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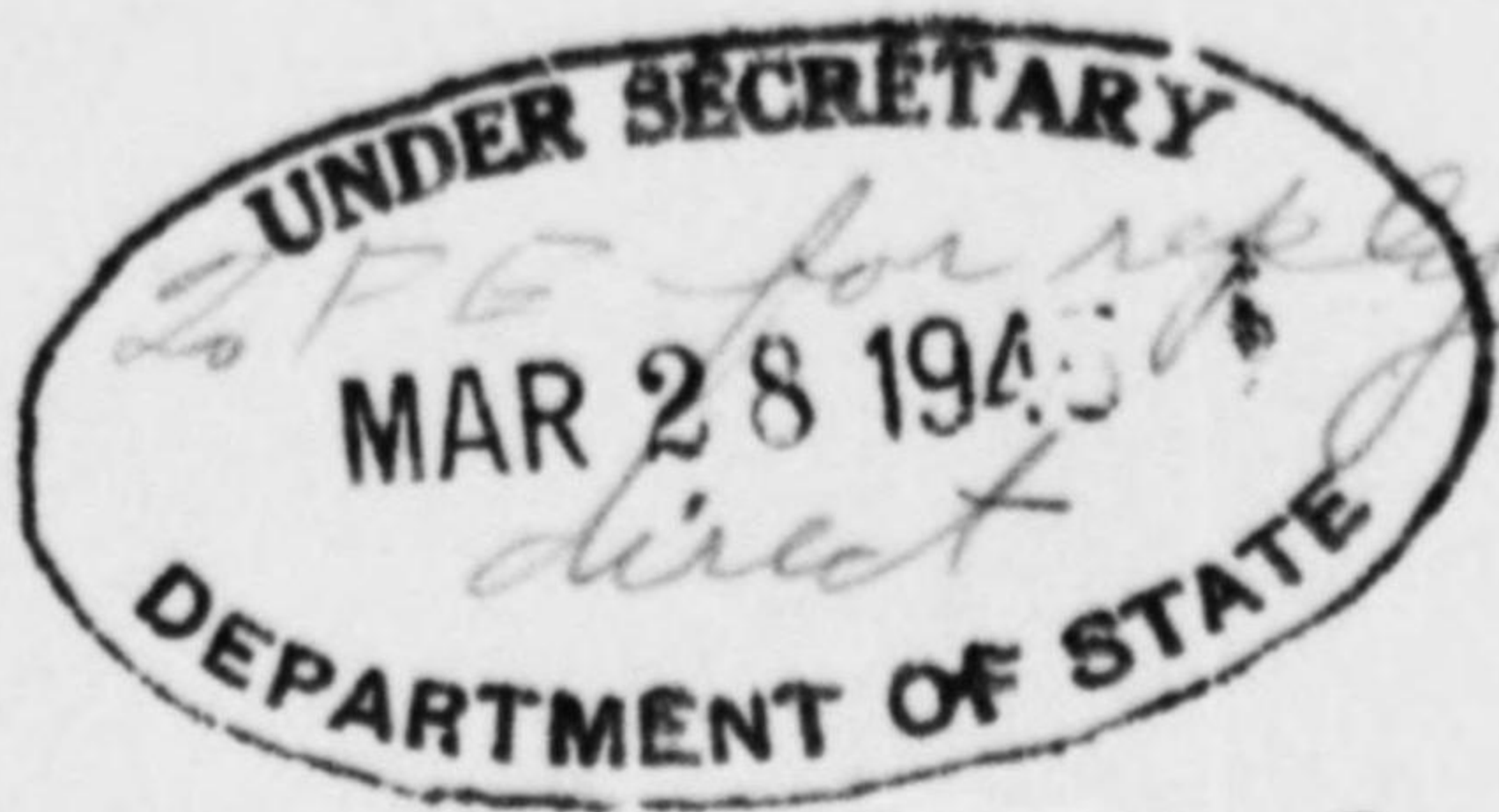
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BAS FE

March 23, 1945



Hon. Joseph C. Grew
Undersecretary of State
The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir

I have become interested in the idea of studying the Japanese language with the thought in mind that after the war there may be some field of work for me in which a knowledge of Japanese would be valuable.

I am 33 years of age and at the present time I am working at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital where I am the Principal Stenographer and Secretary to the Director who is also Professor of Psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

I have been working at the Psychiatric Institute for the past 15 years and I am beginning to feel that I have gotten as much out of my work here as I will ever get. I am interested now in developing something that may lead to a position that will provide me with more interest and satisfaction.

I would therefore appreciate it greatly if you would direct my letter to someone who can advise me where I might study Japanese and what opportunities the knowledge of this language may afford me.

Respectfully yours

Margaret Neubart
(Miss) Margaret Neubart
722 West 168 Street
New York 32, N.Y.



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Rev. *ms*
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APR 3 1945

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894.402/3-2345

OS/D 402/3-2345

April 2, 1945

In reply refer to
JA

My dear Miss Neubart:

Mr. Grew has asked me to answer your letter of March 23, 1945, in which you inquired where you might study Japanese and what opportunities a knowledge of the language might afford you.

As you live in New York, you presumably desire to pursue your studies in that city. I understand that Columbia University is offering courses in Japanese and that the member of the faculty to consult is Dr. George Noss of the Department of Chinese and Japanese. I believe that also the Berlitz School of Languages in New York City is giving courses in Japanese. The Department has no information as to the exact nature of the courses offered by either institution and can of course assume no responsibility in the matter.

With reference to the opportunities you may expect from a knowledge of the Japanese language, I feel sure that you will realize that at this stage of the war with Japan it is impossible to predict the extent to which there will be a demand after the war for those who know that language.

The Department is glad to have this opportunity of being of assistance and hopes that the information contained in this letter will be useful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Erle R. Dickover
Chief
Division of Japanese Affairs

A true copy of the signed original.

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Miss Margaret Neubart,
722 West 168th Street,
New York 32, New York.

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APR 2 1945 P.M.

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CONFIDENTIAL
WAR DEPARTMENT
CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AD
ESC
Mr. Benninghoff
Room 106

WDSCA 014 Japan (23 Jun 45)

3 July 1945

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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JUL 10 1945
MR. DUNN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Eugene H. Dooman
Room 282, Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dooman:

Inclosed herewith is a copy of a memorandum which has just been forwarded to us from CASA. I should much appreciate receiving informal comments of the Department of State as to whether the proposal in the memorandum has merit.

It is our impression that the suggestion is not practicable but we are reluctant to reject the recommendation without obtaining your views.

Sincerely,

EXECUTIVE STAFF
COMMITTEES

~~JUL 11 1945~~
July 11

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

H.S.

1 Incl
Cy of memo fr
CASA

J. H. HILDRING
Major General
Director, Civil Affairs Division

Ray J. Laux

RAY J. LAUX
Colonel, GSC,
Executive

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Name *MS*
Room *MS*
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THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF
KATAKANA AS OFFICIAL WRITTEN JAPANESE

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that all written communication in the Japanese language during military occupation be restricted to katakana, and that the use of materials in kanji be prohibited.

DESCRIPTION

A brief description of certain characteristics of the Japanese language may be of value. It is the peculiar composition of the Japanese language which makes possible and desirable this restriction during military government.

Written Japanese is perhaps the most difficult language in common use today. It is in fact more than one language. Japanese can be written in kanji, which is a Japanese rendition of Chinese characters imported into Japan about 400 A.D. It can be written in katakana, which is a printed form of phonetic shorthand, or syllabary. It can be written in the cursive form of phonetic shorthand, hiragana. Or it can be written in a transliteration of the sounds of spoken Japanese in ordinary Roman letters, known as romaji. Each of these various forms can be used exclusively, or in combination with the others--the most common combination being kanji with either katakana or hiragana. To make the language even more complicated there are two distinct forms of kanji which are so different that a reading knowledge of one does not imply a reading knowledge of the other: (KALSHO) the block form, and (SOSHO) the cursive or grass-writing form. And to pile difficulty upon difficulty, even the shape or form of the characters formed in kanji carry meaning, or a sense of style, in the writing.

