

380

16 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR : Mr. Smith N. Crowe

FROM : Edward P. Monaghan, Acting Chief,  
Investigative Division, IPS

SUBJECT : YAMAGUCHI, Juji

1. Please find attached hereto list of material available on the following witness offered by the Defense:

DEFENDANT - ITAGAKI, Seishiro  
 OKAWA, Shumei  
 MINAMI, Jiro  
 UMEZU, Yoshijiro  
 HOSHINO, Naoki

WITNESS:

LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

YAMAGUCHI, Juji

1. Additional Information

2. Please acknowledge receipt of this memorandum by initialing and returning attached carbon copy to this office.

*EPM*  
 EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Acting Chief,  
 Investigative Division, IPS

Incl.  
 (described above)

**C O N F I D E N T I A L**

**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
FAR EAST COMMAND  
Military Intelligence Section, General Staff  
Civil Intelligence Section**

**General Activities  
AFO 500  
5 April 1947**

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:**

**SUBJECT: YAMAGUCHI, Juji**

**Employee of Manchurian Railway Company  
Secretary of General Affairs Board in Manchukuo.  
Auditor of the Central Office of the Concordia  
Society (KYOWA KAI)  
Director of Manchurian Forestry Company (MANSHU  
RINGYO K. K.)**

**C O N F I D E N T I A L**

9 April 1947

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Smith N. CROWE, Jr.,  
Assistant Council

FROM : Lt. J. Curtis

SUBJECT : Identity of Witnesses

In reference to your memorandum of 4 April and a verbal request concerning YAMAGUCHI, Juji, the following information is submitted:

1. According to files in The Foreign Office, SAKATANI referred to as the Vice Chief of the General Affairs Board of the Manchurian Finance Office is SAKATANI, Kiichi.
2. SAKATANI, who was the President of the Australian Japan Society was the father of SAKATANI, Kiichi and his given name can be read HORO or YOSHIO.
3. The witness who appeared before the court on 20 March 1947 was named YAMAGUCHI, Juji and his given name cannot be read Juichi. Furthermore, YAMAGUCHI, Juji was born in 1892 and held the positions referred to in the testimony. Therefore, it is believed that a mistake was made in the translation of the date of birth in the Curriculum Vitae and his name was misinterpreted by the court.

J. A. CURTIS,  
2nd Lt. Inf., Investigator

WITNESS PROGRESS REPORT

YAMAGUCHI, Juji

Date: 3 APRIL 1947

Completed as to Items Numbers 1, 2, 6, 7, & 8.

Partially completed as to Items Numbers                     .

Item 9: NONE

SMITH N. CROWE, JR.  
Assistant Counsel

NOTE:

This witness has already testified.

Page DIRECT EXAMINATION OF YAMAGUCHI, Juichi  
by Mr. Ohara

18,797 The witness stated that he was 56 years old and lived in Chiba. In December 1919 he went to Manchuria. From February 1920 to July 1932 he was with the South Manchurian Railway, principally in charge of maintenance relating to railroad facilities in the port. From 1929 to 1932 he was with the inauguration and management of the Youth Federation of Manchuria. In October 1931, he participated in the movement for establishing Manchukuo. From March 1932 he was secretary of the Mukden-Haicheng Railway in charge of port facilities and communications. He was a member of the Reconstruction Committee of the Tsitsihar-Koshanchen Railway. As to these positions he was ordered to assume them by the Manchurian authorities to organize and unite the railways.

18,798 From March 1932 to September 1934 he was with the Manchurian Concordia Society, organizing and establishing it. In September 1937 he became an official of Manchukuo, serving as consular of the Mukden Government and Vice-Governor of Mutankiang. Since September 1938 he was engaged in agriculture near Mukden, serving as inspector of the Manchurian Forestry Company. In May 1945 he returned to Japan. Until 1926 the witness was principally engaged with the Manchuria Railway in work with port facilities.

18,799 When the witness first went to Manchuria to Dairen just following the first war various enterprises were expanding and there was considerable prosperity in Manchuria. Most impressive was the large number of ships running between North China and Manchuria, loaded with immigrants. Not all the passengers were laborers, but a large number were women and children. All were very poor. When they arrived at Dairen they were without money. \* Usually they had heard of relatives prospering as farmers in the interior of Manchuria.

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18,808 When asked about the treatment accorded to the Japanese and Koreans residing outside the railroad zone at the time, the witness stated there were many Koreans engaged in agriculture outside the zone and many Japanese living outside engaged in forestry and mining.

