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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

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12 August 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: File of Messages, Diplomatic Reports from KASE, at BERNE, Switzerland

Date: May-Aug 1945 Original Copy Language: Japanese

Has it been translated? Yes No

Has it been photostated? Yes No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Foreign Ministry

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Relations with USSR and USA

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Diplomatic messages sent from KASE, Japanese Minister to Switzerland concerning interchanges of messages between various belligerent powers and the Japanese Government, such as Red Cross messages, protests, etc., which would have to pass through Switzerland, that country being neutral.

Telegram from SHIMAMOTO to KUBO, Chief of Finance Ministry Foreign Fund Bureau, 11 Jun 1945.

A naval officer wanted to negotiate with "Sulzer" and three other companies to buy commodities for Japan which would be useful after the termination of the war under the terms: (1) Most money to be paid immediately and the rest upon delivery at YOKOHAMA. (2) Delivery to be made as soon as possible after the war. (3) Until arrival at YOKOHAMA, the goods are the property of the Swiss companies. (4) A secret agreement will be contracted between representatives of the Japanese and Swiss companies.

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At first the purchase of engines, chronometers and other machines seemed doubtful, but later the price of 20 million yen was agreed upon. The plan may not be effective because there is danger of it being traced afterwards, and the Swiss companies might not keep their end of the agreement if and/or when the plan is discovered.

Telegrams concerning the "Treichber Incident" and Japanese treatment of Swiss nationals in BORNEO.

(Document also includes telegrams exchanged through Swiss government on negotiations for termination of hostilities.)

Analyst: Lt Goldstein

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[by ISHII]

1.

REPORTS FROM BERNE

May 25, 1945, From KASE, the Minister at Bern to TOGO, the Foreign Minister

① The U.S. answer to the Japanese protest concerning the AWA MARU incident is sent.

June 3, 45, ② KASE wants instructions how to manage the adjustment of the relation between Swiss and Japan, including "Manila incident", "the treatment of the Swiss Minister" and others.

June 3, 45, ③ The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Swiss published a statement declaring he had not taken away the German Legation and Consulates before its collapse as it would have been violation of international law, especially as the negotiation with Japan concerning the treatment of Swiss diplomats was in progress.

June 28, 45, ④ Concerning the negotiation with the Swiss government in regard to the liberation of a Japanese Consul and others, he wishes an instruction.

June 5, 45 ⑤ The Japanese honorary consul wishes to resign.

June 3, 45 ⑥ The Afghan Minister wishes to get Swiss franc in exchange with Afghan currency paid at Herat to the Japanese Legation.

June 3, 45 ⑦ A news on the party of HIDAKA, the Ambassador, was informed.

June 6, 45, ⑧ Concerning the depreciation of "Reichs Mark" in Germany.

June 5, 45, ⑨ Concerning the Japanese broadcasting to Europe.

June 6, 45, ⑩ List of the dead of Japanese P.W.

June 10, 45, ⑪ He cites several articles in French newspapers in regard to the atrocity of Japanese soldiers in French Indo-China.

June 11, 45, ⑫ Concerning the measures to secure the Japanese fund in Europe, he suggests a plan.

June 14, 45 ⑬ The Swedish Minister to Japan, told his opinion to KASE.

June 13, 45 ⑭ Concerning the dispatch of the committee of Red Cross to Japan.

June 14, 45 ⑮ Concerning the riot of Japanese P.W. which was reported last year, the list of the killed is sent.

June 20, 45 ⑯ Concerning the management of the pending problems between Japan and Swiss.

June 20, 45 ⑰ News on the party of TOMII, the ambassador, is sent.

July 7, 45
June 20, 45 ⑱ Informations on the state of affairs in Marseille and the move of the U.S. forces in the district, are given.

June 27, 45 ⑲ The Swiss Government proposes a measures to settle the "incident on the Swiss in Manila"

July 8, 45. ⑳ The U.S. answer concerning the "AWAMARO" incident.

July 19, 45, ㉑ Concerning the problem of Fischers killed in Borneo.

Aug. 2, 45, ㉒ The movement of the U.S. forces in Marseille district

To No. 2, 3, 4, answers are not found.

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No. 9, Kase says, Radio Swiss cannot receive all of the Japanese broadcasting in English, and so, he asks the important news should be broadcasted at 1, 15, 21 only, so as to be able to be received completely by Radio Swiss.

No. 11. ①. In "Nation" dated May 29, and in other papers.

When the French troops stationed at "DON DAN?" surrendered, the Japanese soldier, praised their brave resistance and then slew the French commandor before the eyes of his men, whom no other destiny else was waiting for.

②. In "Blanc et Noir" a photograph appeared. A Japanese officer is going to slay an Australian captive kneeling a la japonese before the crowd of the Japanese soldiers.

