

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

INTERROGATION NO: 214

PLACE: Tokyo  
DATE : 31 October 1945

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment and Construction

SUBJECT: Army Production and Purchases of Machine Tools and Machinery.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

1. Colonel SATO - General Department of the War Department
2. Major KATO . - General Department of the War Department
3. Major ITO - General Department of the War Department.

Where interviewed: Room 361, Meiji Building.

Interrogator: Lt A. B. Smith

Interpreter: Lt Wortham

Allied Officers Present: None

SUMMARY:

Col SATO stated that actual deliveries of machine tools and machinery to the Army were reported by the producing firms to the proper Toseikai from six months to one year after delivery. Before September 1944, all materials were supplied by the Ministry of Munitions through the Toseikai. As the demand increased from all sides for materials, the Toseikai found it more and more difficult to gain actual possession of the materials designed for their use. As a result the Army began to supply materials from its own supply, through the Toseikai, to factories producing machines needed by the Army arsenals.

This was done through the Toseikai, since the Toseikai was designed to control all machine tool producing firms in Japan and because the Toseikai furnished the necessary coke and other secondary materials of production. On certain occasions when coke was short, the Army supplied coke to the Toseikai. In addition there are a few unrecorded transactions where the Army gave materials directly to the producing firms. Prior to September 1944 no firms produced materials directly for the Army without reporting to the Toseikai. After October 1944, a few products were produced directly for the Army. Col SATO will furnish all available information on these transactions, on present stocks of construction equipment, machine tools, and other industrial equipment.

In addition he will furnish a record of all yearly purchases of machine tools by the Army from 1938 until 1945, and a statement as to what portion of urgent demands by the army for machinery went unfilled.

DISTRIBUTION:  
All Divisions.