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18,809

Before this there were some problems which had to be settled, such as the question of land leases. Prior to 1928 considerable enterprises were jointly operated. In 1930 the Northeastern Government promulgated a law to regain national land. The policy was that any person selling land or houses or forest land to Japanese or Koreans would be punished by death.

18,813

The witness stated that at the time of the outbreak of the Mukden incident he was at his home in Dairen. He learned of the occurrence of the incident on the morning of September 18 through newspaper extras. He immediately went to his office with the Manchurian Railway and investigated the various railway telegraphic reports from the outlying districts. Following the incident he was active as a member of the Youth Federation of Manchuria. \* He had been requested to report to Mukden by cable from this Federation and went there after receiving permission from the railway company.

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18,815

\* When he arrived in Mukden he was met by KOYAMA who explained the purport of what had occurred and the business to be accomplished.

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Following the outbreak, security and order in Mukden had completely stopped. Officials in Mukden were making all attempts to restore peace and order. However, the Mukden-Haicheng Railway was out of operation and there were many difficulties in supplying food to the city. He was asked that since he was connected with the railways what methods would he suggest to restore the railway to operation. \* This railway was the route for supplying food to Mukden. It was vital that the operation be continued without interruption. The witness replied that since the railway was originally jointly operated with the Chinese, the present critical situation should not be solved only through the efforts of the South Manchuria Railway or the Municipal Government. The railway was operated as a corporation because one of the directors had fled when the incident had arisen.

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The witness offered the opinion that the stockholders, employees, and railroad guards should jointly run and operate the railroad autonomously. He went with KOYAMA to the municipal offices where he stated his views to

Page .

Colonel DOHIHARA, the Mayor. He then went to the headquarters of the Kwantung Army and met ITAGAKI and stressed the point that the restoration of the railway should be accomplished autonomously and that the work should be done without interference from Manchuria or Japan. ITAGAKI said he had no objection to the autonomous operation of the railway by the Manchurians and the witness received his approval. As a result DOHIHARA adopted the witness' opinion.

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The task was entrusted to a committee for maintaining peace and order. \* DOHIHARA introduced him to two members of the committee, Chao Shin Po and Ting Chin Shin, both of whom spoke fluent Japanese. The summoning of representatives of stockholders and notice to the employees was entrusted to these two. On October 2nd a committee was formed for preserving order on the railway. The witness was asked by Ting to become his secretary since he was an expert on railways. He was thus able to know the plans for restoring the railway.

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First of all, the witness in the name of Ting, as Chairman, informed all employees of the railway that the railway was a public enterprise and that a stoppage could not be allowed \* because it would be unfavorable to society in general. Within five days all employees registered approval and consent for the plan and stockholders also participated.

18,822

The witness stated he did not know Yuan Chen-to previously, but while in a hospital a member of his company told him that Yuan Chen-to was chief of a hospital in Kirin and was quite concerned over the outbreak of the incident and desired to participate in a movement for establishing Manchukuo.

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The witness introduced Yuan Chen-to to KANAI, an advisor to the Provincial Government of Mukden. As chief of the secretariat he assisted Tsang Shih-i in planning the independence movement and continued his work despite attacks by guerrillas. Yuan Chen-to joined the movement to release the thirty million Manchurians from the oppressive rule of the military chieftains and to establish a democratic nation.

Page

18,824 He informed them of the details, which they did not know concretely. \* Yuan Chen-to stated that Manchuria was a country with limitless natural resources. If peace could be maintained and industry begun, Manchuria could become an industrial nation, but the military chiefs desired to continue a struggle with China. To raise funds they overtaxed the people and exploited them, and to gain manpower they forcefully drafted the people.

18,825 In accordance with the policy of the civilians to restore land and bring stability, and since the military regime had fallen, the people, under the leadership of pioneers, should seek to establish a democratic country and escape from the evils of the former regime. \* Before the outbreak of the incident there was this civilian faction that the witness had mentioned. It had been organized in 1926 under Wang Hung-chiang and was the so-called civilian faction. He could state the names of those he had associated with in this faction. For example, Yu Chung-han, at one time custodian for Chang Tso-lin. He was at one time the general manager of the iron mines at Anshan. He later, despite illness, \* assumed the task of guiding the autonomous movement. Another was Yu Cheng-yuan.

18,826  
18,827 The civil faction was not exactly an organized party but was a means of organizing the civilian political leaders. \* In addition he was associated with Yu Chih-shan and Han Yun-chieh and Chao Hsin-po. They always told him that they advocated the stoppage of warfare, that there be rational cooperation between China and Japan, and an attempt to develop the resources of Manchuria. \* They also advocated democracy.