③. In "Parisian" dated May 30, a photograph is seen. It shows several emaciated whites under an explanation that the Japanese as well as the German does not give a plenty of foods to captives.

No. 12 from SHIMAMOTO to KUBO, the Chief of the Foreign Fund Bureau of Finance Ministry.

A naval officer determined to negotiate with "Subzer" and other three companies to buy some commodities which are thought to be useful after the war for civilian use, under the contract ① the most of the prices is paid now and

rest at the delivery at YOKOHAMA. (2) To deliver them on the adequate occasion after the war. (3) Till they arrive at YOKOHAMA, they belong to the Swiss companies. (4) To contract a secret agreement between representatives of Japanese companies and the Swiss companies.

At first the negotiation to purchase engines, chronometers or other machines looked difficult but later those companies consented and offered reasonable prices (about 20 million yen). This plan leaves some suspicion in its effectiveness because there are dangers it may be betrayed afterwards or those companies would not keep their promise when it is discovered.

No. 13. The Swedish Minister said,

- (1) He advises KASE that it is unfavourable for both Japan and Swiss to let the relation of both countries aggravate.
- (2) If some Japanese intend to make peace through intermediary of the U.S.S.R., they may be said to shoot beside the mark.
- (3) Concerning the Red Cross, Japan must pay more consideration to them who will not move disadvantageously for Japan.

No. 16. KASE wishes to get answer to the Japanese intention. The Swiss authority says the largest trouble is "Treichler" incident which makes the more difficult the situation of the Swiss Government as he is a man of influence and trustworthiness.

No. 19. The Swiss Foreign Minister gave his consent to solve the problem of the "Swiss nationals incident in Manila" in the formula proposed by Japanese side which consists of three subjects:

- (1) the Japanese Government expresses regret for many death cases.
- (2) the Government reports it has already taken measures to protect lives and properties of the Swiss in regions occupied by Japan.
- (3) the Government offers some amount of money to the Swiss Government as a proof of its pity to those victims.

The minister said not only the case but the one in Marshall Is. is preferred to be solved after this formula.

No. 21,

1. In this case, the corresponding naval assistant is Tadaaki FUJIMURA who came here this April, but he says he has no relation. The course of leakage was disclosed. A close related to a naval officer in Berlin told it to a concerned to the Swiss Legation from which the report was gained. This SAKAI or such is suspected.
2. The case of the Swiss in Borneo has become very delicate to be reported to the Swiss Government which seems to be impressed as if the Japanese Foreign Minister were concealing it. It is considered profitable to report it as soon as possible.

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Statement of Affairs to the Japanese

Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

17 Feb 1942 (1) U.S. will facilitate visits by protecting power to Japanese subjects.

Asks for information as to attitude of Jap. Govt. on application to civil internees of Geneva Convention and visits to internees.

17 Feb 1942 (2) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

Asks if Jap Govt. will apply Geneva Conv. to civilians and also asks

if permitted to visit American prisoners of war and internees.

3 Mar. 1942 (3) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

Asks for permission to visit internees camps and for list of American citizens

3 June 1942 (4) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

U.S. is disturbed as to fate of U.S. Nationals in Japanese occupied territories, and asks for permission to visit prisoners of war & internees there.

5 June 1942 (5) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

Britain asks for information relating to British subjects in Japanese occupied territories, and asks for permission to visit all camps.

11 June 1942 (6) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

Repeats letter of 5 June as to Dominion subjects.

12 June 1942 (7) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

Informs Japanese that Japanese prisoners of war or civilian internees in United States can interview representatives of protecting power and Int.

Red Cross without restriction. Asks for reciprocal facilities.

29 July 1942 (8) Minister of Foreign Affairs (Togo) to Swiss Minister

Replies to letters of 5 & 11 June. Japanese Govt. will not recognize protecting powers in occupied territory, therefore visits in those areas to prison sentences cannot be made. In Shanghai such visits may be allowed by competent authorities.

30 July 1942 (9) Minister of Foreign Affairs (Togo) to Swiss Minister

Replies to letter of 3 June. ~~Similar~~ Reply to similar to 29 July letter.

1 September 1942 (10) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

Reply to 30 July letter. Protests at Japanese decision and requests access to all places of internment of American nationals.

2 September 1942 (11) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo)

Reply to 29 July letter. British protest at Jap decision.

3 September 1942 (12) Swiss to Prime Minister (Tojo)

State application has been made to competent authorities to visit ^{because only Tokyo can give consent} British nationals in Shanghai. This has been refused. Asks for information as to what formalities are necessary in order to visit camps at Shanghai.

10 September 1942 (13) Swiss to Prime Minister (Tojo)

~~Asks~~ Replies letter of 1 Sept. to Togo. Asks what is the attitude of the Japanese Government on visits to camps.

