HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY (PACIFIC)
APO #234
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ANNEX B

INTERROGATION NO. 91
(Obtain from G-2)

PLACE Tokyo
DATE 19 Oct. 1945

Division of Origin Oil & Chemicals
Subject: Functions of The Chemical Industry Control Assoc. in Ministerial Control - Acids, Organics and Explosives

Personnel interroated and background of each:
Mr. OSHIMA, Shun - Director Group III, Chemical Industry Control Assoc.
Mr. ODA, Ken-ichi - Manager Acids Dept., CICA
Mr. KITSUKAWA, Mitsugu - Manager Organics Dept., CICA
Mr. KOMATSU, Katsumitsu - Manager Explosives Dept., CICA
Where interviewed: Mitsukoshi Dept. Store, CICA offices

Interrogators Comdr. G. G. Lamb, USNR - Lt. Comdr. W. H. Evans, USNR

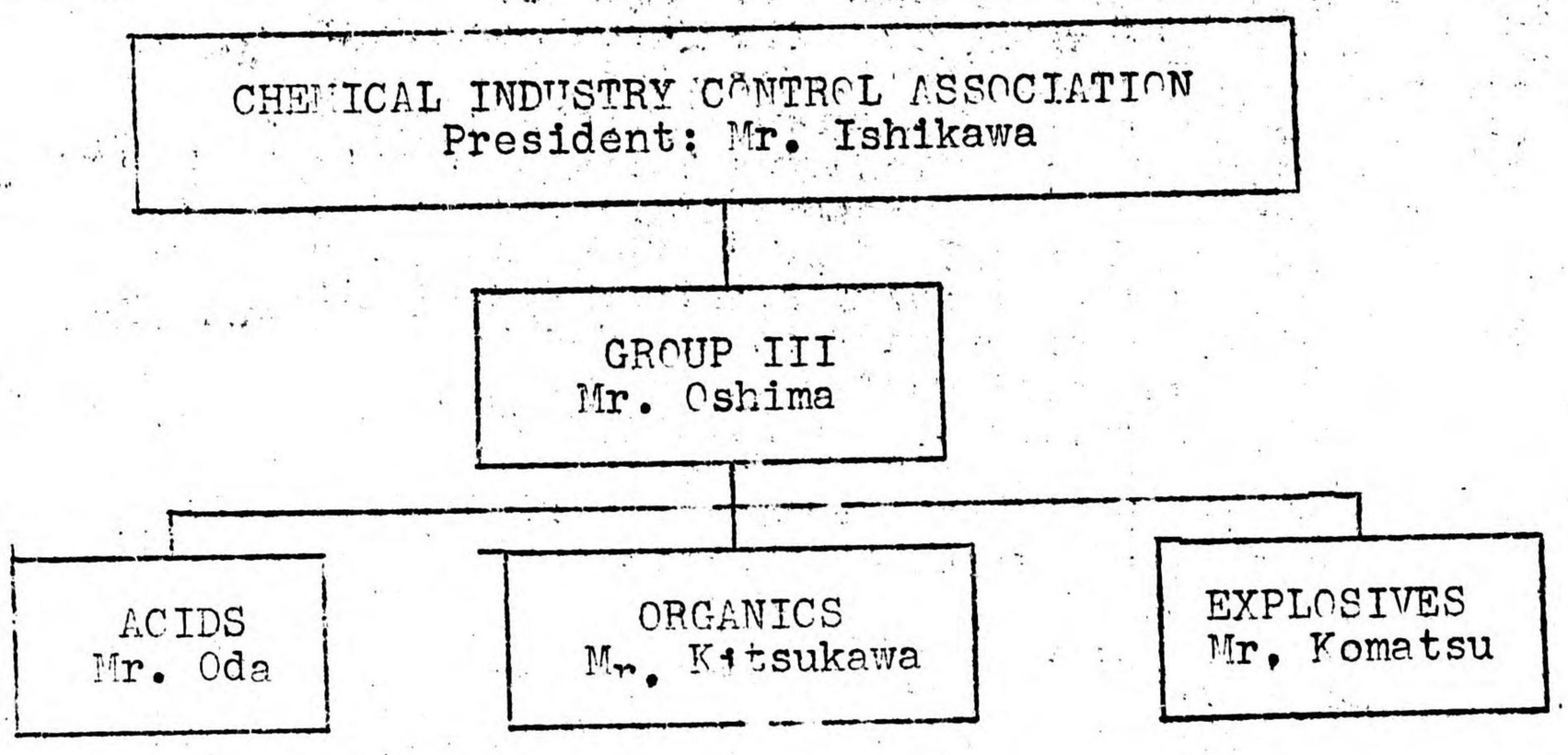
Interpreter Mr. Paji

Allied Officers Present None

Summary:

(1) Brief of the personal background of each Japanese official
(2) Private industry in the explosives field organized a cooperative association to allocate raw materials as well as sales for the industry.
(3) Ministry of Commerce & Industry assumed control of private industry in explosives in Dec. 1943 when it was placed under the Dept of Explosives, Chemical Industry Control Assoc.
(4) Controls and allocations of raw materials for explosives manufacture handled by a three-cornered group representing Army, Navy and Munitions Ministry. The latter represented private industry through the CICA.
(5) Summary of factors leading to military collapse -
    (a) Explosives became critical in about May 1945 when the pinch in raw materials was experienced because of the bombing out of plants producing basic chemicals.
    (b) Failure of Industry and Military to maintain adequate liason.
    (c) Effective planning was impossible on account of the absense of suitable records.
    (d) Failure of the responsible military officials in charge of planning to take into account the capabilities and limitations of the Chemical Industry.
    (e) The unfavorable relationship between Japan's war economy and her agricultural makeup. Fertilizer versus explosives.

