

Matsukuma Query

(11)

(104)



AFFIDAVIT OF  
MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, having been sworn to speak the truth conscientiously, adding nothing and concealing nothing, testified as follows:

My name is MATSUKUMA, Kichiro. I am married and have two children and live at Shibaseki, Kamegawa-Machi, Beppu, Kyushu. At present I am a clerk with the ARIMA Institute of Osaka and also connected with the NIHON SUISAN RIKEN (Japan Marine Products Research Institute), doing research work on tuberculosis, including making liver pills at Kurume Factory. I have a degree from Waseda and also studied German at night school.

I first went to China in 1916 as a student. My second visit was in 1921 for six months as a representative of the Foreign Ministry at the Shangtung Conference which was held as a result of the Washington Conference. I was just a clerk and my main work was concerned with eliminating all the Japanese Postoffices in China. This was my first experience and connection with the Foreign Ministry. I had no previous connection with any other governmental agency.

I returned to Japan in 1921 and served in the Foreign Office Trades Bureau until April 1925 when I became secretary to the Consulate at Hamburg, Germany, and later became Vice-Consul. I returned to Japan after September 1930 and became secretary to KIMURA, Eiichi, a director of the South Manchurian Railway.

KIMURA was former minister to Czecho-Slovakia and had also served in Washington. He severed his relations with the Foreign Ministry to become a director of the South Manchurian Railway. As such he had a lot to do with the Japanese Government. I think it was the Foreign Ministry that requested KIMURA to become a director of the Railway.

When I was in Europe, KIMURA asked me to go with him to Manchuria. On my return to Japan, KIMURA said I was going to Manchuria with him. I sent my resignation to the Foreign Ministry and accepted the position. I was KIMURA's general secretary and my duties were to look after his correspondence, keep files, etc. including some of his personal affairs.

All of the directors of the South Manchurian Railway were appointed or at least nominated by the Japanese Government. Although the Foreign Ministry was not represented in the Railway, the government had a lot of control and I think owned about one-half of the entire stock. There were also individual stockholders. I was an outright employee of the company. I held this position until the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident in September, 1931 when KIMURA's job came to an end. The Japanese Army branded him as a traitor and he lost his position with the Railway and returned to Tokyo. I also resigned but my resignation was not accepted on the grounds that it would make matters worse for KIMURA.

I was requested to remain and was assigned to the General Affairs Section of the Railway under a man named YAMASAKI who later became president of the railway. I don't think the Foreign Office had anything to do with the request for me to stay in China. KIMURA was disliked by the military who said he cooperated with the Foreign Office without the consent of the army. I, being his secretary, was also regarded as a traitor. The trouble arose from the fact that KIMURA used the ROMAJI Code System for messages to the Foreign Office and the army, who never used ROMAJI held that this was a special code of KIMURA's and the Foreign Office. I do not know whether KIMURA had any arrangements with the Foreign Office to give them any

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information. Because of his long connection with the Foreign Office and the fact that the Vice-Minister was a personal friend of his, he used to send frequent messages. All official messages went through the Embassy. The Foreign Office and the Army were not in accord and I think the Foreign Office was trying to get information from some of its former employees.

YAMASAKI and the General Affairs Section did odd jobs for the directors, clerical work, receptions etc. This continued until April, 1933. In April 1933 the Steel Works at Anshan, a subsidiary of the South Manchurian Railway Company became an independent company and was called the SHOWA Steel Works. I transferred to this company.

GODO, Takuo, a former director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. was head man of the Anshan Steel Works. He was a friend of KIMURA's and offered me a job, knowing of my plight. He later became Minister of Commerce and Industry. He was a navy man with the rank of Vice-Admiral.

The SHOWA STEEL CO. made pig iron, rails and other steel construction items. As I understand it, one-half of the shares were owned by the Manchurian Government and the other half by the South Manchurian Heavy Industry Co. whose president was AYUKAWA, Gisuke. I was with the General Affairs Section from 1934 to 1937 and among other things used to arrange receptions for visiting parties, including government officials whose departments were concerned with steel or iron and sent men to inspect our company. I think the greatest part of the products of this company went to the army and navy.

In June 1937 I entered the administrative section of the Plants and Factories Branch where I handled office work and personnel, including labor. In July of the same year I became chief of the Labor Section of the firm and served in that capacity up to July 1941. My duties were to supply, control and regulate labor which had to do with their living quarters, sanitation, hospitals and deaths etc.

Laborers came from Tientsin, Manchuria and the North China Area. We used to send former employees back to their respective areas and they would bring back as many of their friends as they could. The head office of the company was at Anshan, near Mukden in Manchuria. We did not get employees through the Manchurian Labor Association. I heard that there was an organ known as the KYOWAKAI which recruited volunteer labor on a quota basis from various provinces and districts. This was a "free labor" service for the country - something like the German Youth Service Groups they had in Germany where all the men had to serve a certain length of time and had to serve the country free. The KYOWAKAI was established by the Manchurian Government and of course the Japanese Government had something to do with it. There were many Japanese officials within the Manchurian Government.

In July 1941 I became director of the Manchurian Labor Association, with offices at Mukden. Of course I represented the South Manchurian Heavy Industries. I don't know how I came to be appointed except that as labor chief of the SHOWA Works, which was partly owned by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, I would be the logical man.

The Manchurian Labor Association worked with the Manchurian Government, the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries. I did not resign from the SHOWA Steel Co. they transferred me to the South Manchurian Heavy Industries and gave me a legal leave of absence for two years. At that time most of the industries in Manchuria were controlled or affiliated with the South Manchurian Railway. The South Manchurian Heavy Industries was under the joint sponsorship of the Manchurian and Japanese Governments. The SHOWA Steel Works and the Coal and Metal Mines were under its control. The directors of these concerns were mostly Japanese.

I don't know the actual relationship but it is a fact that the Japanese Government had a lot of influence. I recall there was a shortage



of funds. A new company was to be formed under the name of the South Manchurian Heavy Industries. AYUKAWA, a big industrialist in Japan was chosen as head of this new enterprise because he had made studies in America and had lots of American friends.

The head of the Manchurian Labor Association was a man named KONDO whose first name I cannot recall. In October 1941 this organization was reorganized and became known as the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI. I became administrative director of this association for the Mukden Area District. My duties were the control and guidance of labor. The function of this association was similar to the former set-up and its primary purpose was to control and regulate all labor in Manchuria, including salaries, movement and looking after their welfare.

This Association did not procure labor itself but aided the various industries and firms needing labor by giving them information as to the areas having available labor, and what kind of groups would be most suitable for particular jobs. The head office of the ROMU KOKOKU KAI was at Changchung Province. They had a provincial office in the Mukden District and I was director for the Mukden Provincial District only. This Association facilitated the recruiting and procurement but did not actually engage in it. The various companies concerned sent old-timers to recruit their friends in their home areas - although there were professional procurers. Other work our company did was to regulate and control the advanced payments they made when they procured these laborers and shipments concerning laborers. The individual companies concerned actually made the payments. I left the ROMU KOKOKU KAI in June 1943 and went to the North China Labor Association in July 1943.

The North China Labor Association was formed some time in 1941. It had various connections with the Manchurian Labor Association because at that time laborers were shipped into Manchuria. The set-up was that one of the directors of the North China Labor Association would come from Manchuria. Therefore, I replaced my predecessor OBAYASHI, Takumi whose two year term with the North China Labor Association had expired. OBAYASHI returned to Manchuria and was the director of the Changchung Area ROMU KOKOKU KAI for a while. The North China Government and the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI mutually selected me because I was appointed by the president of the latter company, UMENO, Minoru.

I reported to CHAO-CHI who was president of the North China Labor Association. There were three directors under CHAO-CHI and they all had separate work to perform. The Japanese Embassy at Peiping set the rules and regulations of the Association. All matters in relation to labor which concerned the Japanese Government came and went through the Embassy. When I first went there, the first group of experimental laborers were in the process of being shipped to Japan so the decision to ship Chinese labor to Japan was actually made before I got to North China. I first learned of it after I reached Peiping. I do not know who made the decision but this is what I heard:

In December 1942 there was a commission from Japan which came to China to study the possibility of using Chinese labor in Japan. I think they stayed in North China until March 1943. They decided to import a trial group to work in Japan. Accordingly in April 1943, some fifteen or twenty Chinese group leaders were despatched to Japan to study the conditions under which they had to work in Niigata Prefecture. They came back and reported that conditions were all right and they would take their respective groups and go to Japan. I also understand that the experimental groups that went to Japan were mostly regular employees of the North China Transportation Co. (railway transportation), and were experienced in transportation and stevedore work. Of course I think they did recruit other inexperienced Chinese also but at least the leaders and the main group of these laborers were experienced men. In the fall these groups left for Japan to work as stevedores and another group left later for Japan to work in the mines of Kyushu.



My duties with the North China Labor Association were the mobilization, acceptance, control, guidance and aid of the laborers. I also had the planning and transportation part of it. We were having a hard time procuring labor. This is when the North China Labor Association did actually aid in the mobilization of labor and we made a miserable failure of it. I was in charge of recruiting labor and the records were with my section.

The reason I was sent to the North China Area originally was with the idea of supplying labor to Manchuria but after I joined the North China Labor Association it was supplying labor to all areas.

The North China Transportation Shipping Co. was financed by the North China Development Association. This representative of the Transportation Company conferred with me as to the number of laborers, their wages, conditions of shipment, and about the contract which was for one year. This first trial shipment was between the North China Transportation Co. and the shipping concern in Japan. The North China Labor Association was not connected with the trial shipment.

Later when it was decided to ship laborers in large quantities, the North China Labor Association made the contracts. All orders and directions concerning Japan and China came through the GEA Ministry via the Japanese Embassy at Peiping.

The first trial shipment to Japan consisted of about 300 stevedores. That was right after I arrived in Peiping so it was around the beginning of autumn, 1943. Those who went to the coal mines were sent after the shipment of stevedores and there were two shipments of these. Both were between two and three hundred.

The Minister of the Japanese Embassy at Peking was SHIOZAWA, Kiyonobu an ex-Lt. General. In the fall of 1944 KUSUMOTO, Sanetaka replaced SHIOZAWA. This man was also an ex-Lt. General of the Army. There were no representatives of the Transportation or Commerce Ministries in Peiping, but I remember representatives coming to Peiping at intervals. Some of them called on the North China Labor Association to talk on Chinese labor matters. One Transportation Ministry representative was called KABA. KABA and I talked mostly on transportation problems. What he wanted was a good selected group of coolies and what I wanted was better sea transportation facilities. He was one of the administrative officers in the Transportation Ministry.

The first shipment of Chinese labor I despatched to Japan was in late 1944, in November. After the trial groups of Chinese laborers proved a success we were instructed from the Embassy to recruit Chinese labor for export to Japan. We made plans and specifications for the contract as to food, housing, recreation, etc. and drew up various forms. We then requested each contractor or industry that was going to import and use these Chinese laborers to send a cadre to China for orientation. They stayed from two to four months learning Chinese customs and habits on the spot. These men studied together with the laborers. They also went back to Japan with the shipment. Contracts were signed between the North China Labor Association and the company or contractor who was to use the labor. The man at the Embassy who took care of the labor problem was UCHIDA, Seitaro one of the embassy secretaries. UCHIDA was chief of the Labor Section. Under him at first was MIZUSHIMA who was later replaced by KASHIWABARA handling labor matters only.

I said that I made the arrangements about what food the laborers would get. That was actually decided by the Planning Board in 1942 when they first decided to import coolies on an experimental basis. The government had certain rules and regulations setting the amount of food each laborer was to receive, but it was insufficient for hard labor and we demanded a revision and had our contracts made so that each laborer would get 30 kilos per month. The government supplied only 22 kilos per person and the other 8 kilos the contractor concerned had to supply, making a total of 30 kilos.



At the time, being in China, I thought that was taken care of but later when I returned and saw conditions in Japan they were having a hard time trying to produce the extra 8 kilos. I understand that in some cases the contractors were able to furnish all or part of it. In other instances I believe the people using the laborers bought extra food in the black market to furnish part of the deficit.

The laborers were paid five yen a day. I don't know how often but I think out of this five yen, three were deposited in the bank and the laborers themselves were paid two yen a day on pay day. Also, they received two yen a day for the three months of training. Full pay started after they arrived in Japan. The contract stated that a certain percentage of the pay would be held on deposit and would be paid on the termination of the laborers' contracts or when they returned home. Our plan was to have each laborer take home with him 1500 yen when he arrived in China.

The Coolies did not have any personal contract at all. The contract was between the employing company and the North China Labor Association. We had liaison men in the various camps. In their reports that I looked over, it stated that most of the terms of the contract were being carried out properly.

As for recruiting when we received instructions from the Embassy the first thing we did was to despatch our men to various districts and provinces together with the cadre group from Japan who were to work with the laborers and we recruited Chinese coolies - (1) through professional labor coolie dealers. They advertised the conditions and kind of work the coolies were going to do and where they were going and in these instances the laborers were mostly volunteers. (2) We established training camps to instruct and train Chinese POWS who were with the Japanese Army. After they were trained by our men, they were shipped to Japan.

Later on, when it was hard to procure labor coolies were procured by hi-jacking them and I know that was a fact. When the quota system was established a lot of these people were forced to go to Japan, including prisoners. I know that these laborers seized by force were vagrants and unemployed, on the streets and in the parks, prisoners serving terms for petty offenses - anybody that had been picked up by the police and was being held for some offense, drunkards who were roaming around the streets. They were picked indiscriminately, regardless of their occupation. There were farmers, small merchants and even schoolteachers. They came from various provinces. They had to meet a quota. The quota was set by the Japanese Embassy in Peking. I do not know if it was previously set in Japan or not. We did our best to enforce and fill the quota - although when we filled it what we wanted to do was to please everybody. We shipped laborers to Japan regardless of their physical condition and regardless of what diseases they had. There were a lot of skin diseases in China and in many instances we had to include those with skin diseases whom the doctors thought could be cured on the way or after arriving in Japan. We had doctors to make physical examination of all the laborers.

They also had immunization shots before they were shipped to Japan. There were a lot of complaints in Japan concerning the Physical Condition and sickness of the laborers. Eventually labor became so scarce in Japan that they did not care about physical condition.

In China, training centers were established within the Army POW compound. The men were trained for heavy duty work. They took exercises and did practical work such as shovelling and carrying heavy loads. Basic Japanese was taught and the laborers had orientation on labor and conditions in Japan. We also trained them how to conduct themselves as groups while working. These training centers were established under the direction of the North China Labor Association but I was not in charge of them. I was, as director of the North China Labor Association and in charge of labor mobilization, connected with



all matters concerning labor but the actual supervision was done by Chinese and Japanese who worked under me. The rules and regulations for labor training were drawn up by the Labor Control Section of the NCLA with the approval of the directors. Since there were three directors, the president was the responsible man. At first that was CHAO-CHI. Later it was CHI SOBOKU. The Chinese were figureheads since this was Japanese occupied territory and orders regarding labor shipments always came from Japan through the Embassy. As director I was responsible for the approval of some of the programs that we carried out in these training camps. This program started around October 1944 and lasted until about April 1945.

Each coolie was to train for three months but because of shipping complications some stayed only one month and others stayed from four to six months. As I recall they were not paid during that time. Some of them did actual labor as part of the training. They lived under guard in former POW camps. There were no civilians in these training camps. Elsewhere we had a large assembly of camp centers in major provinces and from there they were shipped directly to the ports.

Trainees in army camps had Japanese Army rations. In the case of POWS those who did not join the labor groups to come to Japan remained in the Army POW Camps as army prisoners. Since labor was short and there were lots of POWS doing nothing, the decision was made to use them as part of the coolies for shipment to Japan. Procurement started with recruiting laborers through labor agencies. But they could not recruit enough so they turned to the Army POWS and still there were not enough to fulfill the quota for Japan was demanding so they turned to forceful means ...shanghaiing people off the streets and from country villages. I visited some of these training camps that were located in Chinanfu and Shihmen. I visited only two camps.

Chinanfu was in the Shantung Province and the other in Hopei Province. They were guarded by Japanese soldiers. Although guarded by soldiers the management and part of the training was done by men of our association.

A great number of the deaths in the training camps were the result of stomach disease - with the lower body swelling up something like beri beri and when the swelling reaches the stomach they die. This sickness is very common in China and it is from malnutrition.

Handwritten notes in Chinese characters, including a circular stamp at the bottom.



The Army had jurisdiction over all these so-called POWs. We supervised only the training program at these camps. In the first shipment to Japan in October 1944 about 50% were ex-soldiers and about 50% civilians. They sailed from Taku, near Tsingtsin. There were about 300. The first shipment was on a coal carrier transporting coal. The weather was cold and the laborers were shipped in the hold under covered hatches. During warmer weather they stayed on deck. During winter months they all went into the holds. The coolies' quarters were directly on top of the coal. I was in charge of the shipping.

With the first shipment there was a medical doctor who had a good store of medical supplies. As to sanitary conditions we had pans brought in to dispose of the waste. There was a medical man with every group we sent. There was various equipment, such as large pans for boiling water and other cooking equipment, which they could carry along to their camps in Japan. This was the only facility for washing and bathing en route. There was one cook for every twenty-five men. The average tonnage of the ships was from 1500 to 6000 tons. The average length of the voyage was usually five days but according to records I learned that on the longest voyage they had engine trouble - they got off their course and were twenty days at sea. Normally they loaded about a week or ten days rations for the sea trip. There were some instances when the length of the voyage lasted more than ten days. On these trips laborers were short of food and suffered very much. I did not hear any complaints about water shortage except on the overdue voyage mentioned above. On that trip the water and food shortage was very bad and the coolies had a lot of trouble with the people in charge of the shipment. The death rate at sea was on the average of about two or three per trip.

Normally laborers waited at seaports from two days to a week. Shipping schedules were a hard problem, and because of this often they were delayed as much as two or three weeks.

The billets at the port of Taku were old warehouses fixed to be used as barracks. In some instances when there were laborers for a couple of shipments at the same time, they were rather crowded. The Chinese used the river water which ran along side the barracks, and as a rule did not use the latrines at all times so we had complaints about the place being filthy.

When I visited Taku, I saw latrines and places where water could be boiled. A dispensary was set up within the compound. I do not remember the details of how many deaths there were in each shipment, but believe the total number at the Chinese ports of embarkation was about 300. Most of the deaths were from stomach trouble and pneumonia. I think that some died from malnutrition. At that time the food situation in China was bad. As a result the food did not suit the coolies and they would not take it. Also during later stages some of the laborers brought in were under-nourished, and eating unaccustomed food on arrival caused upsets and this led to their deaths. Toward the end of the recruiting, the physical examinations were not properly enforced.

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In May 1944, I came to Japan to attend a conference. At the conference, the Army, Navy, Munitions, Home Ministry, GEA Ministry, Welfare and about all the Ministries of Japan were represented by section chiefs or vice-chiefs. Mr. AICHI headed the section we reported to. The gist of the conference was (1) the best way to use Chinese coolies; (2) food and clothing; (3) Government representatives asked for fit coolies and wanted lots of them; (4) we asked for good treatment of the laborers and more ships. The conference lasted about a half day. It was called by the GEA Ministry. This was just a general discussion and ended in an agreement to work together. Each Ministry would do its best to do its part and we promised we would do our best in China. I seem to recall a heated discussion among the sections as to who would get the laborers first, but I do not remember anything on quotas.

杉原 武彦   
MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

杉原 武彦

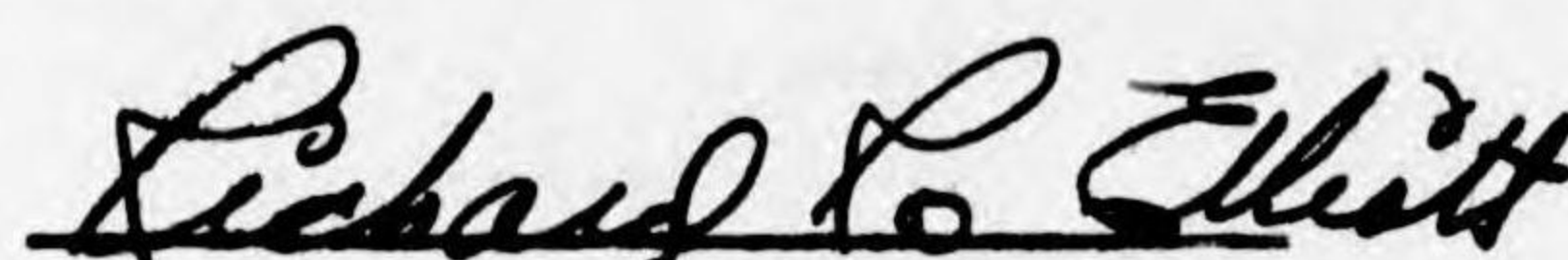


ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)  
CITY OF TOKYO, JAPAN ) SS

I, MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have had translated to me by Hiroshi MATSUDA the foregoing transcription of my affidavit and the same is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

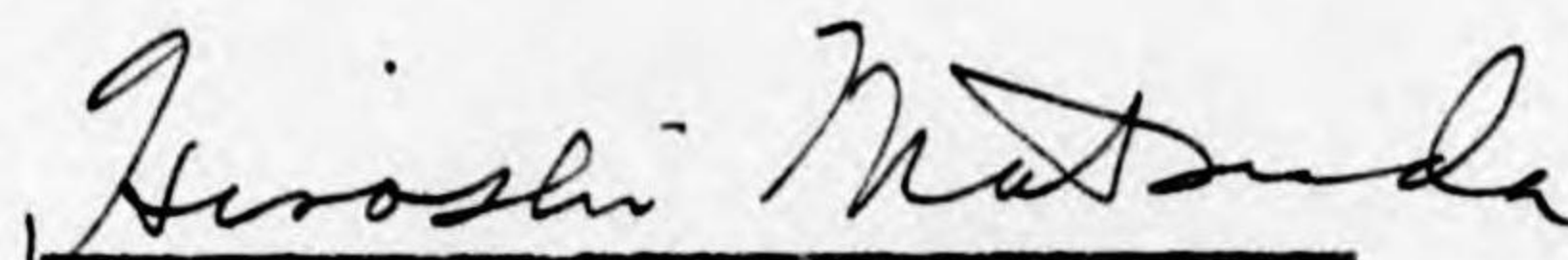
  
Kichiro MATSUKUMA 

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1948.




ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)  
CITY OF TOKYO, JAPAN ) SS

I, Hiroshi MATSUDA, being of lawful age, and being duly sworn upon oath, state that I have truly translated the foregoing deposition to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

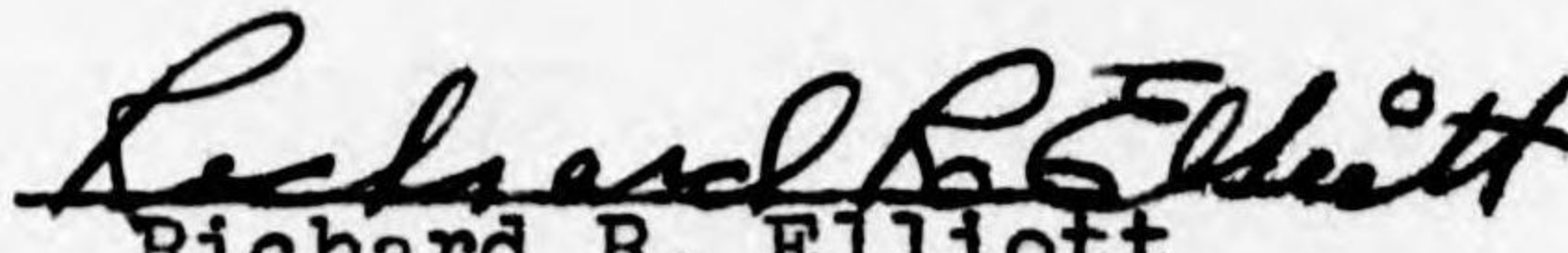
  
Hiroshi MATSUDA  
Interpreter

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 1948.