7 October 1942 (14) Swiss to Foreign Minister (TAMI)

States Japanese Mission in Saigon has refused permission

to visit prisoner of war camps because of the temporary nature of the installations, and also because some escapes had occurred. Notes

Japanese Govt to reverse its decision Notes this is contrary to Japanese assurances to observe Geneva Convention. X.

24 Oct. 1942 (15) Swiss to Foreign Minister (TANI).

Repeats 7 October letter and asks that decision be reversed.

28 Oct 1942 (16) Swiss to Foreign Minister (TANI).

Notes that some visits have been made to camps in Japan.

Asks when visits may be made to other camps.

6 November 1942 (17) Swiss to Foreign Minister (TANI).

Asks for information as to the attitude of the Japanese Govt. respecting visits to prisoner of war camps in China, Indo-China & Thailand.

13 November 1942 (18) Swiss to Foreign Minister (TANI).

~~Asks for~~ protests at Swiss being refused permission to visit camps in Thailand and to send ~~to~~ gifts in kind. Asks for permission to send such goods. Also asks Japanese Govt. to communicate lists of names of P.O.W.

24 December 1942 (19) Swiss to Foreign Minister.

Acknowledges permission to visit camps in Japan. Asks for same rights in Japanese occupied territory.

5 February 1943 (20) Swiss to Foreign Minister.

Acknowledges permission to visit certain camps in Japan, Korea, Manchuria & Hong Kong. Asks for similar ~~rights~~ permission to visit other camps in Japan and in occupied territories.

16 March 1943 (21) Swiss to Foreign Minister.

Asks for right of Swiss Representative to converse with prisoners without witnesses. States that previous requests to this effect made on 12 June 1942 and 18 June 1942 have not been replied to.

27 March 1943 (22) Swiss to Foreign Minister.

Repeats request made on 13 January 1943 to be permitted to visit camps in Taiwan.

31 March 1943 (23) Swiss to Foreign Minister.

States that several ^{previous} requests for permission to visit camps in occupied territories have not received any reply. Once more asks for that permission and also for information as to instances in Malaya.

22 April 1943 (24) Foreign Ministry to Swiss.

Reply to 24 December and 31 March. States that as was mentioned in the letter of 30 July 1942, visits to camps in occupied territories cannot be permitted.

22 April 1943 (25) Foreign Ministry to Swiss.

Reply to letters of 16 and 19 March. Cannot allow Swiss to make ~~unrestricted~~ unrestricted visits to prisoners of war and that correspondence of prisoners is permitted according to the circumstances in each camp.

12 May 1943 (26) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Strigamitsen).

Refers to previous letters of 26 October and 6 November. Requests ~~authorities~~ inter alia authority to visit all camps.

2 June 1943 (27) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Strigamitsen).

Repeats request for permission to visit camps in occupied territories. Requests permission to visit further camps in Japan.

28 Aug 1943

Repeats information as to when he may revisit camps which have already been visited.

4 June 1943 (28) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Requests visit to talk to prisoners without witnesses.

24 June 1943 (29) Foreign Ministry to Swiss

Reply to 4 June. Regulations prohibit talks without a guard.

Therefore request cannot be granted.

28 June 1943 (30) Swiss to Foreign Ministry (Hirgemitsu)

Requests permission to visit Hakodate.

8 July 1943 (31) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Acknowledges letter of 24 June and asks for text of regulations.

16 July 1943 (32) Swiss to Foreign Ministry (Hirgemitsu)

Requests permission to visit all camps.

23 July 1943 (33) Foreign Ministry to Swiss

Reply to 2 June. Permission to visit camps in occupied territories

will be given as soon as it is opportune. Visits to camps already

visited will be considered when specific applications are made.

29 July 1943 (34) Swiss to Foreign Ministry (Hirgemitsu)

Repeats 16 July. Requests permission to visit.

23 August 1943 (35) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Request to visit camps at Tokyo and Yokohama ~~area~~

4 September 1943 (36) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Request to visit Hakodate. Inquiring as to attitude of Japanese Government as regards visits to other camps.

22 October 1943 (37) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Asks for replies to letters of 23 August, also 28 June, 4th September and 29th July re visits to prison camps.

10 December 1943 (38) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Asks for a reply to letter of 22 October re visits to camps.

12 February 1944 (39) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Higashimita)

Complaining that requests to visit camps sent between August and February have received no reply.

13 March 1944 (40) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Requests to visit camps. Notes that British Govt. has received alarming reports of physical condition and work of prisoners.

25 March 1944 (41) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Requests to visit camps. Quotes statement in *Nippon Times* that Govt. will facilitate observations by objective parties.

30 March 1944 (42) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Suzuki)

From 1 Feb 1942 to 15 March 1944, Swiss have intervened in writing 134 times re visits to camps. There have been 24 replies. In last three months only 3 replies received. All replies have been negative.