The reason for this incredibly complicated mixture of writing systems is historical. There is no record of the ancient Japanese language having a written form, and it is generally believed that it was first reduced to writing with the introduction of Chinese culture about the 4th Century. The Chinese language from which the Japanese kanji was borrowed, was a nearly monosyllabic language without inflections, or "word endings". This type of spoken language is suited to a system of writing by characters in which each character stands for the meaning, not the sounds, of the word. Chinese still retains this characteristic, and all the mutually unintelligible spoken forms of Chinese are written exactly the same. Japanese, however, was and is a polysyllabic language, made up of strings of syllabic sounds. Each syllable is made from a vowel, or a consonant plus a vowel. It is also an agglutinative language, with words made up by stringing together a series of other words. Its grammar is not indicated by other words or by position, as in Chinese or English, but by inflections, or "word

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endings". It is, therefore, a type of language wholly unsuited to a writing system in which the characters stand for meanings. It is suited to a system in which the letters or symbols stand for sounds.

This became evident as soon as the Chinese language was introduced into Japan and Japanese scholars attempted to adopt its system of writing.

A Chinese character could be used to stand for the meaning of a Japanese word, if an equivalent Chinese word existed. When read aloud in Japanese, this character could be pronounced either in the native Japanese or in the Japanese rendition of its Chinese pronunciation. But some additional system had to be devised to reproduce the sounds of Japanese names and words which had no counterpart in Chinese. And more important still there had to be some system to reproduce the sounds of the inflections which carried no meaning and hence could not be represented by a Chinese character, but which were indispensable to the grammar. This was accomplished with the invention of kana. Certain characters in Chinese were adopted as symbols, not of meaning, but of the sound which the Japanese would make in attempting to pronounce the Chinese spoken word represented by the character. The shapes of these characters were modified and stylized until they reached approximately the form of the two kana in use today. Kibi-no-Mabi is traditionally credited with the invention of katakana, in the 8th Century, and Kobo Daishi is credited with the invention of hiragana in the 9th Century.

Modern Japanese is ordinarily written, therefore, with kanji standing for the meanings of the words, but with katakana or hiragana interspersed between the kanji to stand for the sounds of the endings, and for certain Japanese words for which no character exists. This is the form of the written language which should be prohibited. In its place there should be substituted the immensely simpler form of katakana.

ADVANTAGES

The advantages to military government of such a change are the following:

1. Prohibiting kanji would greatly assist in barring access to pre-war propaganda.

Nearly all serious writing in Japan has been done in the past in the medium of kanji. If all books and written materials in kanji are prohibited, possession of such materials becomes illegal. It is not recommended that materials already existing in kanji should be destroyed. It is sufficient that libraries be impounded. The knowledge represented in the impounded books would thus be preserved and the occupying forces would avoid the stigma of "book-burning".

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2. The exclusive use of katakana would ease the problem of censorship.

Censorship demands the highest level of discriminating linguistic ability. There does not now exist anything remotely approaching an adequate supply of linguists competent to censor kanji. Because of the extreme difficulty of mastering the kanji form of written Japanese, it seems improbable that more than a small proportion of the required number can be trained in time to be of value to the military government. An adequate command of spoken Japanese is far simpler to acquire. Acquisition of the katakana then requires two to three weeks.

Every member of the occupying forces, whether he reads Japanese or not, would become in effect a rough censor. Mere recognition of the type of writing would become sufficient. No translation to determine the content of that writing would be necessary.

3. The use of katakana will shorten the time required for children to reach the same proficiency level in schools.

In pre-war Japan a very major portion of the time devoted to elementary education was spent in acquiring facility in kanji. This time would be saved and could be utilized in other branches of instruction. Children would thus reach a productive level at an earlier age and would increase the labor supply without reducing the educational standard of the country.

4. Katakana would increase national business efficiency.

It is widely used now in telegrams, in military dispatches, and in certain newspapers directed to the lower classes. It can be efficiently written on a standard Occidental typewriter with a simple substitution of keys. It makes possible the use of modern high speed linotype machines as contrasted to the archaic and difficult hand-setting of kanji in printing. It tremendously simplifies the problems of filing and indexing.

FRACTICALITY

The prohibition of kanji and the exclusive use of katakana is both possible and practical:

1. The use of katakana does not impose illiteracy upon Japan.

All literate people in Japan read katakana. In fact, many who cannot read kanji read the simpler katakana. The use of romanized transcription, romaji, is not practical despite its obvious linguistic advantages, because

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it is not generally read in Japan, and accordingly its immediate adoption would virtually make Japan an illiterate nation. Illiteracy would be more dangerous to the military government than access to antagonistic propaganda. A modern nation without written communication would be reduced to chaos.

2. Translation into katakana of necessary documents now in kanji is simple.

There are none of the usual problems of accurately translating meaning from one language to another. The problem is solely one of transliteration from one type of writing to another, within the same language. The difficulty is no greater than that of transcribing shorthand notes into typewritten copy. It can be done by any secretary who knows both systems.

3. Katakana has a propaganda value.

It is one of the few, and certainly one of the most remarkable, native Japanese inventions. Its use should be a matter of national pride. Proper education of the Japanese people should convince them that its use is preferable to the continued use of a foreign and adopted kanji.

4. There is a precedence for a major change of this sort.

Japan within the past two decades has shifted to the metric system of measures in an attempt to modernize their industry. This in a modern industrial nation is comparable in difficulty and scope to the proposed change from kanji to the exclusive use of katakana. The centralization of authority in the Japanese Government makes possible radical changes which would be nearly impossible in a decentralized government.

5. The change will become permanent.

The closing of schools early in 1945, combined with the chaos that will attend any occupation, whether under combat conditions or under an armistice, will produce a **two to five year gap in the education** of the present generation in kanji. This lapse, followed by a period under military government during which the kanji is officially forbidden, will effectively end the widespread use of kanji as a national language. Kanji is too difficult and requires too long a period of study ever to survive being driven underground for any period of time. It is not something that can be kept alive by word of mouth. If education in kanji is prohibited for even a

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period of ten years it is highly likely that kanji writing will become a "dead language", studied in the future by scholars as a medium to the "Japanese Classics".

23 June 1945
S-5 Education
CASA
Presidio of Monterey

(s)ROBERT KING HALL
Lieut. (S) USNR

CONFIDENTIAL

WDSCA 014 Japan (23 Jun 45)

CONFIDENTIAL

July 6, 1945

July 7, 1945

Dear General Hilldring:

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 3, 1945, with which there was transmitted a copy of a memorandum from CASA suggesting that the use of Chinese characters be forbidden during the period of occupation of Japan. I am glad to receive your invitation to send you the informal comment on the paper of the Department of State.

The "Description" of the Japanese language presented in the memorandum from CASA is inaccurate. It is stated therein, for example, that the Japanese language is "a type of language wholly unsuited to a writing system in which the characters stand for meanings". This statement might be accurate enough if it related to the indigenous Japanese language. However, modern Japanese has one point of similarity with modern English. Modern English rests on the broad base of Early English, retaining its syntax and its words, but superimposing thereon words derived from Latin and Greek. In the same way, modern Japanese rests on the broad base of the indigenous Japanese language, which bears no relation whatever to Chinese. On this indigenous Japanese language, which was probably adequate for a primitive society, there have been superimposed a large number of words of Chinese origin. Reference to any Japanese dictionary will indicate that more than half of all the words in general usage in modern Japanese are words of Chinese origin. Such Chinese words are constantly being introduced, and have been introduced for centuries, to meet the needs of a progressively developing society.

Words in the indigenous Japanese language are for the most part polysyllabic and are therefore distinctive. No great difficulty would be experienced in representing these words in writing by some phonetic system, such as kana. However a large proportion of Japanese words of Chinese origin are homonyms, that is to say, words which have the same sound

but

Major General J. H. Hilldring,
Director, Civil Affairs Division
OCR - War Department
Washington, D. C.