18,828  
18,829 At that time the leader was Wang Yung-Chiang, who was a very influential political leader. In 1920 he was custodian of the Chang Tso-lin Government, and later served as police superintendent and as head of the Finance Bureau. In 1928 when he was retired he was acting governor of the province. Chang Tso-lin regarded him very highly because of his financial ability, which enabled Chang Tso-lin to maintain his military forces.



Page

18,830

After 1928 Wang urged Chang Tso-lin to stop the war and adopt the policy of maintaining the borders and bringing stability. These suggestions were not adopted and Wang stated he could not participate any longer in politics. He retired to Chinchou. This statement was well known in political circles and the witness knew of it from documents and from Wang's son. \* He learned about the interpretation of the phrase, "safeguard the border and bring stability to the peoples" from documents officially announced, and he had also heard the explanation on several occasions from the people previously mentioned.

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18,832

Han Yun-chieh was a member of the civil faction and in 1932 served as acting governor of Heilungkiang Province. The witness was then stationed in Tsitsihar \* as a member of a committee of the Concordia Society for relief of flood sufferers. He always cooperated with Mr. Han Yun-chieh and had become his friend.

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The witness had heard directly and indirectly that Ma Chan-shan was urged to join the Manchukuo government by Han. Ma Chan-shan at the time was in a battle \* near Ta shing, defending Tsitsihar, but was forced to retire toward Hailun. At that time Mr. Han took over the job as acting governor. In the meantime a cavalry regiment under Wu Sung-lin, a subordinate of Ma Chan-shan, knowing of the lack of Japanese troops defending Tsitsihar planned to recapture the city and had begun to move south. Learning of this Mr. Han escaped from Tsitsihar and went to Hailun. Han told Ma Chan-shan that Ma Chan-shan had stated it was his desire to save the people by stopping war, yet Han had heard that Ma's troops had begun action in Tsitsihar. Han asked him whether it was Ma's orders to do so. \* Ma replied that he was not informed and Han received Ma's assurance that he had no intention of waging war and had issued no orders to his troops to conduct war and did not know of the action and would stop it immediately.

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Han was overjoyed and went to the next room where he met the district chief of Faichuan. This friend told Han not to leave the room since he had heard some of the young officers speak of Han and of their determination to shoot him,\* by a machine gun unit near the station of Hailun.

Page

This friend explained the situation to Ma who was very angry and summoned his officers and gave an escort to Han to Harbin.

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Near Mukden the persons participating in the movement were practically all members of the civil faction, which was active mostly near Mukden. There was some activity in Kirin by the Tsuang-she tang Party and by Manchurian banner troops. He knew of the independence movement participated in by the Manchurian group with the Kirin group since he had once worked with the members of the Kirin faction in regard to the independence movement. This faction \* advocated the independence of Manchuria with Pu-Yi as Emperor. At the time of the independence movement there was a delicate opposition of views. The civil faction of Mukden advocated a democratic state and in Kirin and Mongolia the civil faction were watching with keen interest the movement to restore Imperial rule. Each group watched each other.

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18,838

At one time Yuan Chen-to told the witness about the existence of a secret society in Kirin and showed him its rules and regulations. The purport of the regulations was to restore the Chin Dynasty \* and to effect independence of Manchurian tribes and Mongolians from the Han race. The rules were very brief, about 20 articles. Yuan Chen-to explained that Hsi-hsia was the prime figure of the movement.

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At that time the witness was a member of the Manchuria Railway and the company had strict regulations prohibiting any of its employees \* from participating in the incident without specific orders of the company. They were to be severely punished if they violated the rule. The Kwantung Army had issued a proclamation prohibiting strictly any political activities by Japanese.

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In March 1932 the new state was established. At that time there were two groups among the persons who had participated in the movement, the civilian faction of Mukden and the Kirin faction. The people were greatly worried that problems would arise between the various races. For example, that the Japanese and Koreans, being natives of a victorious nation, would act in an oppressive way on the native Manchurians. The conclusion was reached that unless the independence movement was united, the maintenance of a so-called democratic

Page

18,841 state was impossible unless they could bring the various races to perfect coordination and cooperation to conform to the spirit of the founding of the state. From October 31 until independence, the witness had discussed the matter with the people he worked with and because they all approved \* it was decided to form the Concordia Party of Manchukuo. Five persons were appointed on a committee to establish this society: Yuan chen to, Yu cheng-yuan, Wada Kei, the witness, and OZAWA, Kaisaku.