10 May 1944 (43) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Higashimita)

Notes visits made to Japanese prisoners in America. Requests visits to ~~the~~ prisoners of war camps in Japanese controlled territories.

30 June 1944 (44) Swiss to ^{Suzuki} Foreign Minister (Higashimita) and to Suzuki

Sets out that the Japanese raise the question that the Swiss have not received authority to protect British & U.S. subjects in occupied territories.

and asks for permission to visit.

1 July 1944 (45) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Hirigumatsu).

Refers to promise by Hirigumatsu to examine the question of visits to P.O.W.

camp. Mentions the statements of the U.S. Govt. re atrocities. Asks for humane treatment of U.S. prisoners.

21 July 1944 (46) Swiss to Foreign Minister.

Refers to Japanese statement that Swiss will be authorized to visit all prisoner of war camps in Japan. Asks when it can visit camps.

12 August 1944 (47) Foreign Minister to Swiss

Sets out attitude of Japanese Govt. re visits to camps. Two paragraphs of this letter should be quoted.

15 August 1944 (48) Foreign Minister to Swiss.

Reply to 21 July. Permission to visit camps in Japan will be granted when asked for.

17 August 1944 (49) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Hirigumatsu).

States Swiss have never received list of P.O.W. camps in Japan and therefore cannot undertake responsibility of making specific applications.

Requests permission to visit all camps and asks for a list of camps in Japan.

12 September 1944 (50) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Hirigumatsu)

Asks that humane treatment be accorded ^{Prisoners} to prisoners and asks permission to visit all camps.

23 October 1944 (51) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

Reiterates request for permission to visit all camps.

10 November 1944 (52) Swiss to Suzuki.

Asks for confirmation of promise made by Hirigumatsu.

13 November 1944 (53) Suzuki to Swiss. Shonan

Visits to Manila, Herman & Naugash may be commenced.

16 November 1944 (54) Swiss to Foreign Ministry

States five camps in Japan have been visited. Asks for permission to visit others.

17 November 1944 (55) Swiss to Suzuki.

Asks for reasons why competent authorities will not permit visits in N.E.I.

8 December 1944 (56) Swiss Foreign Minister to Swiss.

Reply to 1 July & 12 September. Japanese Govt. will allow

visits to P.O.W. camps provided they do not interfere with military operations and on condition of reciprocity.

Will commence negotiations on this

subject with International Red Cross re visits in P.I., Shonan and Thailand.

12 December 1944 (57) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Nizovitch)

Acknowledges 8 December.

3 January 1945 (58) Swiss to Foreign Ministry.

Asks when camps may be visited.

16 March 1945 (59) Swiss to Foreign Ministry.

Mentions visits to 2 camps. Asks when others may be visited.

7 April 1945 (60) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Nizovitch).

Reply to 9 December. States reciprocity already exists.

17 April 1945 (61) Swiss to Foreign Ministry.

^{in Japan}
Notes only 2 camps visited in 1945. Asks permission to visit other
camps.

19 April 1945 (62) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo).

Asks permission for M. Ruch to visit camps. Mentions that many
months have elapsed since this request was first made.

28 April 1945 (63) Swiss to Suzuki.

Notes reports made on 16 March, 3, 6, 17 April to visit certain
camps have been unanswered.

10 May 1945 (64) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo).

U.S. asks if Japan will allow visits to Singapore, Japan, Formosa,
China, Manchuria.

16 May 1945 (65) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo).

Asks for permission to visit all camps & clarify Japanese
attitude to visits in general.

30 May 1945 (66) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo).

Informs Japanese that visits to Lap Buon camps in Timor,
Saipan, Guam & New Caledonia are authorized.

30 May 1945 (67) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo).

Requests to be allowed to visit all camps in Japan.

5 June 1945 (68) Foreign Minister (Togo) to Swiss.

Answer to 7 April. Jap. Govt. "will be as true" in
having a representative of Int. Red Cross visit prisoners of war
camps in Thailand & on conclusion of restrictions under Red X
Committee will authorize visits in Malaya.

13 June 1945 (69) Swiss to Foreign Minister (Togo).

Reiterates that U.S. has agreed to all camps being visited.

14 June 1945 (70) Swiss to Foreign Ministry (Suzuki).

Asks for visits, notification of all names of p.o.w. + internees and removal of camps from vicinity of military objectives.

Quote penultimate paragraph.

13 July 1945 (71) Swiss to Foreign Ministry (Suzuki).

Re visit to Shonan. Difficulties raised by tobacco as the person who is to visit.

13 July 1945 (72) Swiss to Foreign Ministry (Suzuki).

Reports of Swiss visitors ^{will} be sent in the clear.

31 July 1945. (73) Swiss to Foreign Ministry (Suzuki)

Asks when visits to camps in Thailand and Singapore will be permitted. Asks that visitor be allowed to go as Swiss Delegate.