The Chemical Industry Control Association is a government controlled agency for the allocation of raw materials and control of product outlets for civilian use as well as military. The diagramatic chart below shows the relationship of the so-called Group III and the three Departments - Acids, Organics, and Explosives - which operate under it.



The four officials were interrogated simultaneously for expediency since it was considered that the inter-relationship of the Departments operating under the Group would better lend itself to this treatment.

MR. OSHIMA - Mr. Oshima graduated in Applied Chemistry from the Military Academy of Imperial University in 1910. He specialized in explosives and held several military positions in the JIA connected with munitions during his military career. In 1936 he was assigned the duty of production manager of the Army Central Ordnance Depot, Jujo, Tokyo which he held until March 1937 when he was designated Chief of The Second Section of The Scientific Research Laboratory which was nominally divided into two separate divisions, namely, Physics Research and Chemical Research. The latter division was engaged in the development of gas and explosives and Mr. Oshima became its head in 1939. His last assignment before retirement in 1944 with the rank of Lt. General was with the Central Explosives Office. This command controlled the manufacture and distribution of all Army explosives throughout Japan.

MR. ODA - Mr. Oda graduated as an Industrial Chemical Engineer from Kotyo Imperial University in 1923. Having specialized in fertilizers, he obtained a position in the Japan Artificial Fertilizer Co. and worked in the research laboratory until 1926 when he was sent to the U.S.A. to negotiate contracts for the purchase of patents for chemical processes to permit the manufacture of a wider variety of phosphate products. In 1928 he proceeded to Italy and became engaged in further negotiations, this time process patents for the fixation of nitrogen by the Faber method were secured. In 1937 he became a director of the Nissan Kagaka Kogyo Kaishya (Nissan Chemical Industrial Co.) where he remained until 1942 when he went with the CICA in the capacity of Vice Head under Mr. Ishikawa, the president, in the planning group. In 1944, he became Manager of the Acids Dept.