18,842 About April 2, 1932 the office was established at the former site of the Northeastern Communication Commission in Mukden and an understanding was sought with the government in Shinking and with the Kwantung Army. The Kwantung Army expressed no particular views on the problem. However, the Shinking government had different views. One of the troubles in China was the existence of both the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist parties. They, therefore, did not wish to establish any political party in Manchuria which would cause trouble. \* The Committee explained the differences in comparison of the Chinese parties. It was decided that a strictly civilian party would be avoided and the government would cooperate and make it a united national party. The name was therefore changed to the Manchukuo Concordia Society, with government members participating.

18,843 The greatest opposition of the party was the Kirin group who advocated monarchial rule and Cheng Hsiao Hsu, who later became prime minister. The platform of the society was to establish a nation based on the principle of cooperation among the nations, based on the Wangtao principle to promote the civil government, the welfare of the people, and industry, \* to destroy communism and eliminate monopoly by capitalists and to seek amicable international relations through a policy of equal opportunity.

18,844 The witness stated that the Yough League of Manchuria had published a book entitled "The Story of the Youth Federation."  
\* The witness stated, when asked about the statement in the Lytton Report that the independence movement was only made possible by the presence of the Japanese troops, that this statement was a difference in opinion. \* The witness stated that the Concordia Society was not one of the acceleration societies sponsored by the Self-Government Guiding Board.

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Page CROSS-EXAMINATION OF YAMAGUCHI  
by Mr. Tavenner

- 18,846 The witness stated he had not read the book called  
18,847 "Manchurian Empire", published by the Concordia Society on  
its Ten-Year Jubilee. \* The witness stated that he could not  
agree that the platform of the Kyo-Wa-Kai as stated in the book,  
to the effect that the Kyo-Wa-Kai had a special mission to  
spread the spirit and ideology of the state throughout the  
world and had to carry on a permanent ideological struggle,  
was correct. The witness stated that from 1928 to 1934 he  
18,850 was connected with the Concordia Society \* and then resigned  
due to differences of opinion. He did not know of its activi-  
18,851 ties since that date. The witness stated \* that the aim of  
the Concordia Society at the time it was established dealt  
mostly with the domestic situation. There was no thought of  
international affairs. He did not know why the society later  
came to adopt the policy read to him.
- 18,852 When asked whether ITAGAKI was a member of the com-  
mittee \* for organizing the society, he stated military offi-  
cers did not participate in the committee for its establishment  
and ITAGAKI was not a member of the committee for organizing  
the society. This he maintained was true, even though the  
official book stated that ITAGAKI, KATAKURA, and others were  
18,853 members of the committee. \* When the Concordia Society was  
established, the Commander of the Kwantung Army was an honorary  
adviser, but the Kwantung Army issued no publications at that  
time about the society, but later there were some.
- 18,854 The witness stated that from its establishment to  
1934 the organization was strictly independent. While the  
understanding of the Kwantung Army was sought at times, the  
society did not work under orders. When it was pointed out  
that KASAGI had testified that the principal object of the  
organization was to help in developing and directing the in-  
dependence movement, the witness said that KASAGI was a public  
official, while the witness was a member of the committee for  
18,855 establishing the society. \* While he would not say that  
KASAGI's statement was a lie, he believed it was incomplete  
in many respects. When it was pointed out that the committee  
first formed consisted of about 120 members, the witness stated  
that the number was only five. He did not know what committee  
had 120 members.

Page

18,856

The witness stated that the Concordia Society and the Self-Government Guiding Board were two entirely different organizations. While he had some relations with the Guiding Board when it was established, his later knowledge was only indirect. The Guiding Board was dissolved after the Concordia Society was formed, and there was, therefore, no connection or relation between the two. The Society was established after the Guiding Board was dissolved. \* The Guiding Board existed only until the establishment of the government, and the view was taken that it was actually dissolved on March 1, 1932.

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\* The Guiding Board had been organized in November 1931. While he had no direct relation to the Guiding Board in its preparatory stage, several points occurred in connection with communications, and the witness was consulted on one or two occasions. After the preparatory work was completed, a committee for establishing the board was set up and the witness had no relation whatsoever.

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With respect to the Concordia Society, General HONJO was the honorary adviser. \* With each change of the commander-in-charge, the new commander became the honorary adviser. However, General MUTO, when commander, did not accept. Following MUTO, the witness was not in a position of responsibility in the Concordia Society. He could not say definitely, but he recalled that the successive commander would become honorary adviser.