  
Richard R. Elliott  
Legal Section, SCAP

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Richard R. Elliott, Legal Section, SCAP, certify that on 30 July 1948, personally appeared before me MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, and gave the foregoing affidavit; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the aforesaid interpreter, Hiroshi MATSUDA, translated the same to the said MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, who thereupon affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

  
Richard R. Elliott  
Legal Section, SCAP

City of Tokyo, Japan  
30 July 1948



INTERROGATION OF

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter : Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Miss D. Braun  
Place : Room 386, War Ministry Building,  
Tokyo, Japan.  
Date and Time: July 8, 1948, 1030 hours.

Mr. MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, after having been duly sworn to speak the truth conscientiously, adding nothing and concealing nothing, testified as follows:

- Q What is your full name and address?  
A MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, Shibaseki, Kamegawa-Machi, Beppu, Kyushu.
- Q Are you married?  
A Yes.
- Q Any children?  
A Yes, two children, one girl and one boy.
- Q What is your present occupation?  
A I am a company clerk.
- Q What kind of work do you do?  
A I am connected with the ARIMA Institute of Osaka and am doing research work on tuberculosis. I am also connected with the Nihon Suisan Rikin (Japan Marine Products Research Institute) and spend part of my time at the Kurume branch factory making liver pills.
- Q Have you had a medical or pharmaceutical education?  
A No.
- Q How much education have you had?  
A I have a degree from Waseda. I also studied German at night school.
- Q When did you first go to China? Including <sup>Manchuria</sup> China?  
A I first went to China in 1916 while I was a student at Waseda on an excursion trip and spent a month at Tsingtao. My second visit to China was in 1921 when I spent six months as a representative of the Foreign Ministry at the Shangtung Conference.
- Q What was the purpose of this Shangtung Conference?  
A The Shangtung Conference was a conference held as a result of the Washington Conference and I was just a clerk despatched with the Japanese Delegation from the Foreign Office. I stayed there six months because of the clerical work that had to be done during and after the conference. My main work there was in connection with the elimination of all the Japanese Post-offices in the Shangtung Province.
- Q When did you first become associated or connected with the Foreign Ministry?  
A In 1921 after which I immediately went to China.



Q Had you been connected with any other governmental agency before that time?

A No.

Q What did you do when you returned to Japan in 1921 from the Conference?

A I served with the Foreign Office in the Trades Bureau up to 1930. In April, 1930, I became a secretary to the Consulate in Hamburg, Germany. I later became vice-consul and served up to September of the same year. After I returned to Japan in 1930 I was given a job as secretary to Eiichi KIMURA, a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. KIMURA was a former minister to Czecho-Slovakia and he also served in Washington.

Q You say he was a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co?

A Yes, one of the directors.

Q Was that while he was with the Foreign Office?

A I do not know because although this man was connected with the Foreign Ministry all his life, when he was asked to become a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. he had to sever his relations with the Foreign Ministry before he accepted this job. His job with the South Manchurian Railway Co. had a lot to do with the Japanese Government, of course.

Q Who requested KIMURA to become a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co.?

A I think it was the Foreign Ministry.

Q Who requested you to become connected with the South Manchurian Railway Co?

A While I was in Europe, KIMURA requested me to go with him to Manchuria. Then I had a wire from the Foreign Ministry recalling me to Japan. When I came back to Japan KIMURA came to see me again and said that I was going to Manchuria with him. I thought it was a good job and I sent in my resignation to the Foreign Ministry and accepted the position.

Q Was the South Manchurian Railway owned, operated or controlled by the Japanese Government, and operated through the organ of the Foreign Ministry?

A All of the directors of the South Manchurian Railway were appointed by the Japanese Government, or nominated at least. Although there was no organ or man representing the Foreign Ministry in the South Manchurian Railway, it was a fact that the Japanese Government had a lot of control over this railway although it was a company and there were a great many individual stockholders.

Q Didn't the Japanese Government own most of the stock?

A I think the Government owned about half of the entire stock.

Q Were you employed in the Tokyo office of the Manchurian Railway?

A When I returned from Europe it was late in autumn and the arrangements for my going to Manchuria had been more or less completed by KIMURA. Of course after my resignation from the Foreign Office I went to the Tokyo branch office of the South Manchurian Railway and left immediately. I cannot remember making any agreements but it seemed that everything was arranged for me and when I went to Dairen I received my official papers as an employee of the South Manchurian Railway Co.



Q What was the nature of the official papers that you received -  
by whom were they issued?

A It was just an official notification I received after I was  
interviewed at the home office and it just stated that I was  
an employee of the South Manchurian Railway Co, my salary and  
place of employment. It was issued by the president of the  
South Manchurian Railway Co.

Q When you say "home office" do you mean the home office of the  
Manchurian Railway?

A Yes.

Q On what date did you assume your duties as an employee of the  
South Manchurian Railway?

A I do not remember the exact date but I think it was around October  
8, 1930 when I received this official appointment.

Q What were your duties?

A I was general secretary to KIMURA and my duties were to look after  
his correspondence, keep files, etc. including some of his personal  
affairs. KIMURA's work with the South Manchurian Railway was  
mainly in connection with negotiations on railway matters with the  
then Manchurian Government under Chang Hsueh-Liang.

Q At this time did KIMURA have anything to do with procuring labor  
for the Manchurian Railway?

A No, he had no connection with labor problems.

Q How long did you remain in this position?

A Up to September 1931, the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident.  
With the Manchurian Incident, KIMURA's job came to an end.

Q What did KIMURA do then?

A He got into trouble with the Japanese Army and was branded a  
traitor and lost his position with the Manchurian Railway. He  
returned to Tokyo.

Q What did you do?

A I also resigned at the same time KIMURA was ousted but my resigna-  
tion was not accepted and I was transferred to the General Affairs  
Section and served until April 1933.

Q The General Affairs Section of the Railway?


A Yes.

Q To whom did you try to tender your resignation?

A I tendered my resignation to the Chief of the Personnel Section  
of the Railway but he stopped me saying that it would make things  
worse for KIMURA if I resigned also. He said I might as well stay  
with the Railway for a while and that I would be transferred to  
another section.

Q Was that in the form of a request, order or direction?

A After I was confronted with this problem I thought it over and  
made up my mind to stay because I would be out of a job anyway  
and a man by the name of YAMASAKI, who later became president  
of the Railway was to head this General Affairs Section. He  
formerly was with KIMURA's section so naturally I joined his  
section.





Q You did not answer my question. I asked whether you were ordered to stay on or requested to stay on?  
A It was in the form of a request.

Q Didn't you heed that request because you were employed in the Foreign Office and it was in the nature of a direction from the Foreign Office?  
A No, I don't think the Foreign Office had anything to do with the request for me to stay in China.

Q What were your duties in the General Affairs Section?  
A I did practically nothing in the General Affairs Section and the agreement was that I could tag along with YAMAZAKI.

Q Were you there for the purpose of gathering information?  
A No, I had no such connection. We were branded as traitors.

Q Who branded you as a traitor?  
A When the Manchurian Incident started KIMURA did not work together with the army authorities. He was very much disliked by the army who said that he would not cooperate and that he had sent information to the Foreign Office without the consent of the army. I, being his secretary, was also branded as a traitor.

Q What sort of information did KIMURA send to the Foreign Office?  
A The trouble arose from the fact that KIMURA used the ROMANJI Code System to send his messages to the president of the South Manchurian Railway and he also sent messages to the Foreign Office in this code with which he was very familiar. The army made a fuss about this saying they had a special code of their own. The army never used the ROMANJI.

Q Did he send these messages back to the Foreign Office in line with his duty?  
A I actually sent the messages for KIMURA to the Foreign Office but I do not know whether KIMURA had any special connection with the Foreign Office to give them information. Because of his long connection with the Foreign Office and the fact that the Vice-Minister of the Foreign Office was a personal friend of his, he used to send frequent messages. All official messages of course were sent through the Embassy. At that time it seemed the Foreign Office and the Army were not in accord on some matters. I think for this reason the Foreign Office was trying to get information from some of their former employees.

Q When you were in the General Affairs Section of the South Manchurian Railway did you send any messages to the Foreign Office?  
A No, I did not.

Q Did YAMAZAKI <sup>SAKI</sup> ~~YAMAZAKI~~?  
A No, I don't think so.

Q What were YAMAZAKI <sup>SAKI</sup> ~~YAMAZAKI~~'s duties?  
A At that time he was Chief of the General Affairs Section.

Q What were his duties as chief? Did he have any duties or did he sit around and do nothing too?  
A The General Affairs Section did odd jobs for the directors - clerical work, receptions and other miscellaneous work that did not come under other specified sections.



Q You said that you did not do anything in General Affairs Section. What was your official title?

A My title was clerk. There were many others like me and we used to sit in a pool, doing nothing.

Q How long did this continue?

A It continued up to April 1933.

Q Do you mean to say that you spent two years on the payroll doing nothing whatsoever?

A Yes.

Q What payroll were you on, the Government or the Railway payroll?

A The Railway Company payroll.

Q During that time did you correspond with or get in touch with anybody in the Foreign Office or any other governmental agency in Japan, or the Embassy or Consulate offices in Manchuria?

A No.

Q What happened April, 1933?

A The steel works at Anshan, a subsidiary of the South Manchurian Railway Co. became an independent company. It was called the SHOWA Steel Works. In April 1933 I joined this company.

Q During the time that you were in the General Affairs Section of the Railway did you do any travelling around?

A No, I did not make any trips but stayed in Darien all the time.

Q Did you ever contact the Japanese Embassy or Japanese Consul in Darien?

A No, I had no connections with the Foreign Office and I made no contacts with Consulate Offices or the Embassy. There was no consulate or embassy in Darien.

Q Why did you leave the Railway to go with the SHOWA Steel Co.?

A The president of this new SHOWA Steel Co. was GODO, Takao, a former director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. He was the head man of the Anshan Steel Works. He was a friend of KIMURA's and he offered me a position with his new company, knowing of my plight. GODO was in Sugamo Prison but has been released. He later became a Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Q Now?

A No, after that. I think he was in Sugamo for a while.

Q Not GOTO Fumio?

A No, GODO, Takao.

Q Had GODO been affiliated with the Foreign Office before this time?

A No, I do not think so because he was a navy man with the rank of Vice-Admiral.

Q Had <sup>SAKI</sup>YAMAZAKI ever been connected with the Foreign Office or any other governmental branch before he became president of the South Manchurian Railway?

A No, he was a relatively young man and I know that he joined the South Manchurian Railway right after graduating from college.



Q What was the nature of the business of the SHOWA Steel Co.?  
A The SHOWA Steel Co. made pig-iron and steel. They also manufactured rails and other material such as construction steel.

Q Was this organization founded or controlled by the North China Development Co.?  
A The South Manchurian Railway had no control over the SHOWA Steel Co. The way I understood it, one-half of the shares were owned by the Manchurian Government and the other half by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries Co. The president of the South Manchurian Heavy Industries was AYUKAWA, Gisuke.

Q The question was, was it organized or controlled by the North China Development Co.?  
A No, there was no connection between this company and the North China Development Co.

Q How long did you continue with the Steel Co.?  
A I served with that firm up to July 1941.

Q What were your duties with with this company?  
A When I first joined the company in 1933 I was in charge of the temporary constructions of the firm.

Q What do you mean by "temporary constructions" of the company?  
A By temporary construction I mean the section that had to do with the construction and expansion of the company since it went into the steel refining work, whereas formerly they had produced only pig-iron. Then in 1934 I joined the General Affairs Section of the company and had to do with matters concerning all sections of the company.

Q What were your specific duties?  
A By General Affairs Section I mean the clerical section that worked with the directors and did odd jobs for them such as receptions or arranging details as to meetings and other general work connected with the company that did not come under the personnel section etc.

Q What do you mean by "arranged receptions - entertainments or parties for visitors?"  
A Yes, receptions for people who visited our firm, for directors, parties and the like.

Q Did you ever arrange any parties or receptions for any government officials?  
A Yes, there were times when government officials visited the company.

Q What officials were they - from what office?  
A This company was the largest steel company in this part of China and I do not recall exactly from what department of the government these people came, but I know that any department that had anything to do with steel or iron sent their men to inspect our company.

Q Didn't the government take all or most of the company's output?  
A Yes, I think the greater part of the products of this company went to the army and navy since this company and the YAMATO Works in Kyushu were the only two companies that were doing big scale production. I served in this section up to June 1937 when I went into the



A (cont)

Administration Section of the Plants and Factories Branch where I handled office work and personnel.

Q Do you mean labor personnel?

A Yes. And the following month, July, I became Chief of the Labor Section of the firm and served up to July 1941 in that position.

Q What were your duties as director of the Labor Section?

A As director of the Labor Section my duties were first to supply the necessary labor, its control and regulation, which had to do with their living quarters, sanitation, hospitals and deaths etc.

Q How did you go about procuring labor?

A The company had a branch office at Tientsin and at first we got most of our laborers from that area. We sent the old time employees of the company back to their respective districts where they came from and they were usually very successful in bringing back their friends. We also got some laborers from Manchuria. To help Manchurian people we made arrangements with the various districts to supply them with different tools that we used to make, or help them to establish schools, and in living well....things that would be beneficial to the community. In turn these communities would supply their excess manpower. Later on when we needed more laborers we got them from the North China area. We also sent back old time employees of the company that had originally come from North China back to their respective areas and they would bring back as many of their friends as they could.

Q Where was the head office of this company located?

A The head office was at Anshan, near Mukden, in Manchuria.

Q Didn't you utilize the Manchurian Labor Association?

A The Manchurian Labor Association had nothing to do with the procurement of labor. It was just a control organ for labor. We did not get any of our employees through the Manchurian Labor Association.

Q Didn't you really recruit labor by going to these provinces or districts or municipalities and demand that they supply you with so many laborers?

A While I was with the company I do not remember any instances when we had to go to municipalities or townships to demand certain quotas of labor because during my time there it was relatively easy to procure labor. Although toward the latter years we were gradually getting short of personnel. But I do not remember of instances when we had to make demands for labor.

Q What do you mean, you don't remember? Do you mean that you positively did not carry on this practice?

A Yes, while I was with the firm we positively did not resort to that means to get our labor.

Q Do you know whether or not this practice was carried on later, after you left?

A No, I do not know nor did I hear of any instance where this system was used in Manchuria to acquire labor. I have heard that there was an organ known as the KYOWAKAI which went ahead to get volunteer laborers for road building in Manchuria. I understand when they recruited this free labor group to make roads in Manchuria, a quota from various provinces and districts was set up.



Q Did you say "free labor"?

A It was just like volunteer or free service for the country. It was something like the German Youth Service Groups they had in Germany where all young men had to serve a certain length of time. They had to serve the country free.

Q It was the Japanese Government that decided this, was it not?

A It was an organ established by the Manchurian Government. Of course its connections with the Japanese Government would mean that the Japanese Government had something to do with it.

Q Did the Japanese Government actually control the Manchurian Government?

A I don't know if you could call it that, but since there were many Japanese officials within the Manchurian Government, some people say that Manchuria was actually the Japanese government - but it is the way you look at it.

Q You say you remained at this job until 1941?

A Yes.

Q What happened then?

A In July 1941 I was made director of the Manchurian Labor Association and had my office at Mukden. Of course I represented the South Manchurian Heavy Industries.

Q Who appointed you as director of the Manchurian Labor Association?

A I don't know how it actually came about that I was appointed by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, but because of the fact that I was with the Labor Section of the SHOWA Steel works, which was partly owned by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, they must have decided that I would be the logical man. The Manchurian Labor Association was an organ that worked with the Manchurian Government, the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries.

Q Did you resign your post with the SHOWA Steel Co.?

A The agreement was that I could come back to the ~~SHOWA Steel Co.~~ <sup>S. Manchurian Heavy Industries</sup> after the two year term of director had expired. They arranged this by transferring me to the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, and then by giving me a legal absence of two years.

Q Just what was the South Manchurian Heavy Industries?

A At the beginning most of the industries in Manchuria were either controlled or affiliated with the South Manchurian Railway. The South Manchurian Heavy Industries was a company established by the joint sponsorship of the Manchurian and Japanese Governments to take over the heavy industries that were on the South Manchurian Railway. The SHOWA Steel Works and the Coal and Metal Mines were under its control.

Q Were the directors in these two concerns, that is the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, mostly Japanese?

A Yes, the greater part were Japanese. Some were Manchurians.

Q Was not the South Manchurian Heavy Industries the Japanese Governmental Agency or Association? For the purpose of controlling the development of the industry in Manchuria?



- A I do not know what the actual relationship of the Japanese Government was in this company but it is a fact that the Japanese Government had a lot of influence. Looking back I recall that the South Manchurian Railway was having a difficult time because of shortage of funds. A new company was to be formed under the name of the South Manchurian Heavy Industries and the capital of this new firm was to be three billion yen, of which two billion would come from the United States and the other billion from Japan. AYUKAWA who was a big industrialist in Japan was the head of this firm and because of the studies he made in America and because he had a lot of American friends, he was chosen to head this new enterprise. But when the funds from America failed to materialize it was started by Japanese capital only, with AYUKAWA as its head.
- Q Was not the capital for this organization furnished by the Japanese Government?
- A At this time I do not recall who financed this enterprise but I think it was an enterprise that was financed fifty-fifty by the Japanese Government and the Manchurian Government, and where AYUKAWA comes in with his personal interest, I do not know.
- Q Was the Manchurian Labor Association actually a Government organization, or was it not?
- A I don't think that the Manchurian Labor Association could be called an organ of the Manchurian Government because it was an organization financed by the South Manchurian Railway and South Manchurian Heavy Industries and the Manchurian Government jointly.
- Q Well now, again were not the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries associations controlled by the government?
- A Although this Labor Association operated under the rules and regulations of the Manchurian government, I still don't think it could be called an organ of the government because it was established by contributions of the three or four mentioned parties and it was a legal corporation. I would like to add that the appointment of directors for this association was with the approval of the Manchurian Government.
- Q Who was the head of the Manchurian Labor Association?
- A It was a man by the name of KONDO - but I cannot recall his first name.
- Q How were you connected with this association?
- A In October 1941 this organization was reorganized and changed its set-up. It became known as the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI and they had members who paid fees.
- Q What did you do then? Did you have anything to do with this ROMU KOKOKU KAI?
- A I became the administrative director of this association.
- Q As administrative director, what were your duties?
- A I was administrative director for the Mukden Area District of the Association. My duties were the control and guidance of labor in this district.



Q What was the purpose of this corporation?  
A The function of this association was similar to the former set-up and its primary purpose was the control and regulation of labor in Manchuria, salaries, movement, and looking after their welfare.

Q Was one of the functions of the organization to procure labor?  
A The association never did procure labor themselves because we acted in the capacity of aiding the various industries or firms that needed labor by giving them information as to the area in which they had available labor and what kind of a group would be most suitable for their particular jobs.

Q Where did the association have branch offices?  
A The head office of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI was at Changchung. Each province had their own association which was located in the main cities and these provincial associations had various branches set up in various cities and towns. I was not connected with the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI but was administrative director of the Mukden district only.

Q Was that a branch office of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI?  
A Yes, a provincial office.

Q In the first part of this document you have, headed "True Estimates of the work done by North China Labor Association", you say that the Manchuria Labor Association was created around 1938?  
A Yes.

Q Later on in the same paragraph you say the association set up its branch offices in Tientsin and CHINAN and other places in North China as agencies for issuing labor certificates and for recording and transporting laborers.  
A Yes, that is right.

Q You then told me a while ago that the association had nothing to do with the recruiting of labor but merely controlled labor.  
A It was to facilitate and help the recruiting. It does not say the recruiting.

Q How would you translate that - the sentence beginning "The association set up its branch office etc.etc."  
A For the purpose of issuing health certificates and to give aid and help and facilitate the ROMU KOKOKU KAI in the mobilization and shipment.

Q How were the laborers mobilized?  
A The way that they were recruited as I said earlier in the morning was that the various industries or companies concerned sent some of their old-timers to recruit some of their friends in their own home area and there were other Chinese professional procurers that would get the labor for these people and the duty of this Manchurian Labor Association as it states here was aiding these people and telling them what districts to go for certain kinds of labor because the association had data and had made a study of the various conditions of the country and knew where to look for the laborers. Other work that they did was to regulate and control the advanced payments they made when they procured these laborers and also when their contracts were over and they returned to their homes, these branch offices would aid them in the shipment to their destination.



Q You said these professional procurers would bring in laborers. Were they paid so much for each laborer brought in?

A It depended on the company concerned but generally it was a payment of so much per person.

Q Did the association pay the procurers?

A No, the association had nothing to do with these payments. It was the individual companies concerned.

Q How long were you connected with that organization in that capacity?

A What I have written in this statement is something that was before my time and when I joined the Manchuria Labor Association we had no branch offices.

Q I am not speaking of that. I am speaking of the ROMU KOKOKU KAI. That was organized in 1941.

Q How long were you connected with the ROMU KOKOKU KAI?

A I was with this organization up to June 1943.

Q What did you do then?

A I went to the North China Labor Association in July, 1943.



INTERROGATION OF

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Continued)

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter : Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Miss Marian A. Linhart  
Place : Room 386 War Ministry Building  
Tokyo, Japan  
Date and Time: 9 July 1948, 1030 hours

Q What date did you go to the North China Labor Association?

A I am not too sure, but it was around the middle of July, 1943.

Q Who sent you to the North China Labor Association?

A The North China Labor Association which was formed about ~~three~~ <sup>two</sup> years prior to July, 1943, had various connections with the Manchurian Labor Association, because at that time also the laborers were shipped to Manchuria and the set-up was that one of the Directors would come from Manchuria, therefore, I replaced my predecessor OBAYASHI whose two-year term had expired with the North China Labor Association.

Q Who decided that you would go to the North China Labor Association?

A I believe the North China Government, together with the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI got together and selected me because I was appointed by the President of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI, UMEMO, Minoru.

Q Didn't that order come from the Foreign Office?

A No.

Q You say you replaced a Mr. OBAYASHI. Where did he go after that?

A OBAYASHI returned to Manchuria and was the director of the Changchung area ROMU KOKOKU KAI for awhile. I do not know what happened to him after that.

Q Did he come back to Tokyo in the Foreign Office?

A I have never heard that he returned to Japan to any office, or to any office with the Foreign Ministry, but I do not think he had any connections with the Foreign Office.

Q To whom did you report when you went to the North China Labor Ass'n.?