MR. KITSUKAWA - Mr. Kitsukawa graduated from the Kobe High Commercial school in 1915 and went with the Japan Nitrogen Fertilized Co. (Nisson Chisso Hiryo Kishya) as Sales Director where he remained until 1942 when the CICA was formed, and he entered the employ of this association in the capacity of Manager of the Inorganics Dept.

MR. KOMATSU - Mr. Komatsu graduated from the Meiji Phamaceutical School in 1920 and was employed by the Military Research Laboratory (now The Chemical Research Laboratory). This organization was engaged in the testing of Army explosives. In 1925 he became head of The Prefectural Office of the government in Rules and Regulations for Explosives, but after one year entered the employ of the Asano Cement Co., specializing in the manufacture of Ammonium Perchlorate. From 1929 to 1941 he was engaged by the Asano Carlit Co. The Korea Asano Carlit Co. utilized his name and made him a director, but he was not actively engaged in the management. Extreme competition in this field led to the formation of a Sales Cooperative Organization of which he was the managing director. In May 1942 this Co-op took over control of production as well as sales and also controlled the procurement of raw materials. It was a completely civilian or private enterprise and its only connection with the government was in the allocation of raw materials. This was controlled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, but its (the M. of C. and I.) jurisdiction was limited to those materials which were considered critical. Until December 1943, powder and explosives were not controlled in this manner by allocation of raw materials. Mr. Komatsu became Manager of the Explosives Department of the CICA in May 1945. Until this date, private manufacture was not controlled, but as matters of allocation became critical after the CICA incorporated the field of explosives in its jurisdiction, the military assumed direct control over production and made arrangements directly with industry by trading commitments of raw materials for certain exclusive arrangements with respect to production and distribution. The nitrate industry was monopolized in this fashion. Finally, arrangements were made whereby the three interested agencies - private enterprise, government and the military - were all represented in negotiations for raw material allocation. Conferences were held in a panel of the Munitions Ministry. This was termed the Allocations Conference. The individuals best qualified to explain the ramifications of this organization are Mr. T. Ohata and Mr. Imanishi of the Inorganic Section of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. (See Fig. 1., next page.)

Mr. Kitaukawa listed the three tetra ethyl lead plants in Japan, only one of which escaped war damage. These are:

1. Nippon Soda Co. - Nihougi Factory - Kishimoto Bldg - Nagano Prefecture.

2. Hodogaya Chemical Industrial Co. - Koriyama Factory - Fushushima.

3. Mitsui Chemical Co. - Fukuoka Prefecture - Omuta City - Kyushu.

OBJECT OF THE INTERROGATION

The object of the interrogation was to determine the functions of the Chemical Industry Control Association (CICA) in the three fields: (1) Acids (2) Organics (3) Explosives; to develop information as to the effects of such controls on the Japanese war economy and to ascertain possible leads and references that might prove useful in future interrogations. A tentative list of strategic chemical products was presented to the group director with the request that certain data in the form of records be prepared. No deadline was set for this this report. A list of the products and data requested follows:

1. Ammonia, anhydrous and liquor
2. Nitric Acid
3. Sulfuric Acid, concentrated and fuming
4. SALt (NaCl)
5. Soda Ash
6. Caustic Soda
7. Chlorine
8. Calcium Carbide
9. Calcium Cyanamide
10. Butyl Alcohol
11. Acetone
12. Methanol
13. Ethylene Glycol
14. Toluene
15. Napthalene
16. Glycerine
17. Cellulose
18. Explosives (major items only)
19. Synthetic Rubber

Statistics to be prepared are:

1. A complete list of all the plants producing these products together with the names of the plants, locations and names of the top officials.

2. The capacities of these plants expressed as the percantage of the total industry.

3. Production figures for the products by major plants, the number of the plants being limited to 10.

FIG. 1.

Figure 1. shows diagramatically the field of allocations of raw materials, plant processing and distribution of finished products under the control of the CICA in the field of explosives. CICA representatives stated that they had no records involving transactions above the dotted line since these were controlled by the directly by the Army and Navy. Their records are complete, however on matters below the dotted line.