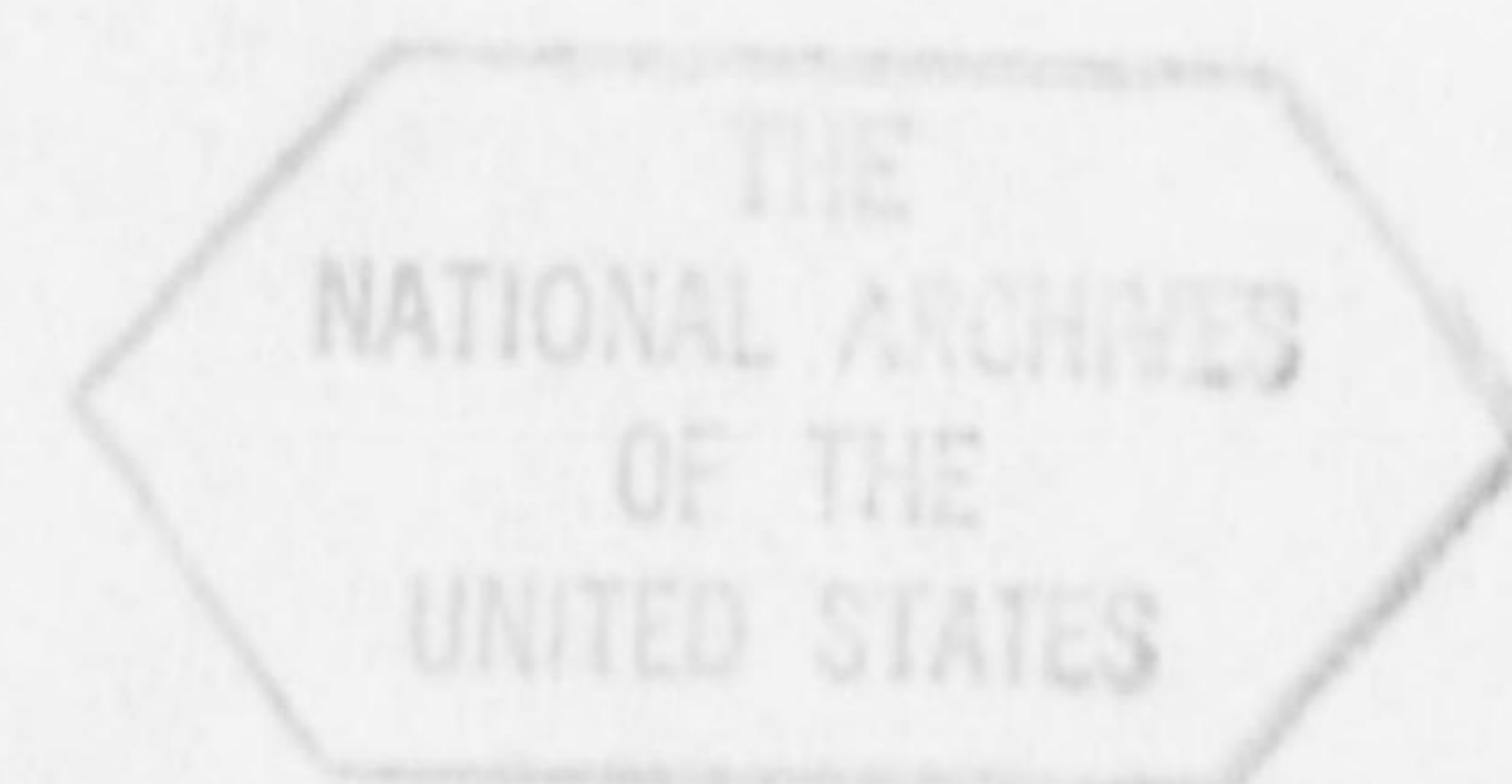


GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)
Description of contents



- (1) Box no. 2395
- (2) Folder title/number: (34)
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- (3) Date: Jan. 1951 - Feb. 1951

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Civil Affairs Section
APO 500

091.112 ()CAS-EL

8000
Mr. Doherty

SUBJECT: Rehabilitation of Red Purgees

TO: Chief
Chugoku Civil Affairs Region
APO 182

BRP
WPS

1. Reference is Chugoku Civil Affairs Region memorandum for record dated 26 January 1951, subject: "Discussion with Mr. Lethbridge, Former Labor Officer, Kinki Civil Affairs Region, on Rehabilitation of Red Purgees," copy attached.