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18,861

On July 25, 1932, the Concordia Society was started. \* The witness was a member of the Concordia Society from April 1932 to September 1934. From 1928 to 1932 he was connected with the Youth Federation of Manchuria. The witness stated he was not familiar with the action of the Japanese Cabinet on March 1, 1932 with regard to the seizure of military power in Manchuria. \* The witness stated it was not the intent of the society, as set forth in the Cabinet decision,

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that with respect to Japanese seizure of real military power they should try to establish accomplished status according to the rights of subjugating bandits and the policy of protecting Empire subjects. The witness stated he had not heard of an order from the Cabinet that they should let Manchukuo appoint a small number of Japanese as officials at first, to be gradually enlarged later. \* He did not believe that the direction of the Cabinet Council was carried out in this respect.

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Page

18,870

The witness admitted that after the Mukden incident General Tsang Shih-i refused to take any part in establishing an independent government in Manchuria. He did not know that Tsang \* had been arrested for this refusal. He had never heard that when he became governor of Fengtien he had first to be released from confinement. After the Lytton Report had been read to him he stated that he had been in Mukden from October 1st but had never heard that Tsang was arrested or refused to issue an independence declaration. He did not know that after Tsang had refused to help Yuan Chin-kai was approached, as stated in the Lytton Report.

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18,872

The purpose of his visit on September 29, 1931 to Colonel DOHIHARA was the restoration of the Mukden-Chaoyangchen Railway. The South Manchurian Railway was being operated under the terms of a treaty. However, the witness was not referring to the South Manchurian Railway

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\* but to a separate Mukden-Hailungcheng Railway, which was not a branch of the Manchurian Railway. At the time of the incident, and because of it, the railway was in a state of suspension. Previously it had been operated by its own

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officers and employees. \* No one had suggested that the South Manchurian Railway Company should undertake the restoration of the other company. In the past there had been a dispute about this railway because it had been established in violation of treaty provisions. There was a disputed issue and the one regime had been destroyed, and there was danger

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\* that the other regime would carry out the work uni-laterally and the witness felt that this would give rise to new disputes.

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DOHIHARA did not send for him and he did not go to DOHIHARA because he knew that the latter was interested in a Communist Movement. DOHIHARA entrusted the work of restoration to a peace preservation committee \* on October 2, 1931. DOHIHARA was the Mayor, and in that capacity participated in and supervised the committee. ITAGAKI only expressed his opinion, but did not participate in the plan. This was a model for one autonomous restoration, but he would not necessarily say that it was the origin of the plan for autonomous movements.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE RECORD  
(March 21, 1947)  
DEFENSE - Division II - Manchuria  
YAMAGUCHI - Redirect

Page 2790

Page

REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF YAMAGUCHI  
by Mr. Ohara

18,877

The Mukden Chaoyangchen Railway was a Chinese railway. ITAGAKI approved the plan that autonomous restoration should be carried out by the company and that the Army would

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not obstruct the plan. \* His purpose in establishing the committee was to restore the railway under the Chinese Nationalist flag. The reasons for hastening restoration were the dire need of Mukden for food supplies and the danger of

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political confusion. \* The witness stated that he believed even without the Manchurian incident the independence revolution in Manchuria was inevitable.

Yamaguchi, Juji

Not listed in Sapey's  
Mar 11, Dec.

In Invert Div.

April 29, 1934 6<sup>th</sup> Order of the Rising  
Sun with single ray, for Manchuria  
incident by War Ministry.



REPORT BY: Lt. John A. Curtis  
12 March 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: YAMAGUCHI, Juji

File 229, ser 35: Active member of Manchu Seinen Remmei, became a member of the Kyowa Kai when it was organized. This organization came into existence when the self-government guidance board was dissolved.

File 61, ser 72:

File 383, ser 69: All contain same.

No further information concerning the above is contained in the files of IPS.

COPIES: 3 File  
1 Mr. Newbill

CURRICULUM VITAE

YAMAGUCHI, Juji

August 1887

Chiba Prefecture

Member of South Manchuria Railway Co.

Councillor of General Section of the General State Department,  
Manchukuo.

Vice-Chief of the FU-TAN-CHIANG Province

Vice-Chief of Head Office KYOWAKAI

Director of KYOWA Proprietary Co.

Inspector of Manchow Forestry Co.

**YAMAGUCHI, Juji**

**Request by: ITAGAKI, OKAWA, MINAMI, UMEZU, HOSHINO**

**Address: No. 1,007, Shimoshinden, Negatamura,  
Kimitsu-gun, Chiba, Japan.**

**Facts to be proved - He was one of those who founded  
the Kyowakai (concordia society) and will be able to testify  
as to the attitude of the public to the new state.**

**Relevancy - The nature of the Kyowakai and the aims and  
activities of the new state.**