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but have totally different meanings. Taking the word kanji, for example, a small dictionary on hand gives seven different homonyms. Without knowledge of the Chinese characters from which these words derive and which give meaning to these words it would be virtually impossible to distinguish one homonym from another. Such words would inevitably fall out of use. It must be obvious that a language reduced to the dimensions of a vehicle for the transfer of thought adequate for the needs of a tribal community 2,000 years ago is hardly adequate to meet the complex needs of today. Some slight conception of the effects might be suggested if one were to eliminate from the English language all words derived from the Romance languages and Greek.

It is our view that the prohibition of Chinese characters could not be enforced. Even if it could be, the elimination of Chinese characters under conditions of military occupation would probably have consequences of a most serious and far-reaching character, not only in drastically limiting intellectual and cultural pursuits, but in impeding in most drastic form the operation of the normal economy of the country.

Yours truly,

Special Assistant to
Assistant Secretary Dunn

JUL 7 1945

A-D [Signature]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF ~~FAREASTERN~~ ^{Japanese} AFFAIRS

August 30, 1945.

This letter is based on information I got from a 'phone call to the G.P.O. and thence to the Pentagon Building this morning. We had Piggott's book in the Embassy Library in Tokyo and I think a copy or two would be very useful here.

JA:DRay:hst

August 31, 1945.

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ion of the Far Eastern Office rmed by the Military Intelliment at Washington that the g has available copies of The ral F. S. G. Piggott.

ice at Washington, which it as understood prepared a reprint or reproduction of this work for the use of the United States Army, says that The Elements of Susho is still on the restricted distribution list and that its entire stock of the book was turned over to the Army.

Since this office is now engaged in Japanese translation work in which this book would be of very great utility, inquiry is made whether two copies of it could be obtained, and what the cost would be.

It would also be appreciated if you would send us a list of any other special works on the Japanese language, such as specialized glossaries and vocabularies or other works on susho prepared or reproduced under United States Army supervision.

Very truly yours,

OR *med*

AUG 31 1945

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ERD
Erle R. Dickover
Chief
Division of Japanese Affairs

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August 31, 1945.

M.I.S. Language School,
 Army of the United States,
 Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

Sirs:

The Japanese Affairs Division of the Far Eastern Office of the State Department is informed by the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department at Washington that the Language School at Fort Snelling has available copies of The Elements of Sōsho by Major General F. S. G. Piggott.

The Government Printing Office at Washington, which it is understood prepared a reprint or reproduction of this work for the use of the United States Army, says that The Elements of Sōsho is still on the restricted distribution list and that its entire stock of the book was turned over to the Army.

Since this office is now engaged in Japanese translation work in which this book would be of very great utility, inquiry is made whether two copies of it could be obtained, and what the cost would be.

It would also be appreciated if you would send us a list of any other special works on the Japanese language, such as specialized glossaries and vocabularies or other works on sōsho prepared or reproduced under United States Army supervision.

Very truly yours,



Erle R. Dickover
 Chief
 Division of Japanese Affairs

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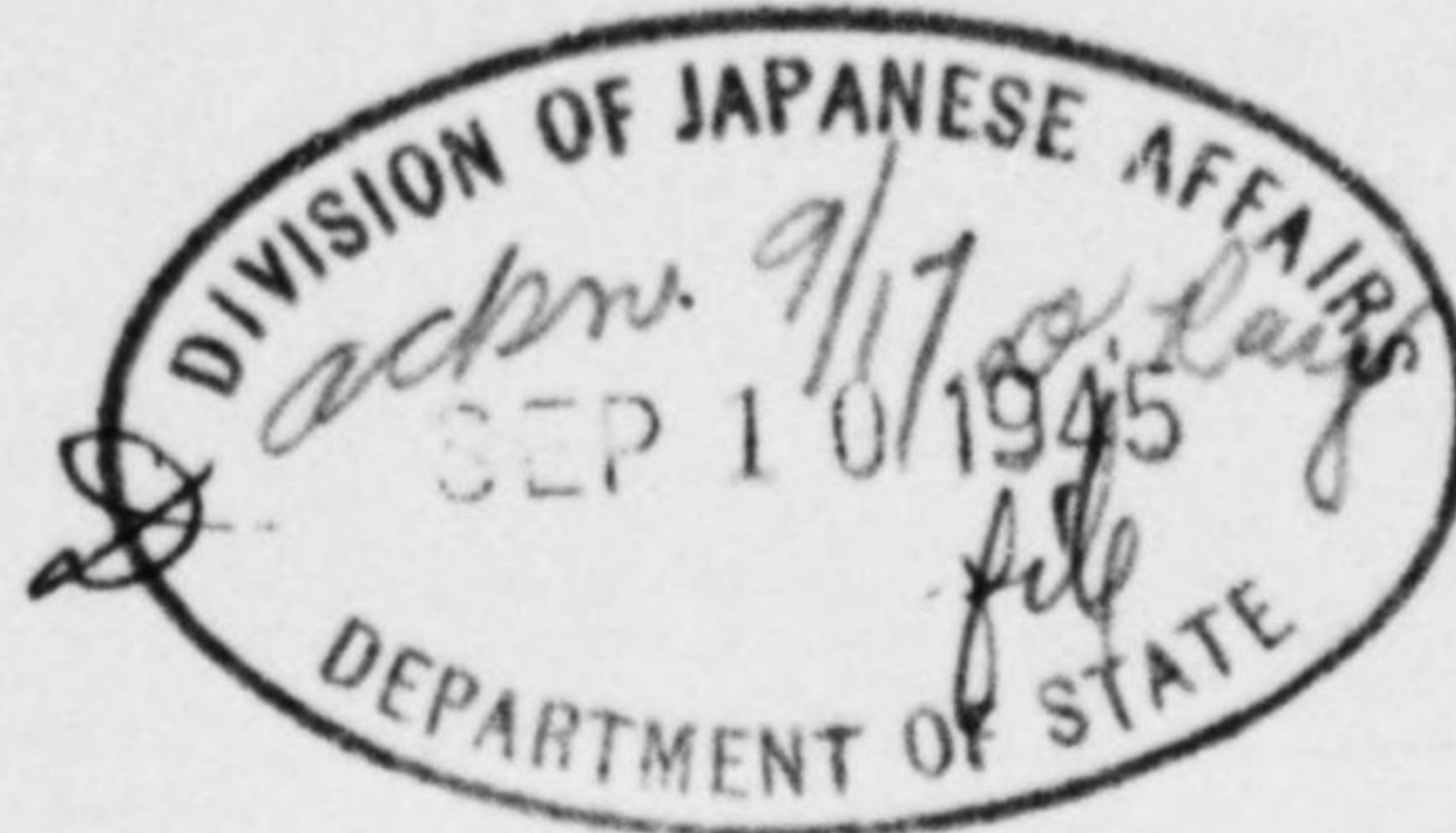


Use it when material is available



**WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE LANGUAGE SCHOOL
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT**

**Ft. Snelling 11, Minnesota
6 September 1945**



Mr. Erle Dickover, Chief
Division of Japanese Affairs
Far Eastern Office
State Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dickover:

I have received your letter dated August 31, in which you request that we furnish to the State Department certain Japanese reference books, including The Elements of Sosho by Piggott.

I have instructed my Liaison and Research Department to compile for you a complete list of reference material available here at the School. This list is inclosed herewith. I have also instructed the Director of that section to forward to you directly two copies each of all material listed, and trust they may serve your needs.

In the event you need anything else or any assistance with your linguistic undertakings, I am confident that we may be able to assist you, and we should be very happy to do so.