A I reported to CHAO-CHI who was the President of the North China Labor Ass'n.

Q Who was the real director of the North China Labor Ass'n.?

A There were three directors under CHAO-CHI and they all had separate work to perform.

Q Didn't you tell me the other day that CHAO-CHI, being a Chinese, was just a figurehead and sort of a blind, and that the Japanese really controlled it?

A I did not say that Japan controlled and ran the Labor Association, but I said that the Embassy set the rules and regulations of the Association - the Japanese Embassy in Peiping.

Q And you took orders from KASHIWABARA, Chief of the Labor Association?

A I said that all matters in relation to labor which concerned the Japanese Government came and went through the Embassy, but that does not mean all of the work of the Labor Association. <sup>section of the Embassy</sup>



Q When did you first hear that they were considering importing Chinese labor to Japan?

A When I went to the North China Labor Ass'n, the first group of experimental laborers were in the process of being shipped to Japan, so the decision to ship Chinese labor to Japan was made before I got to North China.

Q Had you heard of this before you went to the North China Labor Ass'n.?

A No, I learned of it after I reached Peking.

Q Do you know on what authority the laborers were shipped?

A I do not know who made the decision or gave the orders to import laborers from China, but this is what I heard after I reached Peking: In December of 1942 there was a commission from Japan which came to China to study the possibility of using Chinese labor in Japan, and I think they remained in North China until March of 1943. They decided to import a trial group to work in Japan, so in April of 1943, some fifteen or twenty Chinese group leaders were dispatched to Japan and studied the conditions under which they had to work in the Niigata Prefecture. They came back and reported that the conditions under which they were to work were all right and they would take their respective groups and go to Japan. I also understand that the experimental groups that went to Japan were mostly regular employees of the North China Transportation Company (railway transportation) who were experienced in transportation and stevedoring work. Of course, I think they did recruit some other inexperienced Chinese also, but at least the leaders and the main group of these laborers were experienced men. In the fall these groups left for Japan to work as stevedores, and later another group left for Japan to work in the mines of Kyushu.

Q Do you know who was in this party from China to study the labor situation?

A No, I do not know.

Q Were they Government officials?

A I do not think any of them had any connection with the Government, but I think at least some of the leaders were officials of the North China Transportation Company, but the majority of them were just labor bosses, or group leaders.

Q No. I mean the original commission that you were speaking of that came from Japan to China to study whether or not it would be practical to import laborers to Japan. Was not that group made up of Government officials?

A I do not know who exactly composed the commission that came to study laborers in North China, but I know that they were representatives from the stevedoring group, mining group and contractor group, and I think Mr. NOGI was the man who represented the contractors, and I am sure there were others, but I do not know which section of the Government they represented. Probably there was somebody from the Labor Bureau of Japan.

Q If you know that those people were in the group, you must also know that there were representatives from the Welfare, Foreign, Greater East Asia, Home and Army Ministries, and also the Munitions Bureau?

A Since I was not there at the time they came, I do not know which sections of the Government were represented, but I think those sections of the Government were represented in the commission.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q Then how is it that you know that there were representatives of the industries, such as the Mining Association, etc.?

A Since I got this information after everything happened and I heard it through sources like NOGI when I talked to them, I knew that there were representatives from contractors group through conversation with these people.

Q Do you know who sent this commission to China?

A I do not know which section.

Q Did you ever hear which section?

A I know that they came to China through the permission of the Greater East Asia Ministry, so they must have been connected with the GEA Ministry.

Q When you joined the Association you were assigned as Chief of the Labor Mobilization Bureau, is that not correct?

A My duties with the North China Labor Association were the mobilization, acceptance, control, guidance and aid. Also I had the planning and transportation part of it. When the request for laborers to be shipped to Japan came, we were having a hard time in procuring labor, and this is when the North China Labor Ass'n. did actually aid in the mobilization of labor, and we made a miserable failure of it.

Q You were in charge of recruiting labor, were you not?

A Yes.

Q Didn't you have the records at your disposal?

A Yes, the records were with my section.

Q And you mean to say that you don't know who authorized the shipment of Chinese laborers to Japan?

A No, I do not think in any of the records there was anything that might refer to any section of the Japanese Government. There may have been places within the documents where it mentioned Government organs, but I do not recall any specific Government section that we were recruiting labor for.

Q I am not speaking of recruiting labor for any Government section. Do you know who it was who decided that labor would be imported to Japan in the first place? Where did the original idea come from? Where did the original directive or order come from?

A The way I understood is that when they decided to import Chinese labor in great numbers to Japan, it was a Cabinet decision, but on the trial group, I do not know who made the decision.

Q How soon after you joined the Association in Peiping did you talk with anybody about this importation of Chinese labor?

A Although I went to Peiping in July, I did not do any actual work until the middle of August because I had to make arrangements to bring my family to Peiping, and when I took up my duties about this time, the middle of August, I heard for the first time of this shipment of labor to Japan.

Q Wasn't that the reason for your transfer --to handle shipment of labor to Japan?

A I think the reason why I was sent to the North China area was because of supplying labor to Manchuria primarily, but after I joined the North China Labor Association, it was supplying labor to all areas.



Q Who did you first talk with about the Chinese labor for Japan?

A I think the first person I talked to about shipping labor to Japan was the head man of the labor section of the North China Transportation Company. He came to me concerning a shipment of laborers to Japan that was going from his company.

Q What was his name?

A I cannot recall his name at present.

Q Do you have his name in your notes anywhere?

A I do not have any records or memos since we are not allowed to bring any such thing home from China, but I think this man's name could be <sup>obtained</sup> from MIZUSHIMA, who had something to do with labor before I arrived at Peiping.

Q What did the North China Transportation Company have to do with the shipment of labor to Japan?

A I do not know what the exact arrangements were, but I think the North China Transportation Company was shipping their men to Japan, and I think it was because of the fact that this transportation company was shipping lots of merchandise to Japan and they had some kind of relation between the transportation company and Japan. Furthermore, this first group were to be used as stevedores, so it must have happened that this North China Transportation Company was sending some of their own employees.

Q Was it because the North China Transportation Company was a branch of the Japan Shipping Company?

A I do not think so.

Q Was the North China Shipping Company a Japanese Government organization?

A It was financed by the North China Development Association.

Q What did the representative of the North China Transportation Company talk to you about.

A I do not recall the exact nature of the business, but it was something pertaining to the shipments going to Japan and he wanted some help from me.

Q That was the first you have heard of the Chinese labor being sent to Japan -- is that what you mean to tell us?

A Yes.

Q How long was this after you assumed your post with the North China Labor Association?

A I recall it was just as I assumed the office. It must have been the first week after I started work.

Q What kind of help did he want from you?

A I knew he came to ask for some assistance, but I cannot recall what the details were.

Q What did he tell you about labor being shipped to Japan? Did he tell you the whole program?

A Among the things he told me were as to the numbers, what their wages were, conditions, and shipping together with them were some women.


Q And this man - this labor chief of the North China Transportation Company - was telling you, an official of the North China Labor Ass'n. who was charged with recruiting labor to be sent to Japan - is that what you want us to believe?

A Yes. The contract of sending labor to Japan was between a stevedoring company in Japan and the North China Transportation Company and he was telling me about the conditions of the contract, which was for one year.



- Q You mean the North China Transportation Company handled all the contracts for the labor to be sent to Japan?
- A Yes. This first trial shipment was between the North China Transportation and the shipping concern in Japan, and the North China Labor Association was not connected with it.
- Q I asked him, "Were all the labor contracts for labor to be sent to Japan made with the North China Transportation Company?"
- A This direct arrangement was only for the first shipment. Later when it was decided to ship laborers in large quantities, the North China Labor Association made the contracts.
- Q Are you sure this person was not a representative of the Japanese Embassy in Peiping, or the Greater East Asia Ministry?
- A No. I learned later about this labor shipment to Japan from the representative of the Embassy.
- Q Isn't it a fact that the GEA Ministry and the Japanese Embassy in Peiping were the ones who controlled and had charge of importation of labor?
- A Yes, all matters concerning Japan and China came through GEA Ministry to the Embassy.
- Q Didn't you receive all your orders concerning labor going to Japan from the Japanese Embassy?
- A Yes, all orders and directions came from the GEA Ministry through the Embassy, but on this first trial shipment, I do not know how the arrangements were made and by whom they were actually made.
- Q Well, you say this man from the Transportation Company came to you for help. What was his problem?
- A As I have said before, I do not recall what the exact things were he asked me, but because of the fact that I was connected with labor procurement in North China and had moved to North China, he had come to pay his respects and ask my opinion on the contract he had.
- Q Did you have frequent dealings thereafter with the labor section of the transportation company?
- A Yes, I met this man frequently after that since we were connected with the regulations of labor in North China.
- Q You still do not remember who he was?
- A No, I cannot recall at present.
- Q What was the business of the North China Transportation Company?
- A This company had control of all transportation in North China. They had all the railroads, buses, trucks, and work at the ports of stevedoring.
- Q What did the transportation company have to do with the North China Labor Association?
- A The connection between this railway company and the North China Labor Association was in matters concerning labor. The North China Labor Association controlled distribution of labor and working conditions. Also, when labor was procured in various outlying districts, all the transportation was handled by this transportation company, although the laborers worked under conditions and regulations of the North China Labor Association.



- Q Didn't the Labor Association procure and recruit labor for the transportation company?
- A Yes. When the transportation company needed laborers, they had to get permission from the North China Labor Association as to their procurement.
- Q And you still say that the transportation company handled the labor contracts for the original shipment to Japan. You still say that in view of the fact that they did not have authority to recruit labor for themselves even?
- A As I mentioned, the North China Labor Association had general control of labor movements. It may be that the first shipment had been OK'd by the Labor Association, but as to the details, I do not know. This trial shipment was some 300 laborers, or so, and it was to individual concerns, and it was carried out by these two parties.
- Q You say that the first trial shipments to Japan were 300?
- A Yes, about 300.
- Q When was this?
- A It was right after I arrived in Peiping, so I think it was around autumn of 1943.
- Q You say these first two trial shipments went to the mines at Kyushu and to the dock yards in Fushiki? How many laborers went to the mines?
- A Those that went to the coal mines were after the shipment of stevedores, and there were two shipments of these. Both were between 200 and 300.
- Q I want to know, including all experimental shipments, what was the total number of laborers imported to Japan?
- A I do not recall the exact figures, but there were about 300 on each shipment, and there were only three shipments, so there must have been about 900.
- Q You said you don't know much of the details of these trial shipments. That being the case, how do you know that they were procured through the transportation company? How do you know that the contract was signed by the transportation company?
- A I heard all this after I reached Peiping.
- 



INTERROGATION OF  
MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Cont'd)

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter: Mr. Hiroshi Matsuda  
Stenographer: Nina O. Briggs  
Place: War Ministry Building  
Tokyo, Japan  
Date and Time: 16 July 1948, 0945 hours

- Q. First of all, I would like to get a few names here. What was the full name of OBAYASHI whom you replaced at the North China Labor Association?  
A. His full name was OBAYASHI, Takumi.
- Q. Do you know what his occupation is now?  
A. I do not know what he is doing now or where he is at present.
- Q. Do you know whether he is still in the Government service?  
A. I have no idea. I understand that he was a former police chief in Japan, so probably he could be traced through the Police Department.
- Q. Did OBAYASHI handle any labor shipments to Japan?  
A. I do not know if he actually had a hand in shipping Chinese labor to Japan since the first shipment was a direct contract between the parties - Japan and China. But when the representatives of Japan came to China, I am quite sure that he had conferences with this group.
- Q. Who was head of the embassy in Peking at this time?  
A. At that time the man in charge of the embassy was SHIOZAWA. I don't recall his first name, but he was an ex-lieutenant general. I think he was in charge of the embassy as a minister.
- Q. Did he remain chief of the embassy throughout the entire period that you were there?  
A. I think it was in the fall of 1944 that Minister KUSUMOTO, Sanetaka, replaced SHIOZAWA. This man was also an ex-lieutenant general of the army.
- Q. Who was the head of the North China Transportation Company?  
A. The president was USAMI, first name unknown. I can't recall his first name now, I may do so later.
- Q. Did the Commerce and Industry Ministry have a representative in Peking?  
A. There were no representatives of the Transportation or Commerce Ministries in Peking, but I remember representatives coming to Peking at intervals.
- Q. Did they contact the North China Labor Association?  
A. Yes. Some of these representatives called on the North China Labor Association on their trips?
- Q. Was that in regards to Chinese Labor in Japan?  
A. On most of these visits they came to talk on Chinese labor matters.
- Q. Do you remember the names of any who came?  
A. I recall a Transportation Ministry representative named KABA. I can't recall any others at the present.
- Q. Do you know KABA's first name?  
A. I cannot recall his first name?
- Q. How many visits did he make?  
A. I think he came to my office once on business.



- Q. What was the conference about?  
A. I think we talked mostly on transportation problems. At that time there were very few available boats for shipping these laborers. What he wanted was a good, selected group of coolies, and what I wanted was more transportation facilities.
- Q. What was his position in the transportation ministry?  
A. He was one of the administrative officers in the Transportation Ministry?
- Q. When was this?  
A. I am not too sure, but I think it was at the end of 1944 or the early part of 1945.
- Q. Do you remember anybody from the Commerce and Industry Ministry?  
A. I can't recall any at the present.
- Q. Did you ever meet a man by the name of OSHIMA in Peping who was a representative of the Commerce and Industry Ministry?  
A. I don't recall any OSHIMA.
- Q. Who was the representative of the GEA Ministry in Peping at this time?  
A. I do not remember any direct representative of the Greater East Asia Ministry in Peping. I don't think there were any because all negotiations were done at the embassy.
- Q. Did the Justice Department have anything to do with the shipment of laborers to Japan or with any part of the policy as far as you know?  
A. I don't think the Justice Department had anything to do with the shipping of Chinese laborers.
- Q. Were there any representatives of the Justice Department in Peking?  
A. None that I know of.
- Q. On what date did you dispatch the first shipment of Chinese laborers to Japan?  
A. I think it was in November 1944.
- Q. Well, tell us just how these requisitions came to you.  
A. After the experimental group of Chinese laborers was a success, we had information from the embassy to recruit Chinese labor for overseas shipment. We then went about to make plans for the conditions of the contract as to food, housing, recreations, etc., and drew up various forms which were to be filled out. We then requested each contractor or industry that was going to import and use these Chinese laborers to send a cadre to China for orientation in handling Chinese coolies. They studied from two to four months, studying Chinese customs and learning his habits on the spot. These men studied together with the acquired laborers and also went back to Japan with the shipment. Contracts were signed between the North China Labor Association and the company or contractors who were to use the Chinese labor.
- Q. Who was it in the embassy that issued these orders?  
A. I remember the man that took care of the labor problem was a Mr. UCHIDA, Seitaro (?), who was one of the secretaries of the embassy.
- Q. What was KASHIWABARA's position in the embassy?  
A. UCHIDA was the chief of the labor section and he had under him MIZUSHIMA at first who was later replaced by KASHIWABARA, handling labor matters only.
- Q. Well, you said you made arrangements about what food the laborers would get. Wasn't that actually decided by the Planning Board in 1942 when they first decided to import these coolies on an experimental basis?



Q. Yes, the Government had certain rules and regulations setting the amount of food each laborer was to receive, but we realized that it was insufficient for hard labor; and we demanded revision and had our contracts made so that each laborer would get 30 kilos per month. I learned all this later since I did not know the situation in Japan. The Government did supply only 22 kilos per person and the deficient 8 kilos the Prefecture concerned had to supply to make a total of 30 kilos. We had a hard time to decide on this amount because in Japan the Japanese were having an average of 10 kilos only per person per month.

Q. Do you know if this additional 8 kilos was actually furnished or not.  
A. Of course, at that time being in China I thought that everything was taken care of, but later when I returned I saw the conditions in Japan. They were having a hard time trying to produce the extra 8 kilos. I understand that in some instances the prefectures were able to furnish the whole amount, or part of it. In other instances, I understand that the people concerned using the laborers bought extra food from the black market to furnish part of the deficit. On the whole, I understand that these laborers had more food than an average Japanese.

Q. Who told you this?

A. I got this information through the people who came to contract laborers later, and they told me the situation as aforementioned and also at a trial in Yokohama concerning the AKITA Mine the same thing was read into the court records.

Q. Incidentally, did you ever have any conference with the representative of the Cabinet Planning Board?

A. I do not remember having any conference with a representative of the Planning Board.

Q. How much were these laborers to be paid?

A. The contract was that they were to be paid ¥ 5 a day and fed.

Q. Were they actually paid that?

A. Yes. They were paid this ¥ 5 a day. I don't know how often they were paid, but I think out of this ¥ 5, ¥ 3 was deposited in the bank and they were paid ¥ 2 a day on paydays for their own personal use. Also, the contract stated that the pay would be ¥ 2 a day for three months while they were in training. Of course, the man in charge of the coolies had higher pay.

Q. Did the contract specify that the pay was not to start until they actually arrived in Japan?

A. Yes, the pay would start after they arrived in Japan.

Q. And isn't it a fact that these coolies weren't paid anything at all until the war was over and after the Japanese surrendered?

A. I can not believe that they were not paid anything during this time; but of course I do not know what happened in Japan. The contract also states that a certain percentage of the part to be held in deposit and would be paid on termination of their contracts or when they returned home. Our plan was to have each laborer take home with him ¥ 1500 when he arrived in China.

Q. Isn't it a fact that the coolies didn't have any contract at all? Wasn't the contract between the company employing the coolies and the North China Labor Association?

A. Yes, that's right.

Q. Didn't you have liaison men at these various camps who made tours to the various camps in Japan?

A. Yes. We had liaison men in various camps. At least one in the larger camps and in some places one man acted as liaison for two or three smaller camps.



- Q. Did they make reports to you?  
A. Yes, they made reports. The arrangement was that they make monthly reports. It actually turned out that reports did not come in promptly every month.
- Q. Didn't you learn from these reports that the terms of the so-called contract were not being lived up to?  
A. In the various reports that I looked through, it stated that most of the terms of the contracts were being carried out properly.
- Q. After you received the instructions from the embassy regarding the recruitment of labor, just what steps did you take to have them recruited?  
A. The first thing we did was to dispatch our men to various districts and provinces to get the cadre group from Japan who were to work with the laborers and recruited Chinese coolies mostly through Chinese labor gangs.
- Q. How were these laborers actually recruited?  
A. The ways the coolies were acquired were, (1) through professional labor coolie dealers. They advertised the conditions and kind of work they were going to do and where they were going and in these instances they were mostly volunteers. (2) We established training camps to instruct and train Chinese POW's who were with the Japanese army. After they were trained to a certain extent by our men they were shipped to Japan.
- Q. What do you mean by your statement that they were "mostly volunteers"?  
A. This first group with which we started didn't bring in very many laborers, but I take for granted professional laborers picked their men after laying down the conditions under which they were to work.
- Q. Don't you know that from the very beginning these laborers were procured by hi-jacking them from off the streets?  
A. Later on when it was hard to procure labor I have heard of those instances, but in the beginning I don't think there were any procured by force.
- Q. Don't you know it to be a fact, and didn't you tell ~~NOBI~~ that?  
A. Yes. When the quota system was set a lot of these people were forced to go to Japan including prisoners.

(Brief recess)

- Q. I want to know in what different ways these coolies were hi-jacked?  
A. I know that these laborers that were picked by force were vagrants and unemployed on the streets and parks, prisoners serving terms, anybody that had been picked up by the police and were being held for some offense, drunkards who were roaming around the streets.
- Q. Isn't it a fact that they were picked indiscriminately, regardless of their occupation, farmers and merchants and even teachers in some cases?  
A. Yes, there were farmers, small merchants and even school teachers among the laborers that were shipped to Japan. They came from various provinces that had to meet the quota.
- Q. And it was your office that set the quota, wasn't it?  
A. The quota was set by the Japanese embassy in Peking. Of course, I do not know if this quota was set in Japan or not?
- Q. And the quota was enforced, wasn't it?  
A. Yes, sir, we did our best to fill the quota.



- Q. That was the only object in mind - you didn't care how you got the laborers or where they came from?
- A. Although we failed to do what we wanted to do and we were put out of the job of acquiring laborers, we did our best to please both parties.
- Q. I don't care what you did or what you wanted to do. What I am driving at is how these laborers were procured? And didn't you ship laborers to Japan regardless of their physical condition and regardless of what diseases they had?
- A. Yes, there were a lot of skin diseases in China and in many instances we had to include those with skin diseases whom the doctors thought could be cured on the way or after receiving treatment. We had doctors to make physical examinations of all the laborers.
- Q. You mean all the laborers who were sent to Japan all received physical examinations before they were shipped - before they left China?
- A. Yes. Everyone had a physical and had immunization shots before they were shipped to Japan.
- Q. Didn't you tell me the other day that labor got so scarce that the matter was so dire in Japan that they didn't take time to examine them before they shipped them to Japan? That there were many complaints about the laborers shipped?
- A. Yes, I mentioned that there were a lot of complaints in Japan concerning the physical condition of the laborers and sickness.
- Q. And didn't you say that labor was so scarce that they didn't take time to give them an examination?
- A. I do not remember if I said it over here or at Yokohama, but I mentioned that later labor became so scarce in Japan that they didn't care to mention the physical condition and they wanted to rush shipment.
- Q. Well, isn't it a fact that many of these coolies who were deported to Japan were in poor physical condition?
- A. Yes, that's right. Some of them were actually shipped back to China.

(Interrogation adjourned at 1120 hours)



INTERROGATION OF  
MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Continued)

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter: Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Marian A. Linhart  
Place: War Ministry Building, Tokyo  
Time and Date: 1330 hours, 16 July 1948

- Q At this time do you recall any of the names of the officials I asked you about this morning?  
A Yes, I remember now the first name of SHIOZAWA. It was Kiyonobu.
- Q Tell us more about your training program you had for the coolies in China.  
A These training centers were established within the Army's POW compound. The men were trained for heavy duty work - in other words they took exercises and had practical work such as shovelling and carrying heavy freight. Also basic Japanese was taught to these laborers and they had orientation on labor and conditions in Japan. Also we trained them how they should conduct themselves as groups while working.
- Q Were these training camps established under your direction?  
A These were established under the direction of the North China Labor Association.
- Q You were the official in the Labor Association that looked after these camps, weren't you?  
A No, I was not in charge of these camps.
- Q Did you have anything to do with them?  
A As director of the North China Labor Association and in charge of labor mobilization, I was connected with all matters concerning labor, but the actual supervision was done by Chinese who worked under me.
- Q Who specified the training program they were to undergo?  
A The establishment and the rules and regulations for the training of labor was drawn up by the Labor Control Section of the Association and with the approval of the directors.
- Q Who was the direct officer in charge of it?  
A Since there were three directors, the President would be the responsible man.
- Q By the President, whom do you mean?  
A The first was Chao-Chi; later it was Chi Soboku.
- Q Didn't you tell me the other day that these two Chinese were just figureheads, and that the Association was run by the Japanese directors?  
A Yes, it could be said so, since it was Japanese occupied territory, and orders to carry out work were always through the Embassy, which in turn came from Japan.
- Q What did you have to do with these labor training camps?  
A My responsibility was mobilization and acquiring laborers for shipment to Japan.
- Q What did you have to do with these labor training camps?  
A As director I was responsible for the approval of some of the programs that were carried out in these training camps.
- Q How long did this training program last?  
A This program was started around October, 1944 and lasted until about April, 1945.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q What I want to know is what was the length of training the individual coolie went through?