2. With the passage of time, the conditions anticipated by Mr. Lethbridge have apparently failed to develop. For this reason there seems to be little reason to expend the effort to organize a program in line with the thoughts he promulgated. There are several reasons why the predicted conditions have failed to develop. There is the fact that the total number of purgees is infinitely smaller than anticipated in some quarters, only 10,000 out of a total workforce of 38 million. There is the additional fact that these purgees are not a homogeneous group so far as their skills and their needs are concerned. Some have a capacity for self-employment, others are skilled mechanics while still others may be administrative workers. One fact stands out so far. The purgees have not shown up in groups to bring pressure on the PESO's. They have not joined groups of day-laborers and have not become "circuit rider" rabble rousers such as was experienced particularly in the Kinki region in the latter part of last year. Summed up, the purgees have not presented themselves as a group needing special attention and there is the possibility that if measures were taken to give them special attention now they may exploit that effort in such a way as to draw attention and sympathy to their cause thus defeating the whole purpose of any attempt to help them.

3. One very interesting angle on this subject is the fact that the discharge allowances averaged around 70,000 yen with many of them running in excess of one million yen. A Labor Ministry survey shows that about 50 per cent of the purgees used this money to go into business for themselves and have thus become capitalists.

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16 FEB 1951
B-427

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091.112 ()CAS-EL
Subj: Rehabilitation of Red Purgees

4. The Labor Division, Economic and Scientific Section, have said they will not ask the Labor Ministry to organize a special program for the purgees and the ideas set forth in paragraph 2 above reflect their thinking on the matter.

FOR THE CHIEF, CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION:

1 Incl
Memo, CCAR/EL,
dtd 26 Jan 51

J. A. O'BRIEN
CWO USA
Adm Off

HEADQUARTERS
CHUGOKU CIVIL AFFAIRS REGION
ECONOMICS SECTION
Labor Division

26 January 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Record

SUBJECT: Discussion with Mr. Lethbridge, Former Labor Officer,
KICAR, on Rehabilitation of Red Purgees

1. The following is a brief resume of the discussion held with Mr. Lethbridge prior to his departure from this theater.
2. Mr. Lethbridge stated that it is likely the red purges may result in driving the individuals concerned into a more tightly-knit underground organization. The existence of such menace would not be a desirable development. However, purgees may find re-employment in other industries very difficult in view of their past histories. With their means of livelihood crippled, they may allow themselves, through lack of other recourse, to become more deeply absorbed in party activities.
3. As an alternative, Mr. Lethbridge suggested a program for rehabilitation of red purgees. Many purgees, he suggested, as a consequence of this drive by industry, may be disillusioned with red goals and activities. A program of rehabilitation for them might therefore reap much fruit.
4. The program outlined by Mr. Lethbridge involves the following features. As red purgees fail to find jobs elsewhere, they will begin to converge upon PESOs seeking work through those agencies. Work projects should be developed so as to have isolated groups of reds working under close supervision. Coupled with this activity, effort should be made to provide instruction on the advantages of democratic practices to individuals as contrasted to the actual practices of iron curtain countries. These individuals should be made to understand that their restitution into normal society is completely dependent upon their individual efforts and abilities to adjust and to contribute constructively to a democratic situation.
5. As individuals in these programs, over a period of time, show positive response to these rehabilitatory efforts, they could be permitted to re-enter industry in plants where relapses would have least harm on Japanese economy or industrial development. Their re-entry into industry should be supervised by follow-up activities; and the individuals involved should be permitted to understand this would be a sort of probation awarded to them on the basis of their positive responses to the first part of the rehabilitation program.

6. These points are stated in accordance with the best possible ability to recall the ideas outlined in conversation by Mr. Lethbridge. Any discrepancy between what Mr. Lethbridge actually had in mind or actually stated can be attributed only to those faults of memory that may occur with the passage of time.

Walter P. Domanowski

WALTER P. DOMANOWSKI
Chief, Labor Division

Inclosure 2²