With kindest personal regards to you, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Kai Rasmussen
KAI E. RASMUSSEN
Colonel, CAC
Commandant

Inclosure
As above

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MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE LANGUAGE SCHOOL
Research & Field Liaison Section
Fort Snelling 11, Minnesota

6 September 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDANT:

SUBJECT: Japanese Vocabulary Reference Materials

1. Attached herewith a list of Japanese vocabulary reference material as requested.

Akira Oshida

AKIRA OSHIDA
Chief, Research &
Field Liaison Section

Sosho Daisiten

*Elements of Sosho

*Military Terms Dictionary - Creswells

Japanese Words of Military Value

Vocabulary Pertaining to Air Corps

Terms Pertaining to AA Gun

Glossary of Japanese Antiaircraft Gun

Glossary of Japanese Antiaircraft Searchlight Terms

Glossary of Japanese Aeronautical Terms

Glossary of Japanese Terms Pertaining to Aeronautical Meteorology

Glossary of Japanese Terms Pertaining to Artillery Signal Communication

Glossary of Japanese Terms Pertaining to Electrified Obstacles

Glossary of Japanese Mapping Terms

Glossary of Japanese Medical Terms

A Guide to Fundamentals of Sosho

Textbook on the Japanese Army, Volume I

" " " " " " II

" " " " " " III

" " " " " " IV

Kanji, Book I

" " II

" " III

Tentative Vocabulary Compilation For Naganuma Reader, Book I

" " " " " " II

" " " " " " III

" " " " " " IV

" " " " " " V

Bulletin No. 1 - English Equivalents of Japanese Military Organization Nomenclature

" " 2 - Japanese Military Terms Defined in Japanese

" " 3 - Japanese Navy & Navy Landing Force Terms Defined in Japanese

Translation of Bulletin No. 3

Bulletin No. 4 - Japanese Navy Terms Defined in Japanese

" " 5 - Japanese Military Terms Defined in Japanese

Translation of Bulletin No. 5

Bulletin No. 6 - Japanese Aeronautical Terms & Navy Anti-Gas Defined in Japanese

Translation of Bulletin No. 6

Bulletin No. 7 - Definition of Japanese Terms & Their Tactical Explanation
in Japanese

Bulletin No. 8 - Nomenclature of Japanese Army Units and Their English Equivalents

" " 9 - Abbreviated Terms & Abbreviations for Ordnance Nomenclature

" " 10 - Nomenclature of Japanese Air Units & Shipping Units with
English Equivalents

" " 11 - Japanese Army Communication Terms Defined in Japanese

" " 12 - Designation of U.S Ships with Japanese Equivalents

" " 13 - Japanese Naval Air Force Terms and Their U.S. Equivalents

Training Aid No. 1 - Aeronautical Vocabulary

" " 2 - Japanese Naval Grades & Ranks

Supplement to Training Aid No. 1 - Aeronautical Terms & Illustration

Training Aid No. 3 - Organization of the First Air Division

Supplement to Training Aid No. 3 - Organization of an Air Brigade

Training Aid No. 4 - Organization of the First (Japanese) Army

" " 5 - Organization of Japanese Armored Division

" " 6 - The Use of Engineers in Attack on Positions

" " 7 - T/O of Shipping Engineer Regiment

" " 8 - T/O of Sea Transport Unit

Table of Abbreviations for Maritime Equipment & Fuel

" " 9 - Japanese Naval Air Force Organization

* Bound Volumes

25

September 18, 1945

In reply refer to
JA

My dear Colonel Rasmussen:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 6, 1945, and the subsequent receipt of two large packages of Japanese dictionaries, military glossaries, and study material in use at the Military Intelligence Language School, accompanied by two transmission sheets. It is noted that with one exception two copies of every item have been sent, including two copies of The Elements of Soshu by Captain F. S. G. Piggott.

Your generous response to the Department's request is very greatly appreciated, and I wish to thank you particularly for the larger dictionaries and the Soshu material.

A copy of the mimeographed memorandum transmitting this material has been signed and is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Erle R. Dickover
Chief
Division of Japanese Affairs

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Enclosure:

Mimeographed memorandum.

Colonel Kai E. Rasmussen,
Commandant, Military Intelligence
Service Language School,
Fort Snelling 11, Minnesota.

A true copy of
the signed original
enc.

JA: DTRay:MP 9-17-45

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SEP 20 1945 P.M.

NOV 19 1946

My dear Mr. Atcheson:

I am enclosing for your information and that of General MacArthur a copy of a paper entitled "Reform of the Japanese Writing System and Language Problems" (SWNCC 298) and a memorandum by the War Member on the same subject (SWNCC 298/1), now under consideration by the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee. You will note that the former concludes that a simplification of the Japanese writing system, preferably through the common use of the Latin alphabet in place of Chinese characters and kana, would be highly beneficial to Japan but that the reform of such a system and the methods by which it is to be achieved are problems to be achieved by the Japanese Government and people. It is further concluded that the Supreme Commander should encourage, but not order, the Japanese Government to form a commission of qualified Japanese to examine the desirability of language reforms and to formulate a long-range program for their accomplishment; and, finally, that the Supreme Commander should not demand or encourage reforms in the spoken language beyond those necessitated by change in the writing system.

The Department has presented such a paper for consideration of SWNCC because it is of the opinion that we should do everything possible to encourage reforms which will aid in the spread of democratic ideas in Japan. The Department believes that the present Japanese writing system is an important factor in preventing the development of an adequately informed electorate required for the proper functioning of a democratic system. At present, the Japanese written language stifles independent and original thinking on the part of the average Japanese, processes so necessary to the healthy development of a democracy. So long as the Japanese student is required

to learn

The Honorable
 George Atcheson, Jr.,
 United States Political Adviser to the
 Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers,
 Tokyo.

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to learn hundreds of Chinese ideographs and their divergent readings, he will be required to devote a large amount of time to rote memory work, an educational method which gives little encouragement to independent and constructive thinking.

You will also note that account has been taken of the suggestions for language reform as set forth in the report of the United States Educational Mission to Japan. As we do not wish forcibly to press Japanese language reforms upon the Japanese people or take steps which might later be taken as pressure on the part of the occupation authorities to effect changes in the writing system, which is part of the Japanese cultural heritage, the policy outlined in the enclosed paper merely authorizes the Supreme Commander to "encourage" the Japanese Government to form a commission to investigate the problem of reform in the writing system. Such encouragement by the Supreme Commander would not entail any imposition of reforms by him but would have the advantage of giving impetus to the consideration by the Japanese of a reform of far-reaching importance. At the meeting of SWNCC on October 16 I emphasized the points mentioned above, but the War Department representative continued to emphasize the fact this paper placed General MacArthur in a position of having to take action in a field which belongs exclusively to the Japanese. I stated, however, that any policy which was related so clearly to the democratization of Japan, such as that outlined in the attached paper, was a legitimate one to be considered by SWNCC and the FEC.

I informed SWNCC that as the State Department felt that this paper was important enough to warrant further consideration, it could not agree to its withdrawal from SWNCC at the present time. Consequently, I am writing you to explain the Department's position and hope that you will find an opportunity to bring the matter to General MacArthur's attention. Before pressing for the adoption of the paper by SWNCC in the near future, I would appreciate any comments you may wish to make on the validity of the arguments presented by me in defense of the paper.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. Hilldring
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Copy No. 53, SWNCC 298
2. Copy No. 69, SWNCC 298/1

JA:HBorton:mls 11-15-46

FE

ADO

cleared by phone
with Mr. Schuler
11/15/46.

NOV 28 1946

A true copy of
the original

My dear Mr. Atcheson:

I am enclosing for your information and that of General MacArthur a copy of a paper entitled "Reform of the Japanese Writing System and Language Problems" (SWNCC 298) and a memorandum by the War Member on the same subject (SWNCC 298/1), now under consideration by the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee. You will note that the former concludes that a simplification of the Japanese writing system would be highly beneficial to Japan but that the reform of the system and the methods by which such reform is to be achieved are problems to be decided by the Japanese Government and people. It is further concluded that the Supreme Commander should encourage, but not order, the Japanese Government to form a commission of *qualified* Japanese experts to examine the desirability of language reforms and to formulate a long range program for their accomplishment.