A The plan was set to have each coolie train for three months, but because of the shipping problem, some stayed there only one month while others stayed for from four to six months.

Q Were they paid during this time?

A As I remember, they were not paid.

Q To carry on this training, they were actually performing labor, is that right?

A Yes, some of them did actual labor work as part of the training.

Q During this period, did they live in compounds?

A They lived in the same compounds which were former POW compounds.

Q Were they guarded?

A Yes, they were guarded.

Q That was both the civilians and ex-soldiers, is that right?

A There were no civilians in these training camps.

Q You mean to say the civilians were sent over directly?

A We had a large assembly of camps in major provinces, and from there they were shipped directly to the ports.

Q What ration were they given while they were in these training camps?

A They still had Japanese army rations.

Q Weren't these ex-soldiers given the choice to join up with the puppet forces and if they didn't want to do this, weren't they forced to come to Japan as laborers?

A No, it was no such thing.

Q Do you mean they were given no choice in the matter of coming to Japan as laborers?

A No, those that did not join the labor groups to come to Japan still remained at the Army POW camps as Army prisoners.

Q Didn't you just tell me this morning that the ex-soldiers were forced to come to Japan as laborers?

A I didn't mean to put it that way. I wanted to say that since laborers were hard to obtain and they had a lot of POW doing nothing, the decision was made to use these POW as part of the coolies for shipment to Japan.

Q Now, do you mean to say that if a person in one of these POW camps didn't want to come to Japan, he didn't have to come?

A Yes, if they didn't want to come they didn't have to come to Japan.

Q Tell me why they had to go out in the streets and shanghai civilians to come to Japan when they had these prisoners already. Can you reconcile that?

A Do you mean to say later on?

Q I mean at any time.

A It started off with recruiting laborers through labor groups, but since they could not recruit enough, they turned to the Army POW's and still there were not enough to fulfill the quota that Japan was demanding, so they turned to forceful means.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q Including those ex-soldiers that were in camp, is that correct?  
A Yes, including the soldiers, the demand could not be met.

Q Did you ever visit these training camps?  
A Yes, I visited them - some of them.

Q For what purpose did you visit - inspection tour?  
A Yes, inspection tour.

Q What was the purpose of the inspection?  
A Since all these trained laborers were to be turned over to me for shipping, I went around for the purpose of inspecting the training program and to check on their condition as to sickness and fitness.

Q Where were these camps situated?  
A They were located at Chinanfu and <sup>Shikimon</sup> ~~Sikimon~~ (Japanese).

Q Were those the only two places.  
A Yes, these were the only two.

Q Were those in Hopei Province?  
A Chinanfu is in Shantung Province and the other was in Hopei Province.

Q Were they guarded by Japanese soldiers?  
A Yes.

Q Were these labor trainees beaten while they were in China?  
A I have not seen any beating or mistreatment myself, but as to the actual treatment by the soldiers, I do not know.

Q Did you hear that they were mistreated?  
A Although guarded by soldiers, the ~~management~~ <sup>management</sup> and part of the training was done by men of our Association, and according to their report, and what I have seen during my inspection, there was no mistreatment. I would like to add that since this training took place in POW camps and they were together with the Army people and POW, I do not know of the actual conditions of the camps as a whole.

Q You keep referring to these people as POW. Do you know, as a former high Government official in China, that the Japanese Government did not consider any of the Chinese captives as POW because they did not consider themselves as being at war with China?  
A Internationally speaking, and from what some of the Government officials said, they may not have been POW, but we, among ourselves, knew them as POW.

Q Altogether, how many of these died while undergoing training?  
A In the reports that came to me, I remembered that there were deaths, but I cannot at the present time recall the figures, but as I remember, there were very few.

Q What was the most common cause of deaths of this group at that time?  
A I do not know what the sickness is known as, but a great number of the deaths were the result of stomach disease, with the lower body swelling up, or something like beri beri, and they die when the swelling reaches the stomach.

Q That was caused by mal-nutrition, was it not?  
A This sickness is very common in China, and I think it is probably from mal-nutrition.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q These men were in the custody of the Japanese Army, were they not?

A Yes. The Army had jurisdiction over all these so-called POW. We had the training program to do only at these camps.

Q This first shipment that you sent to Japan in October, 1944 - what percentage of them were ex-soldiers and what percentage were civilians?

A I think it was about 50-50 in the beginning.

Q What port did they sail from?

A The first shipment was from Taku, near Tsingtsin.

Q How many were in this group?

A About 300.

Q What sort of shipping did they have - what kind of a boat?

A I remember this first shipment was on a coal boat.

Q Did it also carry a cargo of coal?

A Yes.

Q That would be an open-hold ship, is that right?

A The weather was cold and I remember they were shipped in a covered hold.

Q They, themselves, were deck passengers, were they not?

A There were some more shipped during the warmer weather when they stayed on deck, but during winter months, they all went into the holds. They levelled off the coal and had mats spread out and they remained under. Furthermore, the shipment on deck was very much disliked by the crew, because they were being in the way.

Q Do you mean to say that the coolie quarters were directly on top of the cargo of coal?

A Yes.

Q Did you inspect any of these ships?

A No, I have not inspected any of these ships but those were the reports I had.

Q Weren't you in charge of the shipping?

A Yes.

Q On this first shipment, how long did they remain at the port before they went aboard the ship?

A I think on this first shipment, they only stayed at the port one or two days, because it was arranged that they come to the port just before the ship was leaving. They stayed in barracks that we had near the port.

Q What sanitary facilities did they have aboard?

A We had a medical doctor with the group who had a good store of medical supplies and as to sanitary conditions on the boat, we had pans brought in to dispose of the waste.

Q You mean to say there was a doctor escorting every shipment?

A Yes, we had a medical man on every group that we sent.

Q Did they have any washing or bathing facilities?

A We had various equipment for this group, such as a large pan for boiling water and other cooking equipment which they could carry along to the camps in Japan.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q You say a pan for boiling water. You mean this was the only facility for washing and bathing?

A Yes.

Q How many pans did they have?

A I cannot recall at present the exact number of pans for boiling water, but they took a complete list of utensils and necessary equipment that they could use throughout the voyage and also in Japan, because we understood that these items that the Chinese needed could not be obtained in Japan.

Q Did they have the opportunity to boil water on the ship?

A I do not know where they actually did the cooking and boiling, but it was not in the coal chamber. Probably it was done on deck, or a special compartment of the ship. We had one cook for every twenty-five men.

Q What was the approximate tonnage of these ships?

A They were usually from 1500 to 6000 tons.

Q What was the average length of the voyage?

A On a big boat it was usually five days, and according to the records, I learned the longest voyage when they had engine trouble and got off their course, was twenty days.

Q How many days rations were they supplied with on the ships?

A They loaded from about a week to ten days rations for the trip.

Q Then there were quite a number of these voyages that lasted over ten days, is that right?

A There were some instances, but not very often. On these extended trips, they were short of food and suffered very much. On this long extended voyage, I learned they returned to Tsingtao and completed the voyage.

Q Were they rationed as to the amount of fresh water they could have every day?

A We had no provisions for the water problem in our contract, but this was taken care of by the ship authority and the man in charge of the group.

Q Well, do you know whether they had plenty of fresh water or not?

A I did not hear any complaint on water shortage except on the overdue voyage mentioned formerly.

Q Was there a water shortage on that trip?

A Yes, the shortage of water and food was very bad and the coolies had a lot of trouble with the people in charge of the shipment, as it was reported to me.

Q Did you keep a record of the number of people who died en route to Japan?

A Yes, we had a record of deaths and sicknesses.

Q How many died?

A As I remember, I think the death rate was on the total average of about two or three every trip. I still remember some of the wires that used to come into my office saying that everybody arrived with no sickness and no deaths.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q Were most of these deaths caused by mal-nutrition ?

A I would not say that these deaths on the voyage were from mal-nutrition. The reports, as I recall, were pneumonia, and sicknesses such as colds, etc.

Q In what office would these death certificates be preserved?

A At the end of the war I turned over my records to the Chinese Government, to the Social Affairs Section of the Chinese National Government.

Q Didn't the Japanese Government keep records of all those death certificates of all the Chinese who died either here or aboard ship?

A Yes, I think there was a record of these shipments and deaths.

Q My question was, "In what office can the death certificates now be found?" Would it be in the Home Ministry or the Foreign Ministry?

A I think it would be in the former Greater East Asia Ministry.





INTERROGATION OF

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Continued)

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter : Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Marian A. Linhart  
Place : War Ministry Building, Tokyo  
Time and Date: 1330 hours, 16 July 1948

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MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

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A They lived in the same compounds which were former POW compounds.

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A No, those that did not join the labor groups to come to Japan still remained at the Army POW camps as Army prisoners.

Q Didn't you just tell me this morning that the ex-soldiers were forced to come to Japan as laborers?

A I didn't mean to put it that way. I wanted to say that since laborers were hard to obtain and they had a lot of POW doing nothing, the decision was made to use these POW as part of the coolies for shipment to Japan.

Q Now, do you mean to say that if a person in one of these POW camps didn't want to come to Japan, he didn't have to come?

A Yes, if they didn't want to come they didn't have to come to Japan.

Q Tell me why they had to go out in the streets and shanghai civilians to come to Japan when they had these prisoners already. Can you reconcile that?

A Do you mean to say later on?

Q I mean at any time.

A It started off with recruiting laborers through labor groups, but since they could not recruit enough, they turned to the Army POW's and still there were not enough to fulfill the quota that Japan was demanding, so they turned to forceful means.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q Including those ex-soldiers that were in camp, is that correct?  
A Yes, including the soldiers, the demand could not be met.

Q Did you ever visit these training camps?  
A Yes, I visited them - some of them.

Q For what purpose did you visit - inspection tour?  
A Yes, inspection tour.

Q What was the purpose of the inspection?  
A Since all these trained laborers were to be turned over to me for shipping, I went around for the purpose of inspecting the training program and to check on their condition as to sickness and fitness.

Q Where were these camps situated?  
A They were located at Chinanfu and Sikimon (Japanese).

Q Were those the only two places.  
A Yes, these were the only two.

Q Were those in Hopei Province?  
A Chinanfu is in Shantung Province and the other was in Hopei Province.

Q Were they guarded by Japanese soldiers?  
A Yes.

Q Were these labor trainees beaten while they were in China?  
A I have not seen any beating or mistreatment myself, but as to the actual treatment by the soldiers, I do not know.

Q Did you hear that they were mistreated?  
A Although guarded by soldiers, the and part of the training was done by men of our Association, and according to their report, and what I have seen during my inspection, there was no mistreatment. I would like to add that since this training took place in POW camps and they were together with the Army people and POW, I do not know of the actual conditions of the camps as a whole.

Q You keep referring to these people as POW. Do you know, as a former high Government official in China, that the Japanese Government did not consider any of the Chinese captives as POW because they did not consider themselves as being at war with China?  
A Internationally speaking, and from what some of the Government officials said, they may not have been POW, but we, among ourselves, knew them as POW.

Q Altogether, how many of these died while undergoing training?  
A In the reports that came to me, I remembered that there were deaths, but I cannot at the present time recall the figures, but as I remember, there were very few.

Q What was the most common cause of deaths of this group at that time?  
A I do not know what the sickness is known as, but a great number of the deaths were the result of stomach disease, with the lower body swelling up, or something like beri beri, and they die when the swelling reaches the stomach.

Q That was caused by mal-nutrition, was it not?  
A This sickness is very common in China, and I think it is probably from mal-nutrition.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q These men were in the custody of the Japanese Army, were they not?

A Yes. The Army had jurisdiction over all these so-called POW. We had the training program to do only at these camps.

Q This first shipment that you sent to Japan in October, 1944 - what percentage of them were ex-soldiers and what percentage were civilians?

A I think it was about 50-50 in the beginning.

Q What port did they sail from?

A The first shipment was from Taku, near Tsingtsin.

Q How many were in this group?

A About 300.

Q What sort of shipping did they have - what kind of a boat?

A I remember this first shipment was on a coal boat.

Q Did it also carry a cargo of coal?

A Yes.

Q That would be an open-hold ship, is that right?

A The weather was cold and I remember they were shipped in a covered hold.

Q They, themselves, were deck passengers, were they not?

A There were some more shipped during the warmer weather when they stayed on deck, but during winter months, they all went into the holds. They levelled off the coal and had mats spread out and they remained under. Furthermore, the shipment on deck was very much disliked by the crew, because they were being in the way.

Q Do you mean to say that the coolie quarters were directly on top of the cargo of coal?

A Yes.

Q Did you inspect any of these ships?

A No, I have not inspected any of these ships but those were the reports I had.

Q Weren't you in charge of the shipping?

A Yes.

Q On this first shipment, how long did they remain at the port before they went aboard the ship?

A I think on this first shipment, they only stayed at the port one or two days, because it was arranged that they come to the port just before the ship was leaving. They stayed in barracks that we had near the port.

Q What sanitary facilities did they have aboard?

A We had a medical doctor with the group who had a good store of medical supplies and as to sanitary conditions on the boat, we had pans brought in to dispose of the waste.

Q You mean to say there was a doctor escorting every shipment?

A Yes, we had a medical man on every group that we sent.

Q Did they have any washing or bathing facilities?

A We had various equipment for this group, such as a large pan for boiling water and other cooking equipment which they could carry along to the camps in Japan.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q You say a pan for boiling water. You mean this was the only facility for washing and bathing?

A Yes.

Q How many pans did they have?

A I cannot recall at present the exact number of pans for boiling water, but they took a complete list of utensils and necessary equipment that they could use throughout the voyage and also in Japan, because we understood that these items that the Chinese needed could not be obtained in Japan.

Q Did they have the opportunity to boil water on the ship?

A I do not know where they actually did the cooking and boiling, but it was not in the coal chamber. Probably it was done on deck, or a special compartment of the ship. We had one cook for every twenty-five men.

Q What was the approximate tonnage of these ships?

A They were usually from 1500 to 6000 tons.

Q What was the average length of the voyage?

A On a big boat it was usually five days, and according to the records, I learned the longest voyage when they had engine trouble and got off their course, was twenty days.

Q How many days rations were they supplied with on the ships?

A They loaded from about a week to ten days rations for the trip.

Q Then there were quite a number of these voyages that lasted over ten days, is that right?

A There were some instances, but not very often. On these extended trips, they were short of food and suffered very much. On this long extended voyage, I learned they returned to Tsingtao and completed the voyage.

Q Were they rationed as to the amount of fresh water they could have every day?

A We had no provisions for the water problem in our contract, but this was taken care of by the ship authority and the man in charge of the group.

Q Well, do you know whether they had plenty of fresh water or not?

A I did not hear any complaint on water shortage except on the overdue voyage mentioned formerly.

Q Was there a water shortage on that trip?

A Yes, the shortage of water and food was very bad and the coolies had a lot of trouble with the people in charge of the shipment, as it was reported to me.

Q Did you keep a record of the number of people who died en route to Japan?

A Yes, we had a record of deaths and sicknesses.

Q How many died?

A As I remember, I think the death rate was on the total average of about two or three every trip. I still remember some of the wires that used to come into my office saying that everybody arrived with no sickness and no deaths.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q Were most of these deaths caused by mal-nutrition ?

A I would not say that these deaths on the voyage were from mal-nutrition. The reports, as I recall, were pneumonia, and sicknesses such as colds, etc.

Q In what office would these death certificates be preserved?

A At the end of the war I turned over my records to the Chinese Government, to the Social Affairs Section of the Chinese National Government.

Q Didn't the Japanese Government keep records of all those death certificates of all the Chinese who died either here or aboard ship?

A Yes, I think there was a record of these shipments and deaths.

Q My question was, "In what office can the death certificates now be found?" Would it be in the Home Ministry or the Foreign Ministry?

A I think it would be in the former Greater East Asia Ministry.



INTERROGATION OF  
MATSUKUMA, Kojiro (Continued)

Interrogator:	Mr. Richard Elliott
Interpreter :	Mr. H. Matsuda
Stenographer:	Miss Marian A. Linhart
Location :	War Ministry Building, Tokyo
Time and Date:	1445 hours, 22 July 1948

- Q How long did the laborers have to wait at the port before shipping was available, as a general rule?  
A Generally it was about two days to a week.
- Q Was shipping always readily available?  
A Shipping was a problem and we had a hard time in arranging schedules.
- Q Quite often they had to remain there longer than a week, didn't they?  
A There were some instances when they had to remain more than a week.
- Q When they went to these ports they were furnished with rations on the basis of a week, is that correct?  
A Yes.
- Q Very often they had to stay two or three weeks, or even longer, didn't they?  
A Yes, there were instances when the scheduled boat did not arrive in time, or the boat could not take all the passengers, and they stayed more than a week, but whether they stayed there as long as three weeks, I cannot recall such an instance.
- Q No extra rations were supplied, were they?  
A Whenever there was an extension, we supplied extra rations.
- Q Do you know NOGI?  
A Yes.
- Q Is he a friend of yours?  
A He is a friend that I met after supplying of Chinese labor was instituted.
- Q He spent some time in China on this labor, didn't he?  
A Yes.
- Q He had pretty close contact with them didn't he?  
A Yes, that is true.
- Q NOGI has said that very often groups had to stay as long as two or three weeks with no additional food being provided.  
A If he made such a statement he must be mistaken.



Q How do you know extra food was supplied?

A We had an extra stock of food and whenever there was an extension, we supplied extra food. I know this to be a fact because it was a policy.

Q How much time did you spend at the ports?

A I have visited the port of Taku once or twice.

Q What was the method of supplying this food?

A There was an extra stock of food at these port areas and whenever there was a shortage, this extra food was given to the group, and this set-up was established by the Embassy. They had warehouses there.

Q You state that you know it to be a fact that when they stayed longer than anticipated because of lack of shipping that extra food was furnished. Tell me how you know that.

A It is an actual fact that since there was food kept there for the purpose that this policy was carried out. Of course, I did not see the food actually being turned over.

Q How do you know it was the policy?

A As one of the directors of the North China Labor Association, it was the policy that this should be carried out.

Q Who set the policy?

A Those in charge of the shipment of labor had requested these extra rations because of extension of shipments, and I remember OKing the plan.

Q When did you ever OK any such plan?

A I think it was after three or four shipments.

Q Who was it that made application to you?

A The man from the section of my office that took charge of the shipment at the port.

Q Who was in charge of that section?

A I cannot recall his name at present.

Q Quite a convenient memory you have, isn't it? Who was in charge of the prisoners at the port?

A Laborers at the ports awaiting shipments were under the control section of the Association. His name was Wu, a Chinese.

Q Who was the Japanese in charge of it?

A The Japanese would be related to the man in charge of the barracks.

Q Who was that?

A He was one of our associates and employees, but I cannot recall his name just now.

Q Don't you have some records there with you?

A Not over here.



Q What is that in the packet there?

A Miscellaneous stuff pertaining to the Yokohama trials that I attended last year, but there are no names among them.

Q These billets as you call them, weren't they actually old warehouses?

A Yes, at Fuku there was one of these old warehouses fixed to be used as barracks.

Q Were they crowded?

A In some instances when there were laborers for a couple of shipments at the same time, they were rather crowded.

Q Were there any sanitary facilities provided?

A Yes, there were facilities within the compound.

Q How do you know this?

A When I visited there I saw this.

Q Can you think of any reason why NOGI said there were no sanitary facilities provided?

A I cannot understand why NOGI made such a statement, but I remember after we had complained that the man in charge was not doing good work, we changed the man and in one of these instances I visited the place and personally saw the facilities being put up.

Q What facilities did they have?

A Because of the fact that the Chinese used the river water which ran alongside the barracks, and as a rule these Chinese people did not use the latrines at all times, so we had complaints about the place being filthy. When I visited this place I saw latrines and places where the water could be boiled for use, and a dispensary was set up within the compound.

Q How many latrines did they have?

A There were about 30 seats in these latrines.

Q How many deaths did they have at the port before they finally sailed?

A I do not remember details of how many deaths in each shipment, but my recollection is that the total number of deaths at the port before they sailed for Japan was about 300, and I remember that this was a very low rate in the length of time.

Q What did they die from?

A As I remember, most of the deaths were from stomach trouble, having the lower part of the body swell, and from pneumonia.

Q Was it not a fact that quite a number of them died from malnutrition?

A I think it could be said that some of them died of malnutrition.



- Q How do you reconcile this with your statement that they received adequate food rations?
- A During that time the food situation in China was bad and we could not supply food that the Chinese were used to, and as a result the food that they were given did not suit them and they would not take it, and other instances are that they suffered from stomach trouble which lead to their deaths. This could also be said during the latter part some of the laborers that were brought in were under nourished and also upon their arrival, eating of unaccustomed food caused up-sets and this lead to their deaths.
- Q I thought you said that every man had a physical examination before he was sent to Japan.
- A Yes, that is true, but it could be said that toward the end of the recruiting this check up physically was not carried out to the full extent.
- Q You were lying to me the other day when you said that every man who came over was given a physical examination, weren't you?
- A I do not think so because every coolie was checked before he was shipped to Japan, but when I said he did not have a proper check up before he came to the gathering point and port, and we sent quite a few back from this port area because of their unfitness. All of those who came to Japan had a physical check and immunization shots.
- Q From your last two or three answers, I take it that you would like to change your statement that the diet was not adequate due to the food shortage.
- A I do not want to change my statement. As you say, if you pick out instances there might have been times when they really ran out of ample supplies, but on the whole, I am quite sure that they had enough food at the ports.
- Q Now, isn't it a fact that the North China Labor Association and all those connected with it were not concerned whether the Chinese had an ample supply of food at the port, but their only consideration was to get these laborers and get their quota?
- A The way I see it, they did their best not only to secure the quota, but to look after the Chinese also. Everybody connected with our Association was of the same mind, and I also think that the Embassy did their best to help and facilitate the labor shipments.
- Q How many trips did you make to Tokyo, or Japan, during this period?
- A I came to Japan once only.
- Q Who did you report to?
- A Together with KASHIWABARA, we reported to the Home Ministry and took part in one conference. Also I made some trips to the camps where these Chinese laborers were employed. One camp was Yoshi in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo, and another was to Okayama to visit a camp there.



Q Which camp in Okayama did you visit?

A It was at Tama Shipbuilding Company. This last camp the laborers were not there yet. I visited the barracks where they were to be billeted.

Q Did you ever go to Osaka?

A I did not go to Osaka.

Q What was the date you came to Tokyo?

A I am not too sure of the exact date, but I think it was around May, 1944.

Q Who did you report to, the Home Ministry, or what office?

A I reported to the Greater East Asia Ministry. I do not know what section it was called, but it was the section that all the work referring to Embassy work overseas. I cannot recall the man in charge.

Q Do you know who sent for you?

A I made this trip to Japan with the intention of visiting some of the camps to investigate the conditions of the Chinese laborers. There was no order from Japan.

Q You said you attended a conference. Who else attended this conference and what was it about?

