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

INTERROGATION NO. 20
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE TOKYO
DATE Oct. 11, 1945

Division of Origin: Capital Equipment and Construction

Subject: Outline of Precision tools control
Association's functions, and availability
of statistics.

Personnel interrogated and background of each: S. Hara, former
president of Odaka KK, in Osaka. Head
of control association 1942-1944.

Where interviewed (office): Office of precision tool control
Association.

Interrogator: Captain Balivet

Interpreter: Lt. Gorham

Allied Officers Present: Lt. Smith, Lt. Pineau, Lt. Scott (GHQ)

Summary:

General information of machine tool industry during
war. General estimates were made of production, employment,
etc. Specific information had been prepared through 1944 and
was handed to interrogating officer. Efficiency of control
association was discussed.

Mr. S. Hara, before his Government position, was the President of Odaka KK which consisted of three factories, one producing machine tools, one naval munitions, and one textile machinery. The majority of the corporation shares are owned by one financier.

Mr. Hara contributed the following general information. The allocation of machine tools was as follows:

	1942	1943	1944
Army	35.3 %	39.9 %	11.9 %
Navy	49.5 %	52.1 %	22.3 %
Civilian	15.2 %	8.0 %	6.9 %
Army & Navy Plane Production			58.9 %

During the period 1931-1937, Japan imported roughly 50% of its machine tools. (1931: 4,000,000 yen native manufacture; 3,000,000 imported.) After 1937 native production rose steadily reaching a peak in the last quarter of 1944. Production for 1944 was roughly 60,000 units, Mr. Hara estimated peak potential was 120,000 units per year.

Previous to 1937 all special machine tools (automatics) were imported. Thereafter, production of special machine tools rose to 20% of total output by 1944. Very few turret lathes were manufactured previous to 1942.

Mr. Hara estimated that in 1931, the total national inventory of machine tools was approximately 100,000 units; 1944, 1,000,000 units; and at present around 780,000.

Allocation of Orders and Raw Materials

In general the ministry of Industry and Commerce ordered the program, after consultation with the Army & Navy as to its demands, and the Control Association as to capacity. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce then told the Precision Tool (sub-section, Machine Tools) Control Association how much raw materials were available. The Control Association held all orders for machine tools in a pool, and then gave to the machine tool factory the order with the necessary allocation of raw material.

Mr. Hara estimated the average machine tool life at 25 years, with peak performance for 5 years. At any given time 20 to 30% of the national machine tool inventory was unused, throughout the war. The industry worked one ten hour shift only, because materials were not available for further production.

The Precision Tool Control Association comprised six sub-sections;

1. Machine Tools
2. Ball Bearings
3. Small Tools
4. Testing Machines
5. Optical Equipment
6. Gages

The Production Machinery Control Association handled punches, presses, forging and foundry equipment, cranes, and construction equipment.