It is the opinion of the State Department that during the period of the occupation we should do everything possible to encourage reforms which will aid in the spread of democratic ideas and which will permanently influence the educational system in Japan. On the other hand we do not wish forcibly to impose language reforms upon the Japanese nor take steps which might later be interpreted as pressure by the occupation authorities to effect change in a writing

system

The Honorable
George Atcheson, Jr.,
United States Political Adviser to the
Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers,
Tokyo.

-2-

system which is part of the Japanese cultural heritage. We believe, however, that the policy outlined in the enclosed paper, by authorizing the Supreme Commander to "encourage" the Japanese Government to form a commission to investigate the problem, would not entail this danger and would at the same time give impetus to the consideration of a reform of far-reaching importance.

At the meeting of SWNCC on October 16 I emphasized the points mentioned above but the paper was not acceptable to the War Department representative as indicated in SWNCC 298/1 which had been distributed previous to the meeting. He also objected to the paper on the grounds that it placed General MacArthur in a position of having to take action in a field which would legally belong exclusively to the Japanese and that the subject under reference should not be considered by the FEC.

I informed SWNCC that the State Department felt this paper was important enough to warrant further consideration and consequently, rather than withdraw the paper from SWNCC, I requested that it be left on the agenda and offered to write you to obtain both your views and those of General MacArthur on the whole question. If no objection is perceived, I intend to press for adoption of the paper by SWNCC.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. Hilldring
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Copy No. 53, SWNCC 298
2. Copy No. 69, SWNCC 298/1

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 10-23-46

TO : ADO - Mr. Buchanan
FROM : JA - Mr. Borton
SUBJECT: Draft Letter for General Hilldring.

In reference to your proposed draft letter forwarding SWNCC 298 and 298/1 to Mr. Atcheson, the discussion on the subject in SWNCC and General Hilldring's offer to write an explanatory letter to Mr. Atcheson would seem to warrant a more detailed letter than that proposed by you. There is attached a redraft of a letter for General Hilldring's signature for initialing in ADO.

HOB

JA:HBorton:mls

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

OCT 21 1946

ADO - Mr. Borton

It is suggested
that ADO prepare
a draft letter
to Mr. Atcheson for
Gen. Hilldring's
signature.

SJK/ JKEmerison

D R A F T

Dear Mr. Atcheson:

Enclosed is a paper on the reform of the Japanese writing system and language problems which is now before SWNCC. Will you please read it and let me know how General MacArthur would feel about receiving such a statement of opinion from the FEC not as a directive, but only as a suggested method of procedure.

Very sincerely yours,

J. H. Hilldring
Assistant Secretary

Mr. George Atcheson,
Political Advisor to the
Supreme Commander for the
Allied Powers,
Tokyo.

JCB.
ADO:DCBuchanan:mbv

10/22/46

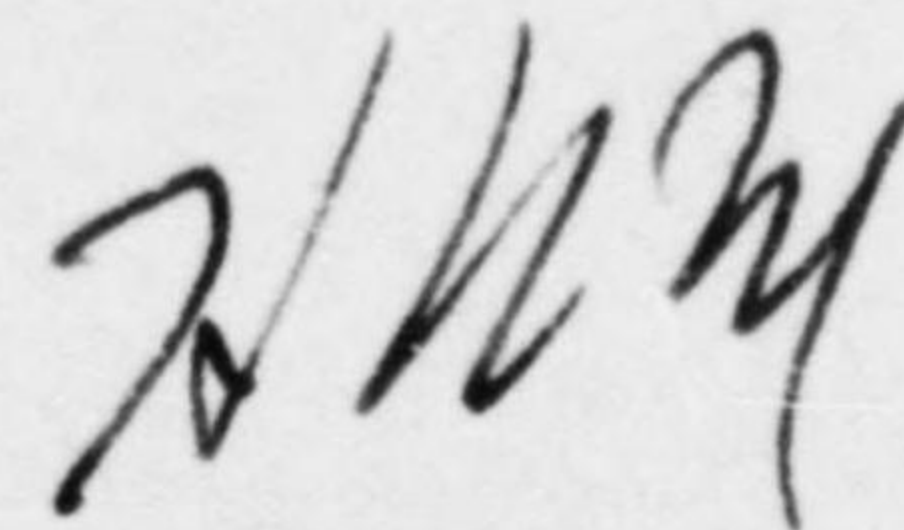
THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 16, 1946

A-H - General Hilldring:

Subject: Action to be
Taken by You Pursuant to
Agreement at the SWNCC
Meeting.

This is to serve as a
reminder to you that you
agreed to write a letter to
George Acheson asking him
how General MacArthur would
feel about receiving a state-
ment of opinion from the FEC
on the reform of the Japanese
writing system.



Harold W. Moseley

SWNCC:HWM:nla

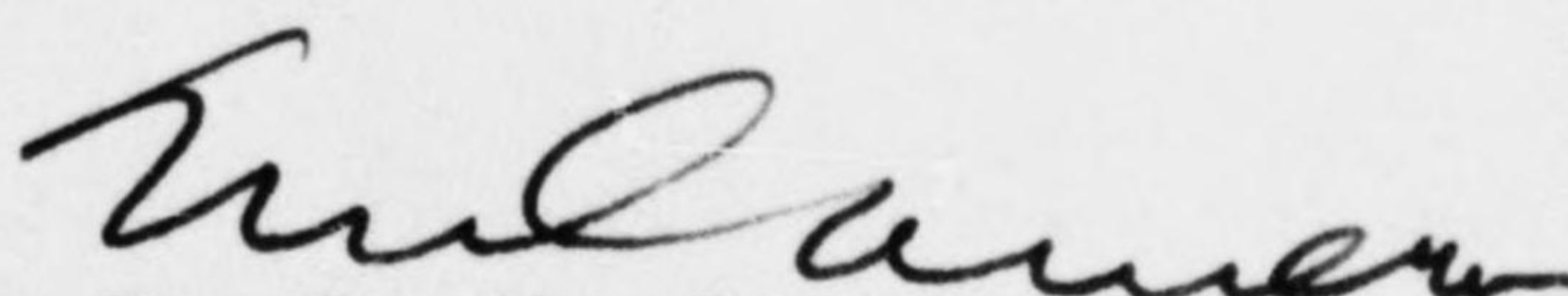
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

December 27, 1946

JA
Mr. Borton

Attached is George Atcheson's reply to the General's personal letter regarding the SWNCC paper "Reform of the Japanese Writing System and Language Problems". The General is out of the City, as you know. Gross has read the letter and thinks it is responsive and suggests that you might want to take it up with Schuler with the thought of advising SWNCC of MacArthur's reaction. I doubt, however, whether the letter itself should be circulated to SWNCC.


Warde M. Cameron

Attachment



UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER FOR JAPAN

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
A-H file
DEC 27 1946
GENERAL HILLDRING
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APO 500
Tokyo, December 14, 1946

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
FEB 21 1947
DC
OFFICE OF CHIEF

894,402

My dear General Hilldring:

I have received your letter of November 19, 1946 in regard to a SWNCC paper, "Reform of the Japanese Writing System and Language Problems", and have discussed it with General MacArthur.

It has been General MacArthur's feeling and that of the Civil Information and Education Section that this is a matter which should be left to the Japanese themselves, especially as various Japanese educators are actively working on the problem and there has been considerable interest in it as evidenced by the adoption by vernacular newspapers of a simplified language and the restriction of the number of ideographs and kana employed.

At the present time Dr. Abraham Halpern, who is well-known as a linguistic expert from the University of Chicago, is engaged in studies of the Japanese language with a view to making these studies available to appropriate Japanese authorities in an effort solely to assist them and in no way to direct them in their own studies of this important problem. Dr. Halpern is assisted by Dr. Scott George who obtained his doctorate in linguistics. The whole question has been approached by the Occupation authorities from the angle of objective assistance to the Japanese and in an attempt to avoid any suggestion of directive or guidance toward a preconceived solution of the problem.

I do not speak Japanese, but I am told by some qualified experts that romanization would merely touch the fringe of the problem; that Japanese students in the primary and secondary schools actually devote no more time solely to studying Japanese than do students in such schools in the United States in studying English; and that the real waste in language study lies in the study of Chinese and Japanese classics rather than of modern ideas.