A The people represented at this conference were Army, Navy, Munitions, Home Ministry, GEA Ministry, Welfare, and, in fact, about all of the Ministries of Japan. The people representing the ministries were about section chiefs or vice-chiefs.

Q What were their names?

A

Q Do you know Mr. AICHI?

A Yes, it was this man's section that we reported to.

Q Do you know his full name?

A No.

Q How old a man is AICHI?

A He is about 45 years or so now. I saw him at Yokohama last year and he speaks good English.

Q Did AICHI testify at the FUKUDA trial?

A I do not know if he testified at the trials, but I met him on the occasion of one of the Yokohama trials last year.

Q Where did you see him?

A I met him in one of the rooms at the Yokohama court.

Q What was the conference about?

A The gist of the conference was (1) the best way to use Chinese coolies; (2) the food and clothing problem we had with them; (3) the Government representatives asked for good coolies and they wanted a lot of them; (4) we asked for good treatment of the laborers and to send more ships.



Q What was the date of the conference?

A I do not recall the date, but it was right after we arrived in Japan, so it may be that it was around the middle of May.

Q What date did you arrive in Japan?

A I cannot remember the date, but since we stayed in Japan one week, and it was the month of May, it could be any time between the middle and end of the month.

Q Was it a secret conference?

A I do not think it was any secret conference because of the fact that KASHIWABARA of the Peiping Embassy was in Japan to call a conference to discuss matters.

Q How long did the conference last?

A It was not too long - it lasted about half a day.

Q In 1944, or 1945?

A 1944.

Q Who conducted the conference?

A I think it was the GEA Ministry.

Q AICHI?

A As I recall, I do not think AICHI was the Chairman at that time, it was somebody else.

Q What was decided at this conference?

A This meeting was just general discussion and it ended that we would all work together and each ministry concerned would do its best to fulfill their part concerning Chinese labor. We also promised that we would do our best in China.

Q Did the question of fulfilling quotas come up?

A I kind of remember that there was a heated discussion among the sections concerning who should get the laborers first, but I do not remember anything on quotas.

Q Did anything about procurement come up?

A I remember KASHIWABARA getting up and speaking on existing conditions concerning labor in China.

Q What did he have to say about it?

A I think he mentioned the economic conditions in China of the time and he touched on customs and habits of Chinese and what the people in Japan who were to employ these coolies should take into consideration.

Q Who else accompanied you on this visit to the camps in Japan?

A When I went to Yoshi, it was KASHIWABARA, one of the men in the Tokyo office of the North China Labor Association whose name I have forgotten, and myself. When I went to Okayama, it was just KASHIWABARA and myself.

Q Have you thought of that man's name who was in charge of the port area barracks yet?

A I have not recalled his name yet, but may in the course of time.



**INTERROGATION OF  
MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Cont'd)**

<b>Interrogator:</b>	<b>Mr. Richard Elliott</b>
<b>Interpreter:</b>	<b>Mr. Hiroshi Matsuda</b>
<b>Stenographer:</b>	<b>Nina O. Briggs</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>War Ministry Building Tokyo, Japan</b>
<b>Date and Time:</b>	<b>16 July 1948, 0945 hours</b>

- Q. First of all, I would like to get a few names here. What was the full name of OBAYASHI whom you replaced at the North China Labor Association?
- A. His full name was OBAYASHI, Takumi.
- Q. Do you know what his occupation is now?
- A. I do not know what he is doing now or where he is at present.
- Q. Do you know whether he is still in the Government service?
- A. I have no idea. I understand that he was a former police chief in Japan, so probably he could be traced through the Police Department.
- Q. Did OBAYASHI handle any labor shipments to Japan?
- A. I do not know if he actually had a hand in shipping Chinese labor to Japan since the first shipment was a direct contract between the parties - Japan and China. But when the representatives of Japan came to China, I am quite sure that he had conferences with this group.
- Q. Who was head of the embassy in Peking at this time?
- A. At that time the man in charge of the embassy was SHIOZAWA. I don't recall his first name, but he was an ex-lieutenant general. I think he was in charge of the embassy as a minister.
- Q. Did he remain chief of the embassy throughout the entire period that you were there?
- A. I think it was in the fall of 1944 that Minister KUSUMOTO, Sanetaka, replaced SHIOZAWA. This man was also an ex-lieutenant general of the army.
- Q. Who was the head of the North China Transportation Company?
- A. The president was USAMI, first name unknown. I can't recall his first name now, I may do so later.
- Q. Did the Commerce and Industry Ministry have a representative in Peking?
- A. There were no representatives of the Transportation or Commerce Ministries in Peking, but I remember representatives coming to Peking at intervals.
- Q. Did they contact the North China Labor Association?
- A. Yes. Some of these representatives called on the North China Labor Association on their trips?
- Q. Was that in regards to Chinese Labor in Japan?
- A. On most of these visits they came to talk on Chinese labor matters.
- Q. Do you remember the names of any who came?
- A. I recall a Transportation Ministry representative named KABA. I can't recall any others at the present.
- Q. Do you know KABA's first name?
- A. I cannot recall his first name?
- Q. How many visits did he make?
- A. I think he came to my office once on business.



- Q. What was the conference about?  
 A. I think we talked mostly on transportation problems. At that time there were very few available boats for shipping these laborers. What he wanted was a good, selected group of coolies, and what I wanted was more transportation facilities.
- Q. What was his position in the transportation ministry?  
 A. He was one of the administrative officers in the Transportation Ministry?  
 Q. When was this?  
 A. I am not too sure, but I think it was at the end of 1944 or the early part of 1945.
- Q. Do you remember anybody from the Commerce and Industry Ministry?  
 A. I can't recall any at the present.
- Q. Did you ever meet a man by the name of OSHIMA in Peping who was a representative of the Commerce and Industry Ministry?  
 A. I don't recall any OSHIMA.
- Q. Who was the representative of the GMA Ministry in Peping at this time?  
 A. I do not remember any direct representative of the Greater East Asia Ministry in Peping. I don't think there were any because all negotiations were done at the embassy.
- Q. Did the Justice Department have anything to do with the shipment of laborers to Japan or with any part of the policy as far as you know?  
 A. I don't think the Justice Department had anything to do with the shipping of Chinese laborers.
- Q. Were there any representatives of the Justice Department in Peking.  
 A. None that I know of.
- Q. On what date did you dispatch the first shipment of Chinese laborers to Japan?  
 A. I think it was in November 1944.
- Q. Well, tell us just how these requisitions came to you.  
 A. After the experimental group of Chinese laborers was a success, we had information from the embassy to recruit Chinese labor for overseas shipment. We then went about to make plans for the conditions of the contract as to food, housing, recreations, etc., and drew up various forms which were to be filled out. We then requested each contractor or industry that was going to import and use these Chinese laborers to send a cadre to China for orientation in handling Chinese coolies. They studied from two to four months, studying Chinese customs and learning his habits on the spot. These men studied together with the acquired laborers and also went back to Japan with the shipment. Contracts were signed between the North China Labor Association and the company or contractors who were to use the Chinese labor.
- Q. Who was it in the embassy that issued these orders?  
 A. I remember the man that took care of the labor problem was a Mr. UCHIDA, Seitaro (?), who was one of the secretaries of the embassy.
- Q. What was KASHIWABARA's position in the embassy?  
 A. UCHIDA was the chief of the labor section and he had under him MIZUSHIMA at first who was later replaced by KASHIWABARA, handling labor matters only.
- Q. Well, you said you made arrangements about what food the laborers would get. Wasn't that actually decided by the Planning Board in 1942 when they first decided to import these coolies on an experimental basis?



Q. Yes, the Government had certain rules and regulations setting the amount of food each laborer was to receive, but we realized that it was insufficient for hard labor; and we demanded revision and had our contracts made so that each laborer would get 30 kilos per month. I learned all this later since I did not know the situation in Japan. The Government did supply only 22 kilos per person and the deficient 8 kilos the Prefecture concerned had to supply to make a total of 30 kilos. We had a hard time to decide on this amount because in Japan the Japanese were having an average of 10 kilos only per person per month.

Q. Do you know if this additional 8 kilos was actually furnished or not.  
A. Of course, at that time being in China I thought that everything was taken care of, but later when I returned I saw the conditions in Japan. They were having a hard time trying to produce the extra 8 kilos. I understand that in some instances the prefectures were able to furnish the whole amount, or part of it. In other instances, I understand that the people concerned using the laborers bought extra food from the black market to furnish part of the deficit. On the whole, I understand that these laborers had more food than an average Japanese.

Q. Who told you this?

A. I got this information through the people who came to contract laborers later, and they told me the situation as aforementioned and also at a trial in Yokohama concerning the AKITA Mine the same thing was read into the court records.

Q. Incidentally, did you ever have any conference with the representative of the Cabinet Planning Board?

A. I do not remember having any conference with a representative of the Planning Board.

Q. How much were these laborers to be paid?

A. The contract was that they were to be paid ¥ 5 a day and fed.

Q. Were they actually paid that?

A. Yes. They were paid this ¥ 5 a day. I don't know how often they were paid, but I think out of this ¥ 5, ¥ 3 was deposited in the bank and they were paid ¥ 2 a day on paydays for their own personal use. Also, the contract stated that the pay would be ¥ 2 a day for three months while they were in training. Of course, the man in charge of the coolies had higher pay.

Q. Did the contract specify that the pay was not to start until they actually arrived in Japan?

A. Yes, the pay would start after they arrived in Japan.

Q. And isn't it a fact that these coolies weren't paid anything at all until the war was over and after the Japanese surrendered?

A. I can not believe that they were not paid anything during this time; but of course I do not know what happened in Japan. The contract also states that a certain percentage of the part to be held in deposit and would be paid on termination of their contracts or when they returned home. Our plan was to have each laborer take home with him ¥ 1500 when he arrived in China.

Q. Isn't it a fact that the coolies didn't have any contract at all? Wasn't the contract between the company employing the coolies and the North China Labor Association?

A. Yes, that's right.

Q. Didn't you have liaison men at these various camps who made tours to the various camps in Japan?

A. Yes. We had liaison men in various camps. At least one in the larger camps and in some places one man acted as liaison for two or three smaller camps.



- Q. Did they make reports to you?  
 A. Yes, they made reports. The arrangement was that they make monthly reports. It actually turned out that reports did not come in promptly every month.
- Q. Didn't you learn from these reports that the terms of the so-called contract were not being lived up to?  
 A. In the various reports that I looked through, it stated that most of the terms of the contracts were being carried out properly.
- Q. After you received the instructions from the embassy regarding the recruitment of labor, just what steps did you take to have them recruited?  
 A. The first thing we did was to dispatch our men to various districts and provinces to get the cadre group from Japan who were to work with the laborers and recruited Chinese coolies mostly through Chinese labor gangs.
- Q. How were these laborers actually recruited?  
 A. The ways the coolies were acquired were, (1) through professional labor coolie dealers. They advertised the conditions and kind of work they were going to do and where they were going and in these instances they were mostly volunteers. (2) We established training camps to instruct and train Chinese POW's who were with the Japanese army. After they were trained to a certain extent by our men they were shipped to Japan.
- Q. What do you mean by your statement that they were "mostly volunteers"?  
 A. This first group with which we started didn't bring in very many laborers, but I take for granted professional laborers picked their men after laying down the conditions under which they were to work.
- Q. Don't you know that from the very beginning these laborers were procured by hi-jacking them from off the streets?  
 A. Later on when it was hard to procure labor I have heard of those instances, but in the beginning I don't think there were any procured by force.
- Q. Don't you know it to be a fact, and didn't you tell NOBI that?  
 A. Yes. When the quota system was set a lot of these people were forced to go to Japan including prisoners.

(Brief recess)

- Q. I want to know in what different ways these coolies were hi-jacked?  
 A. I know that these laborers that were picked by force were vagrants and unemployed on the streets and parks, prisoners serving terms, anybody that had been picked up by the police and were being held for some offense, drunkards who were roaming around the streets.
- Q. Isn't it a fact that they were picked indiscriminately, regardless of their occupation, farmers and merchants and even teachers in some cases?  
 A. Yes, there were farmers, small merchants and even school teachers among the laborers that were shipped to Japan. They came from various provinces that had to meet the quota.
- Q. And it was your office that set the quota, wasn't it?  
 A. The quota was set by the Japanese embassy in Peking. Of course, I do not know if this quota was set in Japan or not?
- Q. And the quota was enforced, wasn't it?  
 A. Yes, sir, we did our best to fill the quota.



- Q. That was the only object in mind - you didn't care how you got the laborers or where they came from?
- A. Although we failed to do what we wanted to do and we were put out of the job of acquiring laborers, we did our best to please both parties.
- Q. I don't care what you did or what you wanted to do. What I am driving at is how these laborers were procured? And didn't you ship laborers to Japan regardless of their physical condition and regardless of what diseases they had?
- A. Yes, there were a lot of skin diseases in China and in many instances we had to include those with skin diseases whom the doctors thought could be cured on the way or after receiving treatment. We had doctors to make physical examinations of all the laborers.
- Q. You mean all the laborers who were sent to Japan all received physical examinations before they were shipped - before they left China?
- A. Yes. Everyone had a physical and had immunization shots before they were shipped to Japan.
- Q. Didn't you tell me the other day that labor got so scarce that the matter was so dire in Japan that they didn't take time to examine them before they shipped them to Japan? That there were many complaints about the laborers shipped?
- A. Yes, I mentioned that there were a lot of complaints in Japan concerning the physical condition of the laborers and sickness.
- Q. And didn't you say that labor was so scarce that they didn't take time to give them an examination?
- A. I do not remember if I said it over here or at Yokohama, but I mentioned that later labor became so scarce in Japan that they didn't care to mention the physical condition and they wanted to rush shipment.
- Q. Well, isn't it a fact that many of these coolies who were deported to Japan were in poor physical condition?
- A. Yes, that's right. Some of them were actually shipped back to China.

(Interrogation adjourned at 1120 hours)



INTERROGATION OF

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter : Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Miss D. Braun  
Place : Room 386, War Ministry Building,  
Tokyo, Japan.  
Date and Time: July 8, 1948, 1030 hours.

Mr. MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, after having been duly sworn to speak the truth conscientiously, adding nothing and concealing nothing, testified as follows:

- Q What is your full name and address?  
A MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, Shibasaki, Kanegawa-Machi, Beppu, Kyushu.
- Q Are you married?  
A Yes.
- Q Any children?  
A Yes, two children, one girl and one boy.
- Q What is your present occupation?  
A I am a company clerk.
- Q What kind of work do you do?  
A I am connected with the ARIMA Institute of Osaka and am doing research work on tuberculosis. I am also connected with the Nihon Suisan Rikin (Japan Marine Products Research Institute) and spend part of my time at the Kurume branch factory making liver pills.
- Q Have you had a medical or pharmaceutical education?  
A No.
- Q How much education have you had?  
A I have a degree from Waseda. I also studied German at night school.
- Q When did you first go to China? Including China?  
A I first went to China in 1916 while I was a student at Waseda on an excursion trip and spent a month at Tsingtao. My second visit to China was in 1921 when I spent six months as a representative of the Foreign Ministry at the Shangtung Conference.
- Q What was the purpose of this Shangtung Conference?  
A The Shangtung Conference was a conference held as a result of the Washington Conference and I was just a clerk despatched with the Japanese Delegation from the Foreign Office. I stayed there six months because of the clerical work that had to be done during and after the conference. My main work there was in connection with the elimination of all the Japanese Post-offices in the Shangtung Province.
- Q When did you first become associated or connected with the Foreign Ministry?  
A In 1921 after which I immediately went to China.



Q Had you been connected with any other governmental agency before that time?

A No.

Q What did you do when you returned to Japan in 1921 from the Conference?

A I served with the Foreign Office in the Trades Bureau up to 1930. In April, 1930, I became a secretary to the Consulate in Hamburg, Germany. I later became vice-consul and served up to September of the same year. After I returned to Japan in 1930 I was given a job as secretary to Eiichi KIMURA, a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. KIMURA was a former minister to Czecho-Slovakia and he also served in Washington.

Q You say he was a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co?

A Yes, one of the directors.

Q Was that while he was with the Foreign Office?

A I do not know because although this man was connected with the Foreign Ministry all his life, when he was asked to become a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. he had to sever his relations with the Foreign Ministry before he accepted this job. His job with the South Manchurian Railway Co. had a lot to do with the Japanese Government, of course.

Q Who requested KIMURA to become a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co.?

A I think it was the Foreign Ministry.

Q Who requested you to become connected with the South Manchurian Railway Co?

A While I was in Europe, KIMURA requested me to go with him to Manchuria. Then I had a wire from the Foreign Ministry recalling me to Japan. When I came back to Japan KIMURA came to see me again and said that I was going to Manchuria with him. I thought it was a good job and I sent in my resignation to the Foreign Ministry and accepted the position.

Q Was the South Manchurian Railway owned, operated or controlled by the Japanese Government, and operated through the organ of the Foreign Ministry?

A All of the directors of the South Manchurian Railway were appointed by the Japanese Government, or nominated at least. Although there was no organ or man representing the Foreign Ministry in the South Manchurian Railway, it was a fact that the Japanese Government had a lot of control over this railway although it was a company and there were a great many individual stockholders.

Q Didn't the Japanese Government own most of the stock?

A I think the Government owned about half of the entire stock.

Q Were you employed in the Tokyo office of the Manchurian Railway?

A When I returned from Europe it was late in autumn and the arrangements for my going to Manchuria had been more or less completed by KIMURA. Of course after my resignation from the Foreign Office I went to the Tokyo branch office of the South Manchurian Railway and left immediately. I cannot remember making any agreements but it seemed that everything was arranged for me and when I went to Dairen I received my official papers as an employee of the South Manchurian Railway Co.



Q What was the nature of the official papers that you received - by whom were they issued?

A It was just an official notification I received after I was interviewed at the home office and it just stated that I was an employee of the South Manchurian Railway Co, my salary and place of employment. It was issued by the president of the South Manchurian Railway Co.

Q When you say "home office" do you mean the home office of the Manchurian Railway?

A Yes.

Q On what date did you assume your duties as an employee of the South Manchurian Railway?

A I do not remember the exact date but I think it was around October 8, 1930 when I received this official appointment.

Q What were your duties?

A I was general secretary to KIMURA and my duties were to look after his correspondence, keep files, etc. including some of his personal affairs. KIMURA's work with the South Manchurian Railway was mainly in connection with negotiations on railway matters with the then Manchurian Government under Chang Hsueh-Liang.

Q At this time did KIMURA have anything to do with procuring labor for the Manchurian Railway?

A No, he had no connection with labor problems.

Q How long did you remain in this position?

A Up to September 1931, the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident. With the Manchurian Incident, KIMURA's job came to an end.

Q What did KIMURA do then?

A He got into trouble with the Japanese Army and was branded a traitor and lost his position with the Manchurian Railway. He returned to Tokyo.

Q What did you do?

A I also resigned at the same time KIMURA was ousted but my resignation was not accepted and I was transferred to the General Affairs Section and served until April 1933.

Q The General Affairs Section of the Railway?

A Yes.

Q To whom did you try to tender your resignation?

A I tendered my resignation to the Chief of the Personnel Section of the Railway but he stopped me saying that it would make things worse for KIMURA if I resigned also. He said I might as well stay with the Railway for a while and that I would be transferred to another section.

Q Was that in the form of a request, order or direction?

A After I was confronted with this problem I thought it over and made up my mind to stay because I would be out of a job anyway and a man by the name of YAMASAKI, who later became president of the Railway was to head this General Affairs Section. He formerly was with KIMURA's section so naturally I joined his section.



Q You did not answer my question. I asked whether you were ordered to stay on or requested to stay on?  
A It was in the form of a request.

Q Didn't you heed that request because you were employed in the Foreign Office and it was in the nature of a direction from the Foreign Office?  
A No, I don't think the Foreign Office had anything to do with the request for me to stay in China.

Q What were your duties in the General Affairs Section?  
A I did practically nothing in the General Affairs Section and the agreement was that I could tag along with YAMAZAKE.

Q Were you there for the purpose of gathering information?  
A No, I had no such connection. We were branded as traitors.

Q Who branded you as a traitor?  
A When the Manchurian Incident started KIMURA did not work together with the army authorities. He was very much disliked by the army who said that he would not cooperate and that he had sent information to the Foreign Office without the consent of the army. I, being his secretary, was also branded as a traitor.

Q What sort of information did KIMURA send to the Foreign Office?  
A The trouble arose from the fact that KIMURA used the ROMANJI Code System to send his messages to the president of the South Manchurian Railway and he also sent messages to the Foreign Office in this code with which he was very familiar. The army made a fuss about this saying they had a special code of their own. The army never used the ROMANJI.

Q Did he send these messages back to the Foreign Office in line with his duty?  
A I actually sent the messages for KIMURA to the Foreign Office but I do not know whether KIMURA had any special connection with the Foreign Office to give them information. Because of his long connection with the Foreign Office and the fact that the Vice-Minister of the Foreign Office was a personal friend of his, he used to send frequent messages. All official messages of course were sent through the Embassy. At that time it seemed the Foreign Office and the Army were not in accord on some matters. I think for this reason the Foreign Office was trying to get information from some of their former employees.

Q When you were in the General Affairs Section of the South Manchurian Railway did you send any messages to the Foreign Office?  
A No, I did not.

Q Did YAMAZAKE?  
A No, I don't think so.

Q What were YAMAZAKE's duties?  
A At that time he was Chief of the General Affairs Section.

Q What were his duties as chief? Did he have any duties or did he sit around and do nothing too?  
A The General Affairs Section did odd jobs for the directors - clerical work, receptions and other miscellaneous work that did not come under other specified sections.



Q You said that you did not do anything in General Affairs Section. What was your official title?  
A My title was clerk. There were many others like me and we used to sit in a pool, doing nothing.

Q How long did this continue?  
A It continued up to April 1933.

Q Do you mean to say that you spent two years on the payroll doing nothing whatsoever?  
A Yes.

Q What payroll were you on, the Government or the Railway payroll?  
A The Railway Company payroll.

Q During that time did you correspond with or get in touch with anybody in the Foreign Office or any other governmental agency in Japan, or the Embassy or Consulate offices in Manchuria?  
A No.

Q What happened April, 1933?  
A The steel works at Anshan, a subsidiary of the South Manchurian Railway Co. became an independent company. It was called the SHOWA Steel Works. In April 1933 I joined this company.

Q During the time that you were in the General Affairs Section of the Railway did you do any travelling around?  
A No, I did not make any trips but stayed in Dairien all the time.

Q Did you ever contact the Japanese Embassy or Japanese Consul in Dairien?  
A No, I had no connections with the Foreign Office and I made no contacts with Consulate Offices or the Embassy. There was no consulate or embassy in Dairien.

Q Why did you leave the Railway to go with the SHOWA Steel Co.?  
A The president of this new SHOWA Steel Co. was GODO, Takao, a former director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. He was the head man of the Anshan Steel Works. He was a friend of KIMURA's and he offered me a position with his new company, knowing of my plight. GODO was in Sugamo Prison but has been released. He later became a Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Q Now?  
A No, after that. I think he was in Sugamo for a while.

Q Not GOTO Fumio?  
A No, GODO, Takao.

