councillors from this prefecture: 2

b. Number of candidates by parties:

Liberal:	1
Social Democrat:	1
Tottori Prefectural Development League:	1

c. No independent candidates.

d. The winner of the six-year term in the House of Councillors is Sadazo Kadota of the Social-Democratic Party, who polled 83,742 votes. He was supported by Socialists, the powerful Farmers League, and most labor organizations.

Runner-up and winner of the three-year term is Nobuyoshi Tanaka, chairman of the last prefectural assembly. Formerly of the Progressive Party, he formed a new group called the Tottori Prefectural Political League when the Progressives dissolved. More recently he joined the new Democratic Party and will probably support that group in the House of Councillors. He received

76,912 votes.

The third and only unsuccessful candidate was Tetsutaro Yamamoto of the Liberal Party who polled 41,304 votes.

14. There were no female candidates.

15. There was a general increase in the activities of political parties in preparation for the national elections. In contrast to the gubernatorial race, when all candidates were independents, each applicant for the House of Councillors was affiliated with a leading political party.

Katayama, national leader of the Social Democrats, spoke to large meetings in Tottori, Kurayoshi, and Yonago to encourage the election of Kadota.

All candidates made use of trucks and other motor vehicles to tour the prefecture campaigning for election. Each party set up offices in the cities and large towns and used loudspeakers and roving electioneering bands to publicize their candidate to the people.

Due to the restrictions placed on the reception from Japanese sources of reports concerning political meetings, it was impossible to obtain accurate information and figures for this section of the report.

16. Surveillance teams reported that the number and location of polling places was very satisfactory.

17. Four election bulletins are enclosed.

18. In addition to general meetings held prior to election of 5 April and reported in the summary report for that election (Control Symbol QGS-A), Military Government conducted at least ten further meetings with Election Administration Committees and government officials in preparation for the national elections.

19. The amount of publicity disseminated through official channels was greatly increased in order to insure a well-informed voting public for the Councillors election. Bulletins listing names, parties and past records of candidates were posted in prominent places and also distributed directly to the people. On election day, lists of candidates for both the national and prefectural constituencies were put up in the vicinity of each polling station.

Local newspapers devoted considerable space to candidates and issues involved in the election. In addition to general election news, they published campaign statements of prominent candidates and many editorials discussing election issues. Military Government contributed to the publicity program by issuing several press releases and offering general suggestion to the newspapers. Political Affairs Bulletins distributed by GHQ, SCAP were passed on to the press and to local government officials for use in the publicity program.

In compliance with Operational Directive 22/2, Hqs Eighth Army, an investigation of the election activities of the local radio station, JOLG was carried out by Military Government representatives. The directors were found to be complying with the regulations concerning the allotment of free time to candidates, and the candidates themselves had generally taken advantage of the opportunity to address radio audiences.

20. No violations related to this election were reported to this headquarters.

21. a. No criticism of the activities of military surveillance teams was heard.
- b. Gaining from the experience of the first local election, Administration Committees carried out their duties in a most satisfactor manner in this election.
- c. The choosing of Councillors from prefectural electoral districts is definitely a step forward in the process of giving government back to the people, but the National Constituency system can hardly be considered an improvement. The great mass of voters, especially in rural areas, had no knowledge of the candidates and no opportunity to study their records or political views. Even a well-informed citizen would surely experience difficulty in choosing from among the several hundred applicants. In Tottori Ken, for example, the leading vote-getter was Jyotaro Kamei, whose popularity was largely due to his having been born and educated in this prefecture. It is the opinion of the Legal Government Officer that this clumsy electoral institution will prove a barrier to the development of a really democratic and efficient parliamentary government in Japan.