Any arbitrary

The Honorable
J. H. Hilldring,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington.

OCR WF Unit
Encl.
Re
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ONE OCCUPIED AREAS DIVISION
(ADD)
DEC 30 1946
1/2/47 memo by J. A. Schuler, Jr.
Department of State

894.402/12-1446

CS/A

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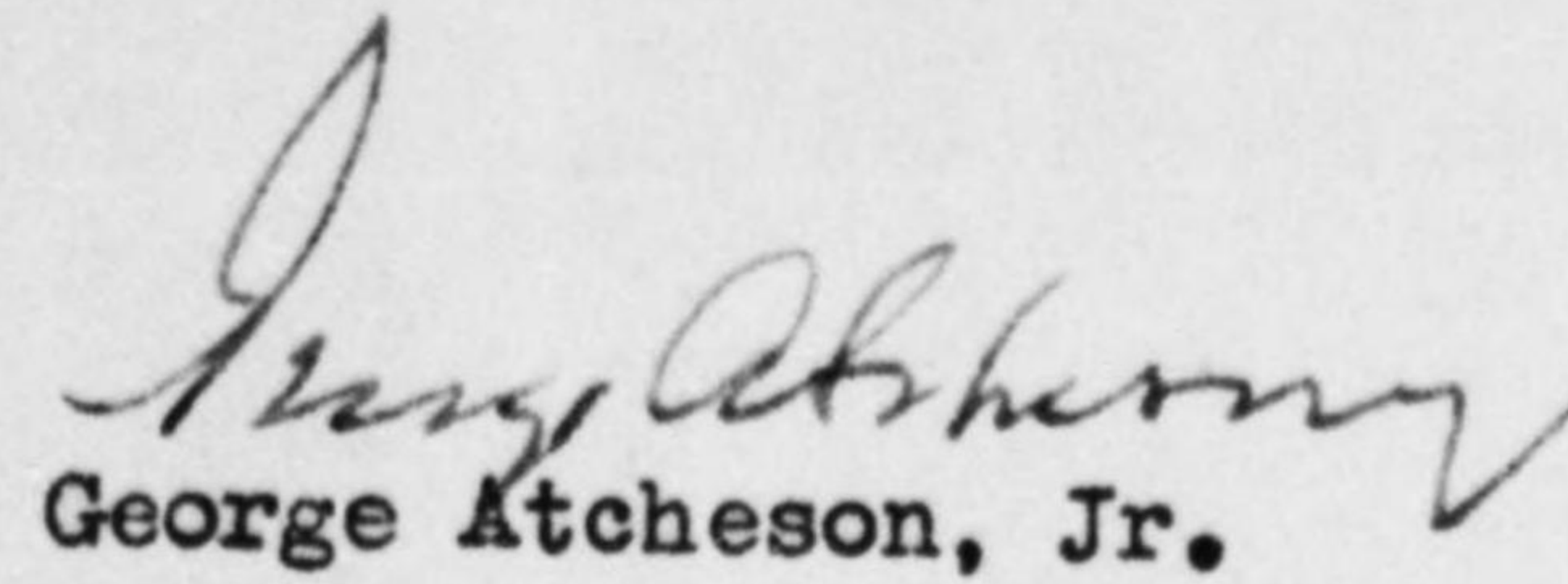
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MAR - 3 1947

- 2 -

Any arbitrary language effort would unquestionably arouse opposition among the Japanese as being thought coercive in connection with a purely cultural matter. This would probably be reflected also in Chinese quarters as the Chinese seem to regard as important the cultural heritage which the Japanese received from them. "General MacArthur is of the opinion that nothing more can be done than is being done at present and, therefore believes it unwise to agitate the question further.

Sincerely yours,


George Atcheson, Jr.

ADO: Mr. Schuler

The attached reply from George Atcheson to General Hilldring's letter in regard to the reform of the Japanese writing system is referred to you for comment and suggestions.

JA:JKEmmerson:xa

12/30

Mr. Cameron's secretary informs me that the cable mentioned was not sent. It was a request for reply to Gen. Hilldring's letter of 11-19-46.

J.S.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mr. Emerson
Gen. Atcheson's
letter referred to in
attached cable
arrived today. A
is also attached.
They both hit my
desk with 5 minutes
of each other. Cameron

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: Feb. 18, '47

TO : A-H
FROM : Mr. Borton
SUBJECT: Reform of Japanese Writing System

SWNCC 298 has been discussed with Mr. Atcheson who is strongly of the opinion that no policy decision is required by SCAP on this matter. Furthermore, it has been announced that the reading and writing of Romaji will be taught in the Japanese schools beginning April 1. For these reasons JA is now prepared to concur in the attached memo recommending withdrawal of the paper..

JA: JKE *JKE* : xa**DEPARTMENT OF STATE****ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

January 21, 1947

JA
Mr. Borton

General Hildring has agreed on the proposal set forth in your memorandum dated January 16, 1947.

W. M. Cameron
W. M. Cameron
Executive Assistant
A-H

Miss Spadley/Atcheson
agenda file. HTB

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 1-16-47
TO : ADO - Mr. Schuler *Concur*
: A-H - Mr. Gross
FROM : JA - Mr. Borton
SUBJECT: Reform of Japanese Writing System
and Language, SWNCC 298 series.

In reference to the attached memorandum from the State member of SWNCC recommending that SWNCC 298 and 298/1 be withdrawn, I recommend that in view of the visit of Mr. Atcheson to the Department early in February that the recommended action be postponed until after his return and there has been adequate opportunity to discuss the matter with him. While I recognize that General MacArthur feels nothing more can be done than is being done at present on the matter, I hesitate to concur in the withdrawal of the paper simply because SCAP feels it is unnecessary. Lack of a policy on the matter by the United States Government will not prevent the question being raised in FEC and a mere statement that no further action is needed will not necessarily satisfy the Commission. If you concur with this recommendation I suggest the file be returned to me with the understanding that we will call a meeting of interested persons to discuss the matter with Mr. Atcheson upon his arrival in Washington.

JA:HBorton:mls

HB

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 1/8/47

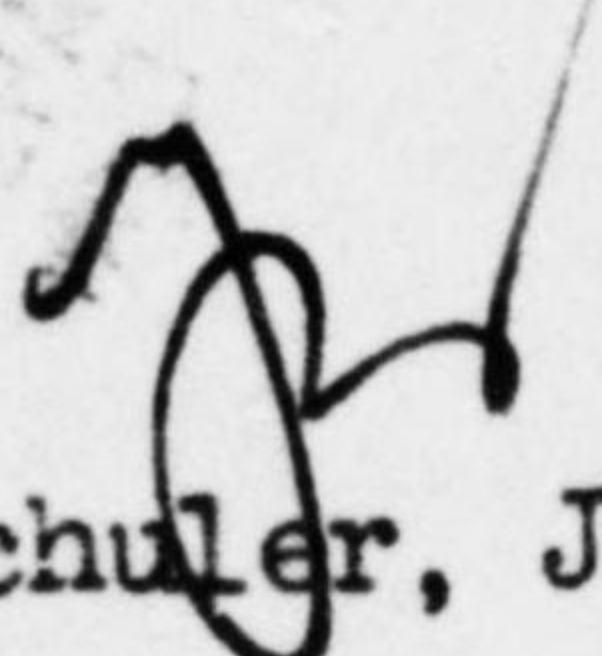
TO : OIC, Mr. Stone
A-B, Mr. Benton

FROM : ADO, Mr. Schuler

SUBJECT: Romanization Paper for Japan

You will note from the file herein-
under that we propose to withdraw the
paper on the Romanization of the Japanese
language. Our action is motivated, first,
by my discovery, on my recent trip to Japan,
that SCAP's ideas on the Romanization were
substantially like ours except they preferred
to have no directive on the subject lest
it upset their (SCAP's) internal objectivity
on the matter, and secondly, because Mr. Atcheson
says that, "General MacArthur is of the
opinion that nothing more can be done than
is being done at present and therefore
believes it unwise to agitate the question
further." If you concur would you be good
enough to initial the blue which Mr. Hilldring
will sign as State Member of SWNCC, and
pass it on to FE?