Q Had GODO been affiliated with the Foreign Office before this time?  
A No, I do not think so because he was a navy man with the rank of Vice-Admiral.

Q Had YAMAZAKI ever been connected with the Foreign Office or any other governmental branch before he became president of the South Manchurian Railway?  
A No, he was a relatively young man and I know that he joined the South Manchurian Railway right after graduating from college.



Q What was the nature of the business of the SHOWA Steel Co.?  
A The SHOWA Steel Co. made pig-iron and steel. They also manufactured rails and other material such as construction steel.

Q Was this organization founded or controlled by the North China Development Co.?  
A The South Manchurian Railway had no control over the SHOWA Steel Co. The way I understood it, one-half of the shares were owned by the Manchurian Government and the other half by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries Co. The president of the South Manchurian Heavy Industries was AYUKAWA, Gisuke.

Q The question was, was it organized or controlled by the North China Development Co.?  
A No, there was no connection between this company and the North China Development Co.

Q How long did you continue with the Steel Co.?  
A I served with that firm up to July 1941.

Q What were your duties with with this company?  
A When I first joined the company in 1933 I was in charge of the temporary constructions of the firm.

Q What do you mean by "temporary constructions" of the company?  
A By temporary construction I mean the section that had to do with the construction and expansion of the company since it went into the steel refining work, whereas formerly they had produced only pig-iron. Then in 1934 I joined the General Affairs Section of the company and had to do with matters concerning all sections of the company.

Q What were your specific duties?  
A By General Affairs Section I mean the clerical section that worked with the directors and did odd jobs for them such as receptions or arranging details as to meetings and other general work connected with the company that did not come under the personnel section etc.

Q What do you mean by "arranged receptions - entertainments or parties for visitors?"  
A Yes, receptions for people who visited our firm, for directors, parties and the like.

Q Did you ever arrange any parties or receptions for any government officials?  
A Yes, there were times when government officials visited the company.

Q What officials were they - from what office?  
A This company was the largest steel company in this part of China and I do not recall exactly from what department of the government these people came, but I know that any department that had anything to do with steel or iron sent their men to inspect our company.

Q Didn't the government take all or most of the company's output?  
A Yes, I think the greater part of the products of this company went to the army and navy since this company and the YAMATA Works in Kyushu were the only two companies that were doing big scale production. I served in this section up to June 1937 when I went into the



A (cont)  
Administration Section of the Plants and Factories Branch where I handled office work and personnel.

Q Do you mean labor personnel?  
A Yes. And the following month, July, I became Chief of the Labor Section of the firm and served up to July 1941 in that position.

Q What were your duties as director of the Labor Section?  
A As director of the Labor Section my duties were first to supply the necessary labor, its control and regulation, which had to do with their living quarters, sanitation, hospitals and deaths etc.

Q How did you go about procuring labor?  
A The company had a branch office at Tientsin and at first we got most of our laborers from that area. We sent the old time employees of the company back to their respective districts where they came from and they were usually very successful in bringing back their friends. We also got some laborers from Manchuria. To help Manchurian people we made arrangements with the various districts to supply them with different tools that we used to make, or help them to establish schools, and in living well....things that would be beneficial to the community. In turn these communities would supply their excess manpower. Later on when we needed more laborers we got them from the North China area. We also sent back old time employees of the company that had originally come from North China back to their respective areas and they would bring back as many of their friends as they could.

Q Where was the head office of this company located?  
A The head office was at Anshan, near Mukden, in Manchuria.

Q Didn't you utilize the Manchurian Labor Association?  
A The Manchurian Labor Association had nothing to do with the procurement of labor. It was just a control organ for labor. We did not get any of our employees through the Manchurian Labor Association.

Q Didn't you really recruit labor by going to these provinces or districts or municipalities and demand that they supply you with so many laborers?  
A While I was with the company I do not remember any instances when we had to go to municipalities or townships to demand certain quotas of labor because during my time there it was relatively easy to procure labor. Although toward the latter years we were gradually getting short of personnel. But I do not remember of instances when we had to make demands for labor.

Q What do you mean, you don't remember? Do you mean that you positively did not carry on this practice?  
A Yes, while I was with the firm we positively did not resort to that means to get our labor.

Q Do you know whether or not this practice was carried on later, after you left?  
A No, I do not know nor did I hear of any instance where this system was used in Manchuria to acquire labor. I have heard that there was an organ known as the KYOWAKAI which went ahead to get volunteer laborers for road building in Manchuria. I understand when they recruited this free labor group to make roads in Manchuria, a quota from various provinces and districts was set up.



- Q Did you say "free labor"?
- A It was just like volunteer or free service for the country. It was something like the German Youth Service Groups they had in Germany where all young men had to serve a certain length of time. They had to serve the country free.
- Q It was the Japanese Government that decided this, was it not?
- A It was an organ established by the Manchurian Government. Of course its connections with the Japanese Government would mean that the Japanese Government had something to do with it.
- Q Did the Japanese Government actually control the Manchurian Government?
- A I don't know if you could call it that, but since there were many Japanese officials within the Manchurian Government, some people say that Manchuria was actually the Japanese government - but it is the way you look at it.
- Q You say you remained at this job until 1941?
- A Yes.
- Q What happened then?
- A In July 1941 I was made director of the Manchurian Labor Association and had my office at Mukden. Of course I represented the South Manchurian Heavy Industries.
- Q Who appointed you as director of the Manchurian Labor Association?
- A I don't know how it actually came about that I was appointed by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, but because of the fact that I was with the Labor Section of the SHOWA Steel works, which was partly owned by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, they must have decided that I would be the logical man. The Manchurian Labor Association was an organ that worked with the Manchurian Government, the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries.
- Q Did you resign your post with the SHOWA Steel Co.?
- A The agreement was that I could come back to the SHOWA Steel Co. after the two year term of director had expired. They arranged this by transferring me to the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, and then by giving me a legal absence of two years.
- Q Just what was the South Manchurian Heavy Industries?
- A At the beginning most of the industries in Manchuria were either controlled or affiliated with the South Manchurian Railway. The South Manchurian Heavy Industries was a company established by the joint sponsorship of the Manchurian and Japanese Governments to take over the heavy industries that were on the South Manchurian Railway. The SHOWA Steel Works and the Coal and Metal Mines were under its control.
- Q Were the directors in these two concerns, that is the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries, mostly Japanese?
- A Yes, the greater part were Japanese. Some were Manchurians.
- Q Was not the South Manchurian Heavy Industries the Japanese Governmental Agency or Association? For the purpose of controlling the development of the industry in Manchuria?



A I do not know what the actual relationship of the Japanese Government was in this company but it is a fact that the Japanese Government had a lot of influence. Looking back I recall that the South Manchurian Railway was having a difficult time because of shortage of funds. A new company was to be formed under the name of the South Manchurian Heavy Industries and the capital of this new firm was to be three billion yen, of which two billion would come from the United States and the other billion from Japan. AYUKAWA who was a big industrialist in Japan was the head of this firm and because of the studies he made in America and because he had a lot of American friends, he was chosen to head this new enterprise. But when the funds from America failed to materialize it was started by Japanese capital only, with AYUKAWA as its head.

Q Was not the capital for this organization furnished by the Japanese Government?

A At this time I do not recall who financed this enterprise but I think it was an enterprise that was financed fifty-fifty by the Japanese Government and the Manchurian Government, and where AYUKAWA comes in with his personal interest, I do not know.

Q Was the Manchurian Labor Association actually a Government organization, or was it not?

A I don't think that the Manchurian Labor Association could be called an organ of the Manchurian Government because it was an organization financed by the South Manchurian Railway and South Manchurian Heavy Industries and the Manchurian Government jointly.

Q Well now, again were not the South Manchurian Railway and the South Manchurian Heavy Industries associations controlled by the government?

A Although this Labor Association operated under the rules and regulations of the Manchurian government, I still don't think it could be called an organ of the government because it was established by contributions of the three or four mentioned parties and it was a legal corporation. I would like to add that the appointment of directors for this association was with the approval of the Manchurian Government.

Q Who was the head of the Manchurian Labor Association?

A It was a man by the name of KONDO - but I cannot recall his first name.

Q How were you connected with this association?

A In October 1941 this organization was reorganized and changed its set-up. It became known as the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI and they had members who paid fees.

Q What did you do then? Did you have anything to do with this ROMU KOKOKU KAI?

A I became the administrative director of this association.

Q As administrative director, what were your duties?

A I was administrative director for the Mukden Area District of the Association. My duties were the control and guidance of labor in this district.



Q What was the purpose of this corporation?  
A The function of this association was similar to the former set-up and its primary purpose was the control and regulation of labor in Manchuria, salaries, movement, and looking after their welfare.

Q Was one of the functions of the organization to procure labor?  
A The association never did procure labor themselves because we acted in the capacity of aiding the various industries or firms that needed labor by giving them information as to the area in which they had available labor and what kind of a group would be most suitable for their particular jobs.

Q Where did the association have branch offices?  
A The head office of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI was at Changchung. Each province had their own association which was located in the main cities and these provincial associations had various branches set up in various cities and towns. I was not connected with the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI but was administrative director of the Mukden district only.

Q Was that a branch office of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI?  
A Yes, a provincial office.

Q In the first part of this document you have, headed "True Estimates of the work done by North China Labor Association", you say that the Manchuria Labor Association was created around 1938?  
A Yes.

Q Later on in the same paragraph you say the association set up its branch offices in Tientsin and *Chinan* and other places in North China as agencies for issuing labor certificates and for recording and transporting laborers.  
A Yes, that is right.

Q You then told me a while ago that the association had nothing to do with the recruiting of labor but merely controlled labor. It was to facilitate and help the recruiting. It does not say the recruiting.  
A It was to facilitate and help the recruiting. It does not say the recruiting.

Q How would you translate that - the sentence beginning "The association set up its branch office etc.etc."  
A For the purpose of issuing health certificates and to give aid and help and facilitate the ROMU KOKOKU KAI in the mobilization and shipment.

Q How were the laborers mobilized?  
A The way that they were recruited as I said earlier in the morning was that the various industries or companies concerned sent some of their old-timers to recruit some of their friends in their own home area and there were other Chinese professional procurers that would get the labor for these people and the duty of this Manchurian Labor Association as it states here was aiding these people and telling them what districts to go for certain kinds of labor because the association had data and had made a study of the various conditions of the country and knew where to look for the laborers. Other work that they did was to regulate and control the advanced payments they made when they procured these laborers and also when their contracts were over and they returned to their homes, these branch offices would aid them in the shipment to their destination.



- Q You said these professional procurers would bring in laborers.  
Were they paid so much for each laborer brought in?
- A It depended on the company concerned but generally it was  
a payment of so much per person.
- Q Did the association pay the procurers?
- A No, the association had nothing to do with these payments.  
It was the individual companies concerned.
- Q How long were you connected with that organization in that  
capacity?
- A What I have written in this statement is something that was  
before my time and when I joined the Manchuria Labor Association  
we had no branch offices.
- Q I am not speaking of that. I am speaking of the ROMU KOKOKU KAI.  
That was organized in 1941.
- Q How long were you connected with the ROMU KOKOKU KAI?
- A I was with this organization up to June 1943.
- Q What did you do then?
- A I went to the North China Labor Association in July, 1943.



INTERROGATION OF

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Continued)

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter : Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Miss Marian A. Linhart  
Place : Room 386 War Ministry Building  
Tokyo, Japan  
Date and Time: 9 July 1948, 1030 hours

- Q What date did you go to the North China Labor Association?  
A I am not too sure, but it was around the middle of July, 1943.
- Q Who sent you to the North China Labor Association?  
A The North China Labor Association which was formed about three years prior to July, 1943, had various connections with the Manchurian Labor Association, because at that time also the laborers were shipped to Manchuria and the set-up was that one of the Directors would come from Manchuria, therefore, I replaced my predecessor OBAYASHI whose two-year term had expired with the North China Labor Association.
- Q Who decided that you would go to the North China Labor Association?  
A I believe the North China Government, together with the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI got together and selected me because I was appointed by the President of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI, UMEMO, Minoru.
- Q Didn't that order come from the Foreign Office?  
A No.
- Q You say you replaced a Mr. OBAYASHI. Where did he go after that?  
A OBAYASHI returned to Manchuria and was the director of the Changchung area ROMU KOKOKU KAI for awhile. I do not know what happened to him after that.
- Q Did he come back to Tokyo in the Foreign Office?  
A I have never heard that he returned to Japan to any office, or to any office with the Foreign Ministry, but I do not think he had any connections with the Foreign Office.
- Q To whom did you report when you went to the North China Labor Ass'n.?  
A I reported to CHAO-CHI who was the President of the North China Labor Ass'n.
- Q Who was the real director of the North China Labor Ass'n.?  
A There were three directors under CHAO-CHI and they all had separate work to perform.
- Q Didn't you tell me the other day that CHAO-CHI, being a Chinese, was just a figurehead and sort of a blind, and that the Japanese really controlled it?  
A I did not say that Japan controlled and ran the Labor Association, but I said that the Embassy set the rules and regulations of the Association - the Japanese Embassy in Peiping.
- Q And you took orders from KASHIWABARA, Chief of the Labor Association?  
A I said that all matters in relation to labor which concerned the Japanese Government came and went through the Embassy, but that does not mean all of the work of the Labor Association.



Q When did you first hear that they were considering importing Chinese labor to Japan?

A When I went to the North China Labor Ass'n. the first group of experimental laborers were in the process of being shipped to Japan, so the decision to ship Chinese labor to Japan was made before I got to North China.

Q Had you heard of this before you went to the North China Labor Ass'n.?

A No, I learned of it after I reached Peking.

Q Do you know on what authority the laborers were shipped?

A I do not know who made the decision or gave the orders to import laborers from China, but this is what I heard after I reached Peking: In December of 1942 there was a commission from Japan which came to China to study the possibility of using Chinese labor in Japan, and I think they remained in North China until March of 1943. They decided to import a trial group to work in Japan, so in April of 1943, some fifteen or twenty Chinese group leaders were dispatched to Japan and studied the conditions under which they had to work in the Niigata Prefecture. They came back and reported that the conditions under which they were to work were all right and they would take their respective groups and go to Japan. I also understand that the experimental groups that went to Japan were mostly regular employees of the North China Transportation Company (railway transportation) who were experienced in transportation and stevedoring work. Of course, I think they did recruit some other inexperienced Chinese also, but at least the leaders and the main group of these laborers were experienced men. In the fall these groups left for Japan to work as stevedores, and later another group left for Japan to work in the mines of Kyushu.

Q Do you know who was in this party from China to study the labor situation?

A No, I do not know.

Q Were they Government officials?

A I do not think any of them had any connection with the Government, but I think at least some of the leaders were officials of the North China Transportation Company, but the majority of them were just labor bosses, or group leaders.

Q No. I mean the original commission that you were speaking of that came from Japan to China to study whether or not it would be practical to import laborers to Japan. Was not that group made up of Government officials?

A I do not know who exactly composed the commission that came to study laborers in North China, but I know that they were representatives from the stevedoring group, mining group and contractor group, and I think Mr. NOGI was the man who represented the contractors, and I am sure there were others, but I do not know which section of the Government they represented. Probably there was somebody from the Labor Bureau of Japan.

Q If you know that those people were in the group, you must also know that there were representatives from the Welfare, Foreign, Greater East Asia, Home and Army Ministries, and also the Munitions Bureau?

A Since I was not there at the time they came, I do not know which sections of the Government were represented, but I think those sections of the Government were represented in the commission.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

- Q Then how is it that you know that there were representatives of the industries, such as the Mining Association, etc.?
- A Since I got this information after everything happened and I heard it through sources like NOGI when I talked to them, I knew that there were representatives from contractors group through conversation with these people.
- Q Do you know who sent this commission to China?
- A I do not know which section.
- Q Did you ever hear which section?
- A I know that they came to China through the permission of the Greater East Asia Ministry, so they must have been connected with the GEA Ministry.
- Q When you joined the Association you were assigned as Chief of the Labor Mobilization Bureau, is that not correct?
- A My duties with the North China Labor Association were the mobilization, acceptance, control, guidance and aid. Also I had the planning and transportation part of it. When the request for laborers to be shipped to Japan came, we were having a hard time in procuring labor, and this is when the North China Labor Ass'n. did actually aid in the mobilization of labor, and we made a miserable failure of it.
- Q You were in charge of recruiting labor, were you not?
- A Yes.
- Q Didn't you have the records at your disposal?
- A Yes, the records were with my section.
- Q And you mean to say that you don't know who authorized the shipment of Chinese laborers to Japan?
- A No, I do not think in any of the records there was anything that might refer to any section of the Japanese Government. There may have been places within the documents where it mentioned Government organs, but I do not recall any specific Government section that we were recruiting labor for.
- Q I am not speaking of recruiting labor for any Government section. Do you know who it was who decided that labor would be imported to Japan in the first place? Where did the original idea come from? Where did the original directive or order come from?
- A The way I understood it is that when they decided to import Chinese labor in great numbers to Japan, it was a Cabinet decision, but on the trial group, I do not know who made the decision.
- Q How soon after you joined the Association in Peiping did you talk with anybody about this importation of Chinese labor?
- A Although I went to Peiping in July, I did not do any actual work until the middle of August because I had to make arrangements to bring my family to Peiping, and when I took up my duties about this time, the middle of August, I heard for the first time of this shipment of labor to Japan.
- Q Wasn't that the reason for your transfer --to handle shipment of labor to Japan?
- A I think the reason why I was sent to the North China area was because of supplying labor to Manchuria primarily, but after I joined the North China Labor Association, it was supplying labor to all areas.



- Q Who did you first talk with about the Chinese labor for Japan?  
A I think the first person I talked to about shipping labor to Japan was the head man of the labor section of the North China Transportation Company. He came to me concerning a shipment of laborers to Japan that was going from his company.
- Q What was his name?  
A I cannot recall his name at present.
- Q Do you have his name in your notes anywhere?  
A I do not have any records or memos since we are not allowed to bring any such thing home from China, but I think this man's name could be MIZUSHIMA, who had something to do with labor before I arrived at Peiping.
- Q What did the North China Transportation Company have to do with the shipment of labor to Japan?  
A I do not know what the exact arrangements were, but I think the North China Transportation Company was shipping their men to Japan, and I think it was because of the fact that this transportation company was shipping lots of merchandise to Japan and they had some kind of relation between the transportation company and Japan. Furthermore, this first group were to be used as stevedores, so it must have happened that this North China Transportation Company was sending some<sup>of</sup> their own employees.
- Q Was it because the North China Transportation Company was a branch of the Japan Shipping Company?  
A I do not think so.
- Q Was the North China Shipping Company a Japanese Government organization?  
A It was financed by the North China Development Association.
- Q What did the representative of the North China Transportation Company talk to you about.  
A I do not recall the exact nature of the business, but it was something pertaining to the shipments going to Japan and he wanted some help from me.
- Q That was the first you have heard of the Chinese labor being sent to Japan --is that what you mean to tell us?  
A Yes.
- Q How long was this after you assumed your post with the North China Labor Association?  
A I recall it was just as I assumed the office. It must have been the first week after I started work.
- Q What kind of help did he want from you?  
A I knew he came to ask for some assistance, but I cannot recall what the details were.
- Q What did he tell you about labor being shipped to Japan? Did he tell you the whole program?  
A Among the things he told me were as to the numbers, what their wages were, conditions, and shipping together with them were some women.
- Q And this man - this labor chief of the North China Transportation Company - was telling you, an official of the North China Labor Ass'n. who was charged with recruiting labor to be sent to Japan - is that what you want us to believe?  
A Yes. The contract of sending labor to Japan was between a stevedoring company in Japan and the North China Transportation Company and he was telling me about the conditions of the contract, which was for one year.



- Q You mean the North China Transportation Company handled all the contracts for the labor to be sent to Japan?
- A Yes. This first trial shipment was between the North China Transportation and the shipping concern in Japan, and the North China Labor Association was not connected with it.
- Q I asked him, "Were all the labor contracts for labor to be sent to Japan made with the North China Transportation Company?"
- A This direct arrangement was only for the first shipment. Later when it was decided to ship laborers in large quantities, the North China Labor Association made the contracts.
- Q Are you sure this person was not a representative of the Japanese Embassy in Peiping, or the Greater East Asia Ministry?
- A No. I learned later about this labor shipment to Japan from the representative of the Embassy.
- Q Isn't it a fact that the GEA Ministry and the Japanese Embassy in Peiping were the ones who controlled and had charge of importation of labor?
- A Yes, all matters concerning Japan and China came through GEA Ministry to the Embassy.
- Q Didn't you receive all your orders concerning labor going to Japan from the Japanese Embassy?
- A Yes, all orders and directions came from the GEA Ministry through the Embassy, but on this first trial shipment, I do not know how the arrangements were made and by whom they were actually made.
- Q Well, you say this man from the Transportation Company came to you for help. What was his problem?
- A As I have said before, I do not recall what the exact things were he asked me, but because of the fact that I was connected with labor procurement in North China and had moved to North China, he had come to pay his respects and ask my opinion on the contract he had.
- Q Did you have frequent dealings thereafter with the labor section of the transportation company?
- A Yes, I met this man frequently after that since we were connected with the regulations of labor in North China.
- Q You still do not remember who he was?
- A No, I cannot recall at present.
- Q What was the business of the North China Transportation Company?
- A This company had control of all transportation in North China. They had all the railroads, buses, trucks, and work at the ports of stevedoring.
- Q What did the transportation company have to do with the North China Labor Association?
- A The connection between this railway company and the North China Labor Association was in matters concerning labor. The North China Labor Association controlled distribution of labor and working conditions. Also, when labor was procured in various outlying districts, all the transportation was handled by this transportation company, although the laborers worked under conditions and regulations of the North China Labor Association.



- Q Didn't the Labor Association procure and recruit labor for the transportation company?
- A Yes. When the transportation company needed laborers, they had to get permission from the North China Labor Association as to their procurement.
- Q And you still say that the transportation company handled the labor contracts for the original shipment to Japan. You still say that in view of the fact that they did not have authority to recruit labor for themselves even?
- A As I mentioned, the North China Labor Association had general control of labor movements. It may be that the first shipment had been OK'd by the Labor Association, but as to the details, I do not know. This trial shipment was some 300 laborers, or so, and it was to individual concerns, and it was carried out by these two parties.
- Q You say that the first trial shipments to Japan were 300?
- A Yes, about 300.
- Q When was this?
- A It was right after I arrived in Peiping, so I think it was around autumn of 1943.
- Q You say these first two trial shipments went to the mines at Kyushu and to the dock yards in Fushige? How many laborers went to the mines?
- A Those that went to the coal mines were after the shipment of stevedores, and there were two shipments of these. Both were between 200 and 300.
- Q I want to know, including all experimental shipments, what was the total number of laborers imported to Japan?
- A I do not recall the exact figures, but there were about 300 on each shipment, and there were only three shipments, so there must have been about 900.
- Q You said you don't know much of the details of these trial shipments. That being the case, how do you know that they were procured through the transportation company? How do you know that the contract was signed by the transportation company.
- A I heard all this after I reached Peiping.



**INTERROGATION OF  
MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Cont'd)**

<b>Interrogator:</b>	<b>Mr. Richard Elliott</b>
<b>Interpreter:</b>	<b>Mr. Hiroshi Matsuda</b>
<b>Stenographer:</b>	<b>Nina O. Briggs</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>War Ministry Building Tokyo, Japan</b>
<b>Date and Time:</b>	<b>16 July 1948, 0945 hours</b>

- Q. First of all, I would like to get a few names here. What was the full name of OBAYASHI whom you replaced at the North China Labor Association?
- A. His full name was OBAYASHI, Takumi.
- Q. Do you know what his occupation is now?
- A. I do not know what he is doing now or where he is at present.
- Q. Do you know whether he is still in the Government service?
- A. I have no idea. I understand that he was a former police chief in Japan, so probably he could be traced through the Police Department.
- Q. Did OBAYASHI handle any labor shipments to Japan?
- A. I do not know if he actually had a hand in shipping Chinese labor to Japan since the first shipment was a direct contract between the parties - Japan and China. But when the representatives of Japan came to China, I am quite sure that he had conferences with this group.
- Q. Who was head of the embassy in Peking at this time?
- A. At that time the man in charge of the embassy was SHIOZAWA. I don't recall his first name, but he was an ex-lieutenant general. I think he was in charge of the embassy as a minister.
- Q. Did he remain chief of the embassy throughout the entire period that you were there?
- A. I think it was in the fall of 1944 that Minister KUSUMOTO, Sanetaka, replaced SHIOZAWA. This man was also an ex-lieutenant general of the army.
- Q. Who was the head of the North China Transportation Company?
- A. The president was USAMI, first name unknown. I can't recall his first name now, I may do so later.
- Q. Did the Commerce and Industry Ministry have a representative in Peking?
- A. There were no representatives of the Transportation or Commerce Ministries in Peking, but I remember representatives coming to Peking at intervals.
- Q. Did they contact the North China Labor Association?
- A. Yes. Some of these representatives called on the North China Labor Association on their trips?
- Q. Was that in regards to Chinese Labor in Japan?
- A. On most of these visits they came to talk on Chinese labor matters.
- Q. Do you remember the names of any who came?
- A. I recall a Transportation Ministry representative named KABA. I can't recall any others at the present.
- Q. Do you know KABA's first name?
- A. I cannot recall his first name?
- Q. How many visits did he make?
- A. I think he came to my office once on business.



- Q. What was the conference about?  
A. I think we talked mostly on transportation problems. At that time there were very few available boats for shipping these laborers. What he wanted was a good, selected group of coolies, and what I wanted was more transportation facilities.
- Q. What was his position in the transportation ministry?  
A. He was one of the administrative officers in the Transportation Ministry?  
Q. When was this?  
A. I am not too sure, but I think it was at the end of 1944 or the early part of 1945.
- Q. Do you remember anybody from the Commerce and Industry Ministry?  
A. I can't recall any at the present.
- Q. Did you ever meet a man by the name of OSHIMA in Peking who was a representative of the Commerce and Industry Ministry?  
A. I don't recall any OSHIMA.
- Q. Who was the representative of the GEA Ministry in Peking at this time?  
A. I do not remember any direct representative of the Greater East Asia Ministry in Peking. I don't think there were any because all negotiations were done at the embassy.
- Q. Did the Justice Department have anything to do with the shipment of laborers to Japan or with any part of the policy as far as you know?  
A. I don't think the Justice Department had anything to do with the shipping of Chinese laborers.
- Q. Were there any representatives of the Justice Department in Peking.  
A. None that I know of.
- Q. On what date did you dispatch the first shipment of Chinese laborers to Japan?  
A. I think it was in November 1944.
- Q. Well, tell us just how these requisitions came to you.  
A. After the experimental group of Chinese laborers was a success, we had information from the embassy to recruit Chinese labor for overseas shipment. We then went about to make plans for the conditions of the contract as to food, housing, recreations, etc., and drew up various forms which were to be filled out. We then requested each contractor or industry that was going to import and use these Chinese laborers to send a cadre to China for orientation in handling Chinese coolies. They studied from two to four months, studying Chinese customs and learning his habits on the spot. These men studied together with the acquired laborers and also went back to Japan with the shipment. Contracts were signed between the North China Labor Association and the company or contractors who were to use the Chinese labor.
- Q. Who was it in the embassy that issued these orders?  
A. I remember the man that took care of the labor problem was a Mr. UCHIDA, Seitaro (?), who was one of the secretaries of the embassy.
- Q. What was KASHIWABARA's position in the embassy?  
A. UCHIDA was the chief of the labor section and he had under him MIZUSHIMA at first who was later replaced by KASHIWABARA, handling labor matters only.
- Q. Well, you said you made arrangements about what food the laborers would get. Wasn't that actually decided by the Planning Board in 1942 when they first decided to import these coolies on an experimental basis?



- Q. Yes, the Government had certain rules and regulations setting the amount of food each laborer was to receive, but we realized that it was insufficient for hard labor; and we demanded revision and had our contracts made so that each laborer would get 30 kilos per month. I learned all this later since I did not know the situation in Japan. The Government did supply only 22 kilos per person and the deficient 8 kilos the Prefecture concerned had to supply to make a total of 30 kilos. We had a hard time to decide on this amount because in Japan the Japanese were having an average of 10 kilos only per person per month.
- Q. Do you know if this additional 8 kilos was actually furnished or not.
- A. Of course, at that time being in China I thought that everything was taken care of, but later when I returned I saw the conditions in Japan. They were having a hard time trying to produce the extra 8 kilos. I understand that in some instances the prefectures were able to furnish the whole amount, or part of it. In other instances, I understand that the people concerned using the laborers bought extra food from the black market to furnish part of the deficit. On the whole, I understand that these laborers had more food than an average Japanese.
- Q. Who told you this?
- A. I got this information through the people who came to contract laborers later, and they told me the situation as aforementioned and also at a trial in Yokohama concerning the AKITA Mine the same thing was read into the court records.
- Q. Incidentally, did you ever have any conference with the representative of the Cabinet Planning Board?
- A. I do not remember having any conference with a representative of the Planning Board.
- Q. How much were these laborers to be paid?
- A. The contract was that they were to be paid ¥ 5 a day and fed.
- Q. Were they actually paid that?
- A. Yes. They were paid this ¥ 5 a day. I don't know how often they were paid, but I think out of this ¥ 5, ¥ 3 was deposited in the bank and they were paid ¥ 2 a day on paydays for their own personal use. Also, the contract stated that the pay would be ¥ 2 a day for three months while they were in training. Of course, the man in charge of the coolies had higher pay.
- Q. Did the contract specify that the pay was not to start until they actually arrived in Japan?
- A. Yes, the pay would start after they arrived in Japan.
- Q. And isn't it a fact that these coolies weren't paid anything at all until the war was over and after the Japanese surrendered?
- A. I can not believe that they were not paid anything during this time; but of course I do not know what happened in Japan. The contract also states that a certain percentage of the part to be held in deposit and would be paid on termination of their contracts or when they returned home. Our plan was to have each laborer take home with him ¥ 1500 when he arrived in China.
- Q. Isn't it a fact that the coolies didn't have any contract at all? Wasn't the contract between the company employing the coolies and the North China Labor Association?
- A. Yes, that's right.
- Q. Didn't you have liaison men at these various camps who made tours to the various camps in Japan?
- A. Yes. We had liaison men in various camps. At least one in the larger camps and in some places one man acted as liaison for two or three smaller camps.



- Q. Did they make reports to you?  
A. Yes, they made reports. The arrangement was that they make monthly reports. It actually turned out that reports did not come in promptly every month.
- Q. Didn't you learn from these reports that the terms of the so-called contract were not being lived up to?  
A. In the various reports that I looked through, it stated that most of the terms of the contracts were being carried out properly.
- Q. After you received the instructions from the embassy regarding the recruitment of labor, just what steps did you take to have them recruited?  
A. The first thing we did was to dispatch our men to various districts and provinces to get the cadre group from Japan who were to work with the laborers and recruited Chinese coolies mostly through Chinese labor gangs.
- Q. How were these laborers actually recruited?  
A. The ways the coolies were acquired were, (1) through professional labor coolie dealers. They advertised the conditions and kind of work they were going to do and where they were going and in these instances they were mostly volunteers. (2) We established training camps to instruct and train Chinese POW's who were with the Japanese army. After they were trained to a certain extent by our men they were shipped to Japan.
- Q. What do you mean by your statement that they were "mostly volunteers"?  
A. This first group with which we started didn't bring in very many laborers, but I take for granted professional laborers picked their men after laying down the conditions under which they were to work.
- Q. Don't you know that from the very beginning these laborers were procured by hi-jacking them from off the streets?  
A. Later on when it was hard to procure labor I have heard of those instances, but in the beginning I don't think there were any procured by force.
- Q. Don't you know it to be a fact, and didn't you tell NOBI that?  
A. Yes. When the quota system was set a lot of these people were forced to go to Japan including prisoners.

(Brief recess)

- Q. I want to know in what different ways these coolies were hi-jacked?  
A. I know that these laborers that were picked by force were vagrants and unemployed on the streets and parks, prisoners serving terms, anybody that had been picked up by the police and were being held for some offense, drunkards who were roaming around the streets.
- Q. Isn't it a fact that they were picked indiscriminately, regardless of their occupation, farmers and merchants and even teachers in some cases?  
A. Yes, there were farmers, small merchants and even school teachers among the laborers that were shipped to Japan. They came from various provinces that had to meet the quota.
- Q. And it was your office that set the quota, wasn't it?  
A. The quota was set by the Japanese embassy in Peking. Of course, I do not know if this quota was set in Japan or not?
- Q. And the quota was enforced, wasn't it?  
A. Yes, sir, we did our best to fill the quota.



- Q. That was the only object in mind - you didn't care how you got the laborers or where they came from?
- A. Although we failed to do what we wanted to do and we were put out of the job of acquiring laborers, we did our best to please both parties.
- Q. I don't care what you did or what you wanted to do. What I am driving at is how these laborers were procured? And didn't you ship laborers to Japan regardless of their physical condition and regardless of what diseases they had?
- A. Yes, there were a lot of skin diseases in China and in many instances we had to include those with skin diseases whom the doctors thought could be cured on the way or after receiving treatment. We had doctors to make physical examinations of all the laborers.
- Q. You mean all the laborers who were sent to Japan all received physical examinations before they were shipped - before they left China?
- A. Yes. Everyone had a physical and had immunization shots before they were shipped to Japan.
- Q. Didn't you tell me the other day that labor got so scarce that the matter was so dire in Japan that they didn't take time to examine them before they shipped them to Japan? That there were many complaints about the laborers shipped?
- A. Yes, I mentioned that there were a lot of complaints in Japan concerning the physical condition of the laborers and sickness.
- Q. And didn't you say that labor was so scarce that they didn't take time to give them an examination?
- A. I do not remember if I said it over here or at Yokohama, but I mentioned that later labor became so scarce in Japan that they didn't care to mention the physical condition and they wanted to rush shipment.
- Q. Well, isn't it a fact that many of these coolies who were deported to Japan were in poor physical condition?
- A. Yes, that's right. Some of them were actually shipped back to China.

(Interrogation adjourned at 1130 hours)



INTERROGATION OF

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Continued)

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter : Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Marian A. Linhart  
Place : War Ministry Building, Tokyo  
Time and Date: 1330 hours, 16 July 1948

- Q At this time do you recall any of the names of the officials I asked you about this morning?
- A Yes, I remember now the first name of SHIOZAWA. It was Kiyonobu.
- Q Tell us more about your training program you had for the coolies in China.
- A These training centers were established within the Army's POW compound. The men were trained for heavy duty work - in other words they took exercises and had practical work such as shovelling and carrying heavy freight. Also basic Japanese was taught to these laborers and they had orientation on labor and conditions in Japan. Also we trained them how they should conduct themselves as groups while working.
- Q Were these training camps established under your direction?
- A These were established under the direction of the North China Labor Association.
- Q You were the official in the Labor Association that looked after these camps, weren't you?
- A No, I was not in charge of these camps.
- Q Did you have anything to do with them?
- A As director of the North China Labor Association and in charge of labor mobilization, I was connected with all matters concerning labor, but the actual supervision was done by Chinese who worked under me.
- Q Who specified the training program they were to undergo?
- A The establishment and the rules and regulations for the training of labor was drawn up by the Labor Control Section of the Association and with the approval of the directors.
- Q Who was the direct officer in charge of it?
- A Since there were three directors, the President would be the responsible man.
- Q By the President, whom do you mean?
- A The first was Chao-Chi; later it was Chi Soboku.
- Q Didn't you tell me the other day that these two Chinese were just figureheads, and that the Association was run by the Japanese directors?
- A Yes, it could be said so, since it was Japanese occupied territory, and orders to carry out work were always through the Embassy, which in turn came from Japan.
- Q What did you have to do with these labor training camps?
- A My responsibility was mobilization and acquiring laborers for shipment to Japan.
- Q What did you have to do with these labor training camps?
- A As director I was responsible for the approval of some of the programs that were carried out in these training camps.
- Q How long did this training program last?
- A This program was started around October, 1944 and lasted until about April, 1945.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

- Q What I want to know is what was the length of training the individual coolie went through?
- A The plan was set to have each coolie train for three months, but because of the shipping problem, some stayed there only one month while others stayed for from four to six months.
- Q Were they paid during this time?
- A As I remember, they were not paid.
- Q To carry on this training, they were actually performing labor, is that right?
- A Yes, some of them did actual labor work as part of the training.
- Q During this period, did they live in compounds?
- A They lived in the same compounds which were former POW compounds.
- Q Were they guarded?
- A Yes, they were guarded.
- Q That was both the civilians and ex-soldiers, is that right?
- A There were no civilians in these training camps.
- Q You mean to say the civilians were sent over directly?
- A We had a large assembly of camps in major provinces, and from there they were shipped directly to the ports.
- Q What ration were they given while they were in these training camps?
- A They still had Japanese army rations.
- Q Weren't these ex-soldiers given the choice to join up with the puppet forces and if they didn't want to do this, weren't they forced to come to Japan as laborers?
- A No, it was no such thing.
- Q Do you mean they were given no choice in the matter of coming to Japan as laborers?
- A No, those that did not join the labor groups to come to Japan still remained at the Army POW camps as Army prisoners.
- Q Didn't you just tell me this morning that the ex-soldiers were forced to come to Japan as laborers?
- A I didn't mean to put it that way. I wanted to say that since laborers were hard to obtain and they had a lot of POW doing nothing, the decision was made to use these POW as part of the coolies for shipment to Japan.
- Q Now, do you mean to say that if a person in one of these POW camps didn't want to come to Japan, he didn't have to come?
- A Yes, if they didn't want to come they didn't have to come to Japan.
- Q Tell me why they had to go out in the streets and shanghai civilians to come to Japan when they had these prisoners already. Can you reconcile that?
- A Do you mean to say later on?
- Q I mean at any time.
- A It started off with recruiting laborers through labor groups, but since they could not recruit enough, they turned to the Army POW's and still there were not enough to fulfill the quota that Japan was demanding, so they turned to forceful means.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q Including those ex-soldiers that were in camp, is that correct?  
A Yes, including the soldiers, the demand could not be met.

Q Did you ever visit these training camps?  
A Yes, I visited them - some of them.

Q For what purpose did you visit - inspection tour?  
A Yes, inspection tour.

Q What was the purpose of the inspection?  
A Since all these trained laborers were to be turned over to me for shipping, I went around for the purpose of inspecting the training program and to check on their condition as to sickness and fitness.

Q Where were these camps situated?  
A They were located at Chinanfu and Sikimon (Japanese).

Q Were those the only two places.  
A Yes, these were the only two.

Q Were those in Hopei Province?  
A Chinanfu is in Shantung Province and the other was in Hopei Province.

Q Were they guarded by Japanese soldiers?  
A Yes.

Q Were these labor trainees beaten while they were in China?  
A I have not seen any beating or mistreatment myself, but as to the actual treatment by the soldiers, I do not know.

Q Did you hear that they were mistreated?  
A Although guarded by soldiers, the and part of the training was done by men of our Association, and according to their report, and what I have seen during my inspection, there was no mistreatment. I would like to add that since this training took place in POW camps and they were together with the Army people and POW, I do not know of the actual conditions of the camps as a whole.

Q You keep referring to these people as POW. Do you know, as a former high Government official in China, that the Japanese Government did not consider any of the Chinese captives as POW because they did not consider themselves as being at war with China?  
A Internationally speaking, and from what some of the Government officials said, they may not have been POW, but we, among ourselves, knew them as POW.

Q Altogether, how many of these died while undergoing training?  
A In the reports that came to me, I remembered that there were deaths, but I cannot at the present time recall the figures, but as I remember, there were very few.

Q What was the most common cause of deaths of this group at that time?  
A I do not know what the sickness is known as, but a great number of the deaths were the result of stomach disease, with the lower body swelling up, or something like beri beri, and they die when the swelling reaches the stomach.

Q That was caused by mal-nutrition, was it not?  
A This sickness is very common in China, and I think it is probably from mal-nutrition.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q These men were in the custody of the Japanese Army, were they not?

A Yes. The Army had jurisdiction over all these so-called POW. We had the training program to do only at these camps.

Q This first shipment that you sent to Japan in October, 1944 - what percentage of them were ex-soldiers and what percentage were civilians?

A I think it was about 50-50 in the beginning.

Q What port did they sail from?

A The first shipment was from Taku, near Tsingtsin.

Q How many were in this group?

A About 300.

Q What sort of shipping did they have - what kind of a boat?

A I remember this first shipment was on a coal boat.

Q Did it also carry a cargo of coal?

A Yes.

Q That would be an open-hold ship, is that right?

A The weather was cold and I remember they were shipped in a covered hold.

Q They, themselves, were deck passengers, were they not?

A There were some more shipped during the warmer weather when they stayed on deck, but during winter months, they all went into the holds. They levelled off the coal and had mats spread out and they remained under. Furthermore, the shipment on deck was very much disliked by the crew, because they were being in the way.

Q Do you mean to say that the coolie quarters were directly on top of the cargo of coal?

A Yes.

Q Did you inspect any of these ships?

A No, I have not inspected any of these ships but those were the reports I had.

Q Weren't you in charge of the shipping?

A Yes.

Q On this first shipment, how long did they remain at the port before they went aboard the ship?

A I think on this first shipment, they only stayed at the port one or two days, because it was arranged that they come to the port just before the ship was leaving. They stayed in barracks that we had near the port.

Q What sanitary facilities did they have aboard?

A We had a medical doctor with the group who had a good store of medical supplies and as to sanitary conditions on the boat, we had pans brought in to dispose of the waste.

Q You mean to say there was a doctor escorting every shipment?

A Yes, we had a medical man on every group that we sent.

Q Did they have any washing or bathing facilities?

A We had various equipment for this group, such as a large pan for boiling water and other cooking equipment which they could carry along to the camps in Japan.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q You say a pan for boiling water. You mean this was the only facility for washing and bathing?

A Yes.

Q How many pans did they have?

A I cannot recall at present the exact number of pans for boiling water, but they took a complete list of utensils and necessary equipment that they could use throughout the voyage and also in Japan, because we understood that these items that the Chinese needed could not be obtained in Japan.

Q Did they have the opportunity to boil water on the ship?

A I do not know where they actually did the cooking and boiling, but it was not in the coal chamber. Probably it was done on deck, or a special compartment of the ship. We had one cook for every twenty-five men.

Q What was the approximate tonnage of these ships?

A They were usually from 1500 to 6000 tons.

Q What was the average length of the voyage?

A On a big boat it was usually five days, and according to the records, I learned the longest voyage when they had engine trouble and got off their course, was twenty days.

Q How many days rations were they supplied with on the ships?

A They loaded from about a week to ten days rations for the trip.

Q Then there were quite a number of these voyages that lasted over ten days, is that right?

A There were some instances, but not very often. On these extended trips, they were short of food and suffered very much. On this long extended voyage, I learned they returned to Tsingtao and completed the voyage.

Q Were they rationed as to the amount of fresh water they could have every day?

A We had no provisions for the water problem in our contract, but this was taken care of by the ship authority and the man in charge of the group.

Q Well, do you know whether they had plenty of fresh water or not?

A I did not hear any complaint on water shortage except on the overdue voyage mentioned formerly.

Q Was there a water shortage on that trip?

A Yes, the shortage of water and food was very bad and the coolies had a lot of trouble with the people in charge of the shipment, as it was reported to me.

Q Did you keep a record of the number of people who died en route to Japan?

A Yes, we had a record of deaths and sicknesses.

Q How many died?

A As I remember, I think the death rate was on the total average of about two or three every trip. I still remember some of the wires that used to come into my office saying that everybody arrived with no sickness and no deaths.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Q Were most of these deaths caused by mal-nutrition ?

A I would not say that these deaths on the voyage were from mal-nutrition. The reports, as I recall, were pneumonia, and sicknesses such as colds, etc.

Q In what office would these death certificates be preserved?

A At the end of the war I turned over my records to the Chinese Government, to the Social Affairs Section of the Chinese National Government.

Q Didn't the Japanese Government keep records of all these death certificates of all the Chinese who died either here or aboard ship?

A Yes, I think there was a record of these shipments and deaths.

Q My question was, "In what office can the death certificates now be found?" Would it be in the Home Ministry or the Foreign Ministry?

A I think it would be in the former Greater East Asia Ministry.



INTERROGATION OF

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro (Continued)

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter : Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Miss Marian A. Linhart  
Place : Room 386 War Ministry Building  
Tokyo, Japan  
Date and Time: 9 July 1948, 1030 hours

- Q What date did you go to the North China Labor Association?  
A I am not too sure, but it was around the middle of July, 1943.
- Q Who sent you to the North China Labor Association?  
A The North China Labor Association which was formed about three years prior to July, 1943, had various connections with the Manchurian Labor Association, because at that time also the laborers were shipped to Manchuria and the set-up was that one of the Directors would come from Manchuria, therefore, I replaced my predecessor OBAYASHI whose two-year term had expired with the North China Labor Association.
- Q Who decided that you would go to the North China Labor Association?  
A I believe the North China Government, together with the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI got together and selected me because I was appointed by the President of the Manchurian ROMU KOKOKU KAI, UMEMO, Minoru.
- Q Didn't that order come from the Foreign Office?  
A No.
- Q You say you replaced a Mr. OBAYASHI. Where did he go after that?  
A OBAYASHI returned to Manchuria and was the director of the Changchung area ROMU KOKOKU KAI for awhile. I do not know what happened to him after that.
- Q Did he come back to Tokyo in the Foreign Office?  
A I have never heard that he returned to Japan to any office, or to any office with the Foreign Ministry, but I do not think he had any connections with the Foreign Office.
- Q To whom did you report when you went to the North China Labor Ass'n.?  
A I reported to CHAO-CHI who was the President of the North China Labor Ass'n.
- Q Who was the real director of the North China Labor Ass'n.?  
A There were three directors under CHAO-CHI and they all had separate work to perform.
- Q Didn't you tell me the other day that CHAO-CHI, being a Chinese, was just a figurehead and sort of a blind, and that the Japanese really controlled it?  
A I did not say that Japan controlled and ran the Labor Association, but I said that the Embassy set the rules and regulations of the Association - the Japanese Embassy in Peiping.
- Q And you took orders from KASHIWABARA, Chief of the Labor Association?  
A I said that all matters in relation to labor which concerned the Japanese Government came and went through the Embassy, but that does not mean all of the work of the Labor Association.