JAN 13 11 45 AM '47
OFFICE OF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
STATE DEPARTMENT


ADO: FASchuler, Jr. / jg

*Noted
Crist*

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 1/8/47

TO : JK Secretariat, Mr. Borton

FROM : ADO, Mr. Schuler

SUBJECT: Reference Reply from Ambassador Acheson to
General Hilldring's letter on the Romanization
Paper

From my recent conversations with SCAP on this subject I am convinced that in this instance SCAP will accomplish informally what the paper intended to do formally, and I think, therefore, that we should withdraw the paper from SWNCC as per memo for General Hilldring's signature attached. We would not, however, agree with some of the assertions of the SCAP language experts with respect to the nature of the problem: for example, the ratio between Japanese and American schools on the time devoted to language instruction would be at least 3 to 1 and not equal as suggested.

ADO:FA Schuler, Jr. /jg

1/8/47

OIC, Mr. Stone
A-B, Mr. Benton
ADO, Mr. Schuler

Romanization Paper for Japan

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paper on the Romanization of the Japanese
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is being done at present and therefore
believes it unwise to agitate the question
further." If you concur would you be good
enough to initial the blue which Mr. Hilldring
will sign as State Member of SNCC, and
pass it on to FE?

ADO:FA Schuler, Jr./jg

1/8/47

JK Secretariat, Mr. Borton

ADO, Mr. Schuler

Reference Reply from Ambassador Acheson to
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ADO:FA Schuler, Jr./jg

*J.H.H.
File
N.M.*

MEMORANDUM FROM THE STATE MEMBER, SWNCC

Subject: SWNCC 298 and SWNCC 298/1, "Reform of the Japanese Writing System and Language Problems"

As it would appear that appropriate steps are being taken by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to achieve the objectives of this paper, it is recommended that the paper be withdrawn.

894.402/12-1446

RECEIVED & RECORDED
BY SERVICE

J. H. Hilldring
State Member
State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee

*2/20/47
H.N.M.*

CS/A

WTS
ADJ. Schuler, Jr./jg

1/2/46

FE

JA

TO: []	Unit
From: []	
Subj: []	
Date: []	
Dist: []	

894.402/12-1446



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ACTION
is assigned to



United States Political Adviser
for Japan

Tokyo, January 7, 1949.

DIVISION OF
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

JAN 19 1949

No. 9

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subject: Establishment of National Language Research Institute

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FACILITY BRANCH

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Japanese Diet passed on November 25, 1948, a bill for the establishment of a National Language Research Institute (Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyusho Setchi-Ho) to conduct scientific research and studies in the Japanese language, and that the bill was promulgated as Public Law No. 245 of the Third Diet on December 20, 1948.

The law, a translation of which is enclosed, places the Institute under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Education, who supervises it to the extent only of its budgetary and personnel affairs. The purpose of the Institute is to conduct certain surveys and studies in the national language; on the basis of these, to prepare reference data and materials for formulating national language policies; to collect, preserve and release to the public data and materials for national language research; and to compile and publish certain specialized dictionaries. The Institute is to have a director, appointed by the Minister of Education from among first class officials of the Ministry, and a council of twenty members whose ideas and advice the director is obliged to seek regarding the annual projects, delegation of surveys and studies, and other important matters which are within the deliberative responsibility of the council.

There is a possible conflict in the law between the second paragraph of Article I and Article X. The former, as already stated, makes supervision of the personnel affairs of the Institute the responsibility of the Minister of Education, while Article X states that the selection and distribution of personnel shall be determined by the director. According to the Language Simplification Unit of the Civil Information and Education Section, this Headquarters, this conflict is more apparent than real inasmuch as the supervisory power given the Minister is understood to be general and not to extend into actual personnel administration. In framing the law the desideratum, according to the Language Simplification Unit of the Education Division, was to afford the Institute

the greatest

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Tokyo's Despatch No. 9,
January 7, 1949.

- 2 -

the greatest possible independence in choice of activity and in formulating conclusions from its research. It was not, however, considered feasible to accord it the independence enjoyed in France by the Academie Francaise, and its financial support was made subject to the Minister of Education. As it was felt that the staff of the Institute would, for lack of other trained personnel, have to be drawn largely from the Ministry, the conferring upon the Minister of Education of supervisory control in personnel matters was also unavoidable.

The official of this Headquarters in charge of the Language Simplification Unit above mentioned desires to see the Institute avoid research into matters of little importance, such as the standard accent of words, as this field of work has already been covered by other research bodies and a number of accent dictionaries already exist. Rather, it is to be preferred, the official in question states, that research be concentrated on matters that have not yet received full treatment in Japan, such as the processes of language education from the viewpoints both of the learner and of the teacher, linguistic problems in telecommunications, and Japanese reading habits, particularly the degree of benefit which Japanese obtain from reading.

The law is reported to have originated with the National Language Section of the Education Ministry and to have been sponsored by a well-known modern playwright and author, Mr. YAMAMOTO Yuzo, a member of the House of Councillors. Conflict developed in the Education Committee of the House regarding the extent of independence to be granted to the Institute and was resolved by the grant of the limited authority to the Minister of Education as set forth in Article I of the law.

2/ The official interest of the Japanese Government in national language research began in 1902, when the National Language Investigation Commission (Kokugo Chosa Inkai) was established. This Commission, over the course of eleven years, until it was dissolved for reasons of Government economy in 1913, compiled and published the results of a wide variety of research into dialects, phonetics, grammar and the comparative value, apprehensibility and uses of the several syllabary systems. A list of its publications based on research accomplished is forwarded as enclosure 2 of this despatch. The Commission was revived in 1921 as the Provisional Committee for National Language Research (Rinji Kokugo Chosakai) with the object of giving a more practical direction to language research with a view to benefitting the public. The Committee published a table of Chinese characters in common use and a study on the phonetic use of the syllabaries. In spite of the beneficial objective of the Committee, these two publications are thought to have had little effect upon common language usage.

In 1934 this Committee was replaced by the Council on the National Language (Kokugo Shingikai) established by Imperial Ordinance 331 of that year as a consultative organ of the Education Minister. The Council has since then published a scheme for the limitation of Chinese characters, a proposed reform in the use of syllabaries, and a proposed simplification of character forms. However, it has not received much popular support. It continues to exist side by side with the new National Language Research

Institute

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Tokyo's Despatch No. 9,
January 7, 1949.

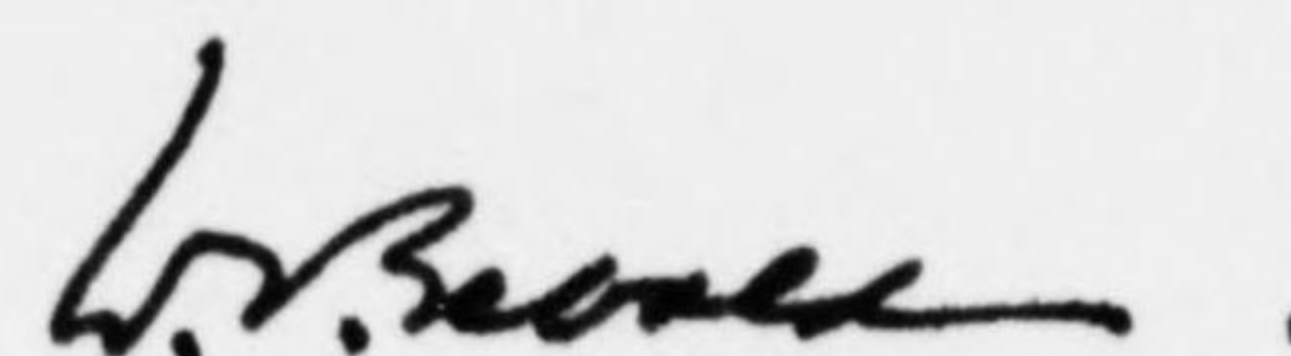
- 3 -

Institute but is for the most part inactive, functioning now merely as an organ for the ratification of decisions of the National Language Section (Kokugoka) of the Education Ministry. (This Section checks important bills introduced into the Diet for conformity to the standards of official phraseology and for ambiguity.) The chief of the Language Simplification Unit of the Civil Information and Education Section considers that the Council on the National Language should be abolished as its inadequacy was one of the principal reasons for creating the present National Language Research Institute. In his opinion the judgments of the Council have been based on insufficient research, and its research techniques, like those of all linguistic research bodies in Japan hitherto, are outmoded. However, no steps are being taken at present to terminate the existence of the Council.

It is reported by a technical consultant of the Education Committee of the House of Councillors that a recommendation will be made to the Education Minister as to choice of the director of the National Language Research Institute by a committee of approximately twenty leading figures in the field of linguistics both within and without the Government who have already been appointed by the Education Minister for this purpose. The directorship will reportedly go to Mr. NISHIO Minoru, a graduate of Tokyo Imperial University, who is at present a professor of national language and literature at the Tokyo Women's University (Tokyo Joshi Daigaku).

The need of language reform is widely recognized in Japan and is attested by the efforts made in that direction by the Government since the turn of the century and by many private bodies. The establishment of the National Language Research Institute appears, however, to be the first effective step toward laying a satisfactory foundation of knowledge to support reform efforts. It is to be hoped that the Institute will be furnished personnel of ability who will make a daring approach to solution of Japanese language problems and that the Ministry of Education, with its control over the budget, will not use its authority arbitrarily to influence or stifle the activities of the Institute.

Respectfully yours,



W. J. Sebald

Enclosures: *att*

1. Translation Public Law 245
2. List of publications of National Language Investigation Commission

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J. B. B.

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 9,
dated January 7, 1949 from the United
States Political Adviser for Japan,
Tokyo, on the subject "Establishment
of National Language Research Institute".

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C O P Y
(Translation)

Law of the Establishment of the National Language
Research Institute

(Aim and Establishment)

Article 1. The National Language Research Institute (hereinafter referred to as the Institute) shall be established for the purpose of conducting scientific surveys and studies in the national language and the nation's linguistic life, thereby providing an accurate and firm foundation for rationalizing of the national language.

2. The Institute shall be under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education shall not supervise the Institute as to matters other than those relating to the budget as well as personnel affairs of the Institute.

(Business)

Article 2. The Institute shall conduct the following surveys and studies:

- (1) Surveys and studies concerning the contemporary linguistic life and linguistic culture,
- (2) Surveys and studies concerning the historical development of the national language,
- (3) Surveys and studies concerning the aim, method and result of the national language education,
- (4) Surveys and studies of the language used in newspapers, radio broadcasting, and other media of mass communication.

2. The Institute shall, on the basis of the surveys and studies listed in the preceding paragraph, conduct the following business:

- (1) Preparation of reference data and materials for formulating national language policy,
- (2) The collection, preservation and releasing to the public of data and materials for research in the national language,
- (3) The compilation and publication of a present-day Japanese dictionary, a dialect dictionary, a dictionary of the Japanese language historically treated, and other results of the researches.

(Delegation of surveys and studies)

Article 3. As a matter of principle, the Institute shall not duplicate
surveys

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure No. 1
to Tokyo's Despatch No. 9,
January 7, 1949.

- 2 -

surveys and studies previously done or now being carried on by other research organs or individuals.

2. In order to avoid the duplication described in the preceding paragraph, the Institute may delegate, as an enterprise of the Institute itself, surveys and studies of the types designated in any of the items of Paragraph 1 in the preceding article, to such other suitable research organs or individuals as are engaged in surveys and studies of type described.

(Director)

Article 4. The Institute shall have a director.

2. The Director shall be appointed from among first class Education Ministry Instructors or Secretaries by the Minister of Education.

3. The Director shall not be, concurrently, other government official or employee.

(Making public report)

Article 5. The Director shall officially make public at least once a year a report concerning the condition and results of surveys and studies.

(Council)

Article 6. The Institute shall have a Council.

2. The Council shall deliberate on the annual projects, the delegation of surveys and studies, and other important matters of the Institute and make recommendations to the Director.

3. The Director shall seek the ideas and advice of the Council regarding the aforesaid important matters.

(Councillors)

Article 7. The Council shall consist of 20 Councillors.

2. The Councillors shall be appointed or commissioned by the Minister of Education from among persons of learning and experience in accordance with the provisions of the National Public Service Law (Law No. 120 of 1947).

3. No government officials or employees, except members of the educational service of schools, shall concurrently be Councillors.

4. The tenure of office of the Councillors shall be 4 years. Appointment of half the members shall take place every 2 years. However, they may be reappointed or recommissioned.

5. The tenure of office of a substitute councillor shall cover the remainder of his predecessor's term of office.

Article 8. The Council shall have a chairman and a vice-chairman, who have been elected from among the Councillors and their tenure of

office

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure No. 1
to Tokyo's Despatch No. 9
January 7, 1949.

- 3 -

office shall be 2 years.

(Matters concerning management of the Council)

Article 9. Matters concerning the management of the Council other than ordained by the present law shall be determined by the Minister of Education upon the advice of the Council.

(Operation of Institute)

Article 10. The organization of the departments and sections of the Institute, the selection and distribution of personnel, and matters necessary to the operation of the Institute shall be determined by the Director.

(Personnel)

Article 11. The fixed number of full-time Education Ministry Instructors or Secretaries to be assigned to the Institute is shown in the following list.

Rank	1st class	2nd class	3rd class	total
Education Ministry Instructors or Secretaries	3	10	12	25

Remarks. The fixed number of first class Instructors or Secretaries shall include the Director.

2. The Education Ministry Instructors or Secretaries who are now in the second or the third class shall not be promoted respectively to the first or the second class referred to in the preceding paragraph at the time of their transfer.

Supplementary Provisions

1. The present law shall come into force as from the day of its promulgation.
2. The tenure of office of the half of the Councillors appointed or commissioned first after the enforcement of the present law shall be 2 years.

Reason

It is a matter of urgent necessity to establish the National Language Research Institute for the purpose of conducting scientific surveys and studies in the national language and the nation's linguistic life, thereby providing an accurate and firm foundation for rationalizing the national language.

This is the reason why the present bill is to be submitted to the Diet.

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure No. 2
to Tokyo's Despatch No. 9
January 7, 1949.

List of Publications
of
National Language Investigation Commission

1. Reports on the Experiments with Regard to Difficulty of Reading and Writing of "Hiragana" and "Katakana" (April 1904)
2. Chronological Table of Theories on the Reform of Japanese Scripts and the Japanese Language (April 1904)
3. Collection of Dialectal Words (April 1904)
4. Report of the Investigations on the Reform of the Current Japanese Grammar (March 1905)
5. Report of the Investigations on Sounds (March 1905)
6. The Geographical Distribution of Sounds (March 1905)
7. Grammar of Spoken Japanese (December 1906)
8. Table of Necessary Chinese Characters (May 1908)
9. Historical Data for the Study of the Use of "Kana" and Styles of "Kana" Penmanship (March 1909)
10. Report of the Investigation on Letter-writing in Spoken Language (April 1911)
11. A Study on "Heike Monogatari" [A Story of the TAIRAS] (December 1911)
12. On the Use of "Kana" (March 1914)
13. Grammar of the Japanese Spoken Language (December 1916)
14. Grammar of the Japanese Spoken Language (April 1917)

Note: This list and the historical data in this despatch on the antecedents of the new National Language Research Institute are taken from a Japanese publication Developments in National Language Revision Since the End of the War (Shusengo ni Okeru Kokugo Kairyo no Doko) by Shiraishi Daiji, published by Shakaisha, June 25, 1947, pages 7-14.)

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