- Q When did you first hear that they were considering importing Chinese labor to Japan?
- A When I went to the North China Labor Ass'n. the first group of experimental laborers were in the process of being shipped to Japan, so the decision to ship Chinese labor to Japan was made before I got to North China.
- Q Had you heard of this before you went to the North China Labor Ass'n.?
- A No, I learned of it after I reached Peking.
- Q Do you know on what authority the laborers were shipped?
- A I do not know who made the decision or gave the orders to import laborers from China, but this is what I heard after I reached Peking: In December of 1942 there was a commission from Japan which came to China to study the possibility of using Chinese labor in Japan, and I think they remained in North China until March of 1943. They decided to import a trial group to work in Japan, so in April of 1943, some fifteen or twenty Chinese group leaders were dispatched to Japan and studied the conditions under which they had to work in the Niigata Prefecture. They came back and reported that the conditions under which they were to work were all right and they would take their respective groups and go to Japan. I also understand that the experimental groups that went to Japan were mostly regular employees of the North China Transportation Company (railway transportation) who were experienced in transportation and stevedoring work. Of course, I think they did recruit some other inexperienced Chinese also, but at least the leaders and the main group of these laborers were experienced men. In the fall these groups left for Japan to work as stevedores, and later another group left for Japan to work in the mines of Kyushu.
- Q Do you know who was in this party from China to study the labor situation?
- A No, I do not know.
- Q Were they Government officials?
- A I do not think any of them had any connection with the Government, but I think at least some of the leaders were officials of the North China Transportation Company, but the majority of them were just labor bosses, or group leaders.
- Q No. I mean the original commission that you were speaking of that came from Japan to China to study whether or not it would be practical to import laborers to Japan. Was not that group made up of Government officials?
- A I do not know who exactly composed the commission that came to study laborers in North China, but I know that they were representatives from the stevedoring group, mining group and contractor group, and I think Mr. NOGI was the man who represented the contractors, and I am sure there were others, but I do not know which section of the Government they represented. Probably there was somebody from the Labor Bureau of Japan.
- Q If you know that those people were in the group, you must also know that there were representatives from the Welfare, Foreign, Greater East Asia, Home and Army Ministries, and also the Munitions Bureau?
- A Since I was not there at the time they came, I do not know which sections of the Government were represented, but I think those sections of the Government were represented in the commission.



MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

- Q Then how is it that you know that there were representatives of the industries, such as the Mining Association, etc.?
- A Since I got this information after everything happened and I heard if through sources like NOGI when I talked to them, I knew that there were representatives from contractors group through conversation with these people.
- Q Do you know who sent this commission to China?
- A I do not know which section.
- Q Did you ever hear which section?
- A I know that they came to China through the permission of the Greater East Asia Ministry, so they must have been connected with the GEA Ministry.
- Q When you joined the Association you were assigned as Chief of the Labor Mobilization Bureau, is that not correct?
- A My duties with the North China Labor Association were the mobilization, acceptance, control, guidance and aid. Also I had the planning and transportation part of it. When the request for laborers to be shipped to Japan came, we were having a hard time in procuring labor, and this is when the North China Labor Ass'n. did actually aid in the mobilization of labor, and we made a miserable failure of it.
- Q You were in charge of recruiting labor, were you not?
- A Yes.
- Q Didn't you have the records at your disposal?
- A Yes, the records were with my section.
- Q And you mean to say that you don't know who authorized the shipment of Chinese laborers to Japan?
- A No, I do not think in any of the records there was anything that might refer to any section of the Japanese Government. There may have been places within the documents where it mentioned Government organs, but I do not recall any specific Government section that we were recruiting labor for.
- Q I am not speaking of recruiting labor for any Government section. Do you know who it was who decided that labor would be imported to Japan in the first place? Where did the original idea come from? Where did the original directive or order come from?
- A The way I understood is that when they decided to import Chinese labor in great numbers to Japan, it was a Cabinet decision, but on the trial group, I do not know who made the decision.
- Q How soon after you joined the Association in Peiping did you talk with anybody about this importation of Chinese labor?
- A Although I went to Peiping in July, I did not do any actual work until the middle of August because I had to make arrangements to bring my family to Peiping, and when I took up my duties about this time, the middle of August, I heard for the first time of this shipment of labor to Japan.
- Q Wasn't that the reason for your transfer --to handle shipment of labor to Japan?
- A I think the reason why I was sent to the North China area was because of supplying labor to Manchuria primarily, but after I joined the North China Labor Association, it was supplying labor to all areas.



- Q Who did you first talk with about the Chinese labor for Japan?
- A I think the first person I talked to about shipping labor to Japan was the head man of the labor section of the North China Transportation Company. He came to me concerning a shipment of laborers to Japan that was going from his company.
- Q What was his name?
- A I cannot recall his name at present.
- Q Do you have his name in your notes anywhere?
- A I do not have any records or memos since we are not allowed to bring any such thing home from China, but I think this man's name could be MIZUSHIMA, who had something to do with labor before I arrived at Peiping.
- Q What did the North China Transportation Company have to do with the shipment of labor to Japan?
- A I do not know what the exact arrangements were, but I think the North China Transportation Company was shipping their men to Japan, and I think it was because of the fact that this transportation company was shipping lots of merchandise to Japan and they had some kind of relation between the transportation company and Japan. Furthermore, this first group were to be used as stevedores, so it must have happened that this North China Transportation Company was sending some of their own employees.
- Q Was it because the North China Transportation Company was a branch of the Japan Shipping Company?
- A I do not think so.
- Q Was the North China Shipping Company a Japanese Government organization?
- A It was financed by the North China Development Association.
- Q What did the representative of the North China Transportation Company talk to you about.
- A I do not recall the exact nature of the business, but it was something pertaining to the shipments going to Japan and he wanted some help from me.
- Q That was the first you have heard of the Chinese labor being sent to Japan --is that what you mean to tell us?
- A Yes.
- Q How long was this after you assumed your post with the North China Labor Association?
- A I recall it was just as I assumed the office. It must have been the first week after I started work.
- Q What kind of help did he want from you?
- A I knew he came to ask for some assistance, but I cannot recall what the details were.
- Q What did he tell you about labor being shipped to Japan? Did he tell you the whole program?
- A Among the things he told me were as to the numbers, what their wages were, conditions, and shipping together with them were some women.
- Q And this man - this labor chief of the North China Transportation Company - was telling you, an official of the North China Labor Ass'n. who was charged with recruiting labor to be sent to Japan - is that what you want us to believe?
- A Yes. The contract of sending labor to Japan was between a stevedoring company in Japan and the North China Transportation Company and he was telling me about the conditions of the contract, which was for one year.



- Q You mean the North China Transportation Company handled all the contracts for the labor to be sent to Japan?
- A Yes. This first trial shipment was between the North China Transportation and the shipping concern in Japan, and the North China Labor Association was not connected with it.
- Q I asked him, "Were all the labor contracts for labor to be sent to Japan made with the North China Transportation Company?"
- A This direct arrangement was only for the first shipment. Later when it was decided to ship laborers in large quantities, the North China Labor Association made the contracts.
- Q Are you sure this person was not a representative of the Japanese Embassy in Peiping, or the Greater East Asia Ministry?
- A No. I learned later about this labor shipment to Japan from the representative of the Embassy.
- Q Isn't it a fact that the GEA Ministry and the Japanese Embassy in Peiping were the ones who controlled and had charge of importation of labor?
- A Yes, all matters concerning Japan and China came through GEA Ministry to the Embassy.
- Q Didn't you receive all your orders concerning labor going to Japan from the Japanese Embassy?
- A Yes, all orders and directions came from the GEA Ministry through the Embassy, but on this first trial shipment, I do not know how the arrangements were made and by whom they were actually made.
- Q Well, you say this man from the Transportation Company came to you for help. What was his problem?
- A As I have said before, I do not recall what the exact things were he asked me, but because of the fact that I was connected with labor procurement in North China and had moved to North China, he had come to pay his respects and ask my opinion on the contract he had.
- Q Did you have frequent dealings thereafter with the labor section of the transportation company?
- A Yes, I met this man frequently after that since we were connected with the regulations of labor in North China.
- Q You still do not remember who he was?
- A No, I cannot recall at present.
- Q What was the business of the North China Transportation Company?
- A This company had control of all transportation in North China. They had all the railroads, buses, trucks, and work at the ports of stevedoring.
- Q What did the transportation company have to do with the North China Labor Association?
- A The connection between this railway company and the North China Labor Association was in matters concerning labor. The North China Labor Association controlled distribution of labor and working conditions. Also, when labor was procured in various outlying districts, all the transportation was handled by this transportation company, although the laborers worked under conditions and regulations of the North China Labor Association.



- Q Didn't the Labor Association procure and recruit labor for the transportation company?
- A Yes. When the transportation company needed laborers, they had to get permission from the North China Labor Association as to their procurement.
- Q And you still say that the transportation company handled the labor contracts for the original shipment to Japan. You still say that in view of the fact that they did not have authority to recruit labor for themselves even?
- A As I mentioned, the North China Labor Association had general control of labor movements. It may be that the first shipment had been OK'd by the Labor Association, but as to the details, I do not know. This trial shipment was some 300 laborers, or so, and it was to individual concerns, and it was carried out by these two parties.
- Q You say that the first trial shipments to Japan were 300?
- A Yes, about 300.
- Q When was this?
- A It was right after I arrived in Peiping, so I think it was around autumn of 1943.
- Q You say these first two trial shipments went to the mines at Kyushu and to the dock yards in Fushige? How many laborers went to the mines?
- A Those that went to the coal mines were after the shipment of stevedores, and there were two shipments of these. Both were between 200 and 300.
- Q I want to know, including all experimental shipments, what was the total number of laborers imported to Japan?
- A I do not recall the exact figures, but there were about 300 on each shipment, and there were only three shipments, so there must have been about 900.
- Q You said you don't know much of the details of these trial shipments. That being the case, how do you know that they were procured through the transportation company? How do you know that the contract was signed by the transportation company.
- A I heard all this after I reached Peiping.



- Q When did you first hear that they were considering importing Chinese labor to Japan?
- A When I went to the North China Labor Ass'n. the first group of experimental laborers were in the process of being shipped to Japan, so the decision to ship Chinese labor to Japan was made before I got to North China.
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MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

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- A As I mentioned, the North China Labor Association had general control of labor movements. It may be that the first shipment had been OK'd by the Labor Association, but as to the details, I do not know. This trial shipment was some 300 laborers, or so, and it was to individual concerns, and it was carried out by these two parties.
- Q You say that the first trial shipments to Japan were 300?
- A Yes, about 300.
- Q When was this?
- A It was right after I arrived in Peiping, so I think it was around autumn of 1943.
- Q You say these first two trial shipments went to the mines at Kyushu and to the dock yards in Fushige? How many laborers went to the mines?
- A Those that went to the coal mines were after the shipment of stevedores, and there were two shipments of these. Both were between 200 and 300.
- Q I want to know, including all experimental shipments, what was the total number of laborers imported to Japan?
- A I do not recall the exact figures, but there were about 300 on each shipment, and there were only three shipments, so there must have been about 900.
- Q You said you don't know much of the details of these trial shipments. That being the case, how do you know that they were procured through the transportation company? How do you know that the contract was signed by the transportation company.
- A I heard all this after I reached Peiping.



INTERROGATION OF

MATSUKUMA, Kichiro

Interrogator: Mr. Richard Elliott  
Interpreter : Mr. H. Matsuda  
Stenographer: Miss D. Braun  
Place : Room 386, War Ministry Building,  
Tokyo, Japan.  
Date and Time: July 8, 1948, 1030 hours.

Mr. MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, after having been duly sworn to speak the truth conscientiously, adding nothing and concealing nothing, testified as follows:

- Q What is your full name and address?  
A MATSUKUMA, Kichiro, Shibasaki, Kanegawa-Machi, Beppu, Kyushu.
- Q Are you married?  
A Yes.
- Q Any children?  
A Yes, two children, one girl and one boy.
- Q What is your present occupation?  
A I am a company clerk.
- Q What kind of work do you do?  
A I am connected with the ARIMA Institute of Osaka and am doing research work on tuberculosis. I am also connected with the Nihon Suisan Rikin (Japan Marine Products Research Institute) and spend part of my time at the Kurume branch factory making liver pills.
- Q Have you had a medical or pharmaceutical education?  
A No.
- Q How much education have you had?  
A I have a degree from Waseda. I also studied German at night school.
- Q When did you first go to China? Including China?  
A I first went to China in 1916 while I was a student at Waseda on an excursion trip and spent a month at Tsingtao. My second visit to China was in 1921 when I spent six months as a representative of the Foreign Ministry at the Shangtung Conference.
- Q What was the purpose of this Shangtung Conference?  
A The Shangtung Conference was a conference held as a result of the Washington Conference and I was just a clerk despatched with the Japanese Delegation from the Foreign Office. I stayed there six months because of the clerical work that had to be done during and after the conference. My main work there was in connection with the elimination of all the Japanese Post-offices in the Shangtung Province.
- Q When did you first become associated or connected with the Foreign Ministry?  
A In 1921 after which I immediately went to China.



Q Had you been connected with any other governmental agency before that time?

A No.

Q What did you do when you returned to Japan in 1921 from the Conference?

A I served with the Foreign Office in the Trades Bureau up to 1930. In April, 1930, I became a secretary to the Consulate in Hamburg, Germany. I later became vice-consul and served up to September of the same year. After I returned to Japan in 1930 I was given a job as secretary to Eiichi KIMURA, a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. KIMURA was a former minister to Czecho-Slovakia and he also served in Washington.

Q You say he was a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co?

A Yes, one of the directors.

Q Was that while he was with the Foreign Office?

A I do not know because although this man was connected with the Foreign Ministry all his life, when he was asked to become a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. he had to sever his relations with the Foreign Ministry before he accepted this job. His job with the South Manchurian Railway Co. had a lot to do with the Japanese Government, of course.

Q Who requested KIMURA to become a director of the South Manchurian Railway Co.?

A I think it was the Foreign Ministry.

Q Who requested you to become connected with the South Manchurian Railway Co?

A While I was in Europe, KIMURA requested me to go with him to Manchuria. Then I had a wire from the Foreign Ministry recalling me to Japan. When I came back to Japan KIMURA came to see me again and said that I was going to Manchuria with him. I thought it was a good job and I sent in my resignation to the Foreign Ministry and accepted the position.

Q Was the South Manchurian Railway owned, operated or controlled by the Japanese Government, and operated through the organ of the Foreign Ministry?

A All of the directors of the South Manchurian Railway were appointed by the Japanese Government, or nominated at least. Although there was no organ or man representing the Foreign Ministry in the South Manchurian Railway, it was a fact that the Japanese Government had a lot of control over this railway although it was a company and there were a great many individual stockholders.

Q Didn't the Japanese Government own most of the stock?

A I think the Government owned about half of the entire stock.

Q Were you employed in the Tokyo office of the Manchurian Railway?

A When I returned from Europe it was late in autumn and the arrangements for my going to Manchuria had been more or less completed by KIMURA. Of course after my resignation from the Foreign Office I went to the Tokyo branch office of the South Manchurian Railway and left immediately. I cannot remember making any agreements but it seemed that everything was arranged for me and when I went to Dairen I received my official papers as an employee of the South Manchurian Railway Co.



Q What was the nature of the official papers that you received -  
by whom were they issued?

A It was just an official notification I received after I was interviewed at the home office and it just stated that I was an employee of the South Manchurian Railway Co, my salary and place of employment. It was issued by the president of the South Manchurian Railway Co.

Q When you say "home office" do you mean the home office of the Manchurian Railway?

A Yes.

Q On what date did you assume your duties as an employee of the South Manchurian Railway?

A I do not remember the exact date but I think it was around October 8, 1930 when I received this official appointment.

Q What were your duties?

A I was general secretary to KIMURA and my duties were to look after his correspondence, keep files, etc. including some of his personal affairs. KIMURA's work with the South Manchurian Railway was mainly in connection with negotiations on railway matters with the then Manchurian Government under Chang Hsueh-Liang.

Q At this time did KIMURA have anything to do with procuring labor for the Manchurian Railway?

A No, he had no connection with labor problems.

Q How long did you remain in this position?

A Up to September 1931, the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident. With the Manchurian Incident, KIMURA's job came to an end.

Q What did KIMURA do then?

A He got into trouble with the Japanese Army and was branded a traitor and lost his position with the Manchurian Railway. He returned to Tokyo.

Q What did you do?

A I also resigned at the same time KIMURA was ousted but my resignation was not accepted and I was transferred to the General Affairs Section and served until April 1933.

Q The General Affairs Section of the Railway?

A Yes.

Q To whom did you try to tender your resignation?

A I tendered my resignation to the Chief of the Personnel Section of the Railway but he stopped me saying that it would make things worse for KIMURA if I resigned also. He said I might as well stay with the Railway for a while and that I would be transferred to another section.

Q Was that in the form of a request, order or direction?

A After I was confronted with this problem I thought it over and made up my mind to stay because I would be out of a job anyway and a man by the name of YAMASAKI, who later became president of the Railway was to head this General Affairs Section. He formerly was with KIMURA's section so naturally I joined his section.



- Q You did not answer my question. I asked whether you were ordered to stay on or requested to stay on?
- A It was in the form of a request.
- Q Didn't you heed that request because you were employed in the Foreign Office and it was in the nature of a direction from the Foreign Office?
- A No, I don't think the Foreign Office had anything to do with the request for me to stay in China.
- Q What were your duties in the General Affairs Section?
- A I did practically nothing in the General Affairs Section and the agreement was that I could tag along with YAMAZAKE.
- Q Were you there for the purpose of gathering information?
- A No, I had no such connection. We were branded as traitors.
- Q Who branded you as a traitor?
- A When the Manchurian Incident started KIMURA did not work together with the army authorities. He was very much disliked by the army who said that he would not cooperate and that he had sent information to the Foreign Office without the consent of the army. I, being his secretary, was also branded as a traitor.
- Q What sort of information did KIMURA send to the Foreign Office?
- A The trouble arose from the fact that KIMURA used the ROMANJI Code System to send his messages to the president of the South Manchurian Railway and he also sent messages to the Foreign Office in this code with which he was very familiar. The army made a fuss about this saying they had a special code of their own. The army never used the ROMANJI.
- Q Did he send these messages back to the Foreign Office in line with his duty?
- A I actually sent the messages for KIMURA to the Foreign Office but I do not know whether KIMURA had any special connection with the Foreign Office to give them information. Because of his long connection with the Foreign Office and the fact that the Vice-Minister of the Foreign Office was a personal friend of his, he used to send frequent messages. All official messages of course were sent through the Embassy. At that time it seemed the Foreign Office and the Army were not in accord on some matters. I think for this reason the Foreign Office was trying to get information from some of their former employees.
- Q When you were in the General Affairs Section of the South Manchurian Railway did you send any messages to the Foreign Office?
- A No, I did not.
- Q Did YAMAZAKE?
- A No, I don't think so.
- Q What were YAMAZAKE's duties?
- A At that time he was Chief of the General Affairs Section.
- Q What were his duties as chief? Did he have any duties or did he sit around and do nothing too?
- A The General Affairs Section did odd jobs for the directors - clerical work, receptions and other miscellaneous work that did not come under other specified sections.



Q You said that you did not do anything in General Affairs Section. What was your official title?

A My title was clerk. There were many others like me and we used to sit in a pool, doing nothing.

Q How long did this continue?

A It continued up to April 1933.

Q Do you mean to say that you spent two years on the payroll doing nothing whatsoever?

A Yes.

Q What payroll were you on, the Government or the Railway payroll?

A The Railway Company payroll.

Q During that time did you correspond with or get in touch with anybody in the Foreign Office or any other governmental agency in Japan, or the Embassy or Consulate offices in Manchuria?

A No.

Q What happened April, 1933?

A The steel works at Anshan, a subsidiary of the South Manchurian Railway Co. became an independent company. It was called the SHOWA Steel Works. In April 1933 I joined this company.

Q During the time that you were in the General Affairs Section of the Railway did you do any travelling around?

A No, I did not make any trips but stayed in Darien all the time.

Q Did you ever contact the Japanese Embassy or Japanese Consul in Darien?

A No, I had no connections with the Foreign Office and I made no contacts with Consulate Offices or the Embassy. There was no consulate or embassy in Darien.

Q Why did you leave the Railway to go with the SHOWA Steel Co.?

A The president of this new SHOWA Steel Co. was GODO, Takao, a former director of the South Manchurian Railway Co. He was the head man of the Anshan Steel Works. He was a friend of KIMURA's and he offered me a position with his new company, knowing of my plight. GODO was in Sugamo Prison but has been released. He later became a Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Q Now?

A No, after that. I think he was in Sugamo for a while.

Q Not GOTO Fumio?

A No, GODO, Takao.

Q Had GODO been affiliated with the Foreign Office before this time?

A No, I do not think so because he was a navy man with the rank of Vice-Admiral.

Q Had YAMAZAKE ever been connected with the Foreign Office or any other governmental branch before he became president of the South Manchurian Railway?

A No, he was a relatively young man and I know that he joined the South Manchurian Railway right after graduating from college.



Q What was the nature of the business of the SHOWA Steel Co.?  
A The SHOWA Steel Co. made pig-iron and steel. They also manufactured rails and other material such as construction steel.

Q Was this organization founded or controlled by the North China Development Co.?  
A The South Manchurian Railway had no control over the SHOWA Steel Co. The way I understood it, one-half of the shares were owned by the Manchurian Government and the other half by the South Manchurian Heavy Industries Co. The president of the South Manchurian Heavy Industries was AYUKAWA, Gisuke.

Q The question was, was it organized or controlled by the North China Development Co.?  
A No, there was no connection between this company and the North China Development Co.

Q How long did you continue with the Steel Co.?  
A I served with that firm up to July 1941.

Q What were your duties with with this company?  
A When I first joined the company in 1933 I was in charge of the temporary constructions of the firm.

Q What do you mean by "temporary constructions" of the company?  
A By temporary construction I mean the section that had to do with the construction and expansion of the company since it went into the steel refining work, whereas formerly they had produced only pig-iron. Then in 1934 I joined the General Affairs Section of the company and had to do with matters concerning all sections of the company.

Q What were your specific duties?  
A By General Affairs Section I mean the clerical section that worked with the directors and did odd jobs for them such as receptions or arranging details as to meetings and other general work connected with the company that did not come under the personnel section etc.

Q What do you mean by "arranged receptions - entertainments or parties for visitors?"  
A Yes, receptions for people who visited our firm, for directors, parties and the like.

Q Did you ever arrange any parties or receptions for any government officials?  
A Yes, there were times when government officials visited the company.

Q What officials were they - from what office?  
A This company was the largest steel company in this part of China and I do not recall exactly from what department of the government these people came, but I know that any department that had anything to do with steel or iron sent their men to inspect our company.

Q Didn't the government take all or most of the company's output?  
A Yes, I think the greater part of the products of this company went to the army and navy since this company and the YAMATA Works in Kyushu were the only two companies that were doing big scale production. I served in this section up to June 1937 when I went into the