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

INTERROGATION NO. 37

Place: Office of
Oriental Economist.

Date: 11 Oct.
Time: 1400

Division of Origin: M. F. C.

Subject: Manpower - Information available.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

- I. AYUSAWA - Adviser to Oriental Economist.
- M. TURUSIMA - Munitions Dept.

Where interviewed (office): Office of Oriental Economist.

Interrogator: Lt. Cdr. Dewolf

Allied Officers Present: R. Hirschtritt, A. Bagdon,
S. Cohen.

Summary:

Sources of information on manpower available.
Apprentice training program
Method of obtaining civilian labor for Army & Navy.
Machinery for requisition of labor.

1. Sources of information: The Munitions Ministry and the Central Statistical Bureau have data available on total employment during the war years and the National census (February 1944 was last Census) has supplementary data available. A discussion of the breakdown of statistical data available revealed that confusion would arise if an attempt were made to classify labor according to skilled and unskilled. It was stated that in 1940 or 1941 there were 500 to 600 industries declared as essential for war preparations and that within these industries an attempt to classify workers by experience was made. This classification was on the basis of years of work at a said type of work. There were three classes set up on this basis:

1st Class -- 10 years or more.
2nd Class -- 5 years to 10 years.
3rd Class --

The experience a man had was determined by the foreman for whom he worked.

2. Training Program: There was a discussion of a training program established to up grade workers by sending selected workers to training schools. This apprentice training program fell through because military necessity disrupted established schedules.

3. Military Requirements: Army and Navy non-military manpower requirements were submitted to Munitions Ministry for consideration by the Cabinet Planning Board. The Cabinet Planning Board approved requests and relayed these to Ministry of Welfare for allotment and distribution. It was pointed out that there was a constant conflict on the matter of allocation of manpower between the Minister of Welfare and the Munitions Ministry.

4. Requisition of Labor: The requisition of labor from any area was in accordance with the ability of the local area to supply the labor without completely disabling the industry and agriculture of said area. This was done on the local level by the Mobilization Office whose Headquarters were in the District Police Department. It was stated that the police themselves had nothing to do with allocation or requisition of labor. There has been a steady trend to give the local mayors more jurisdiction in determining the allocation of local labor. This, of course, would always have to be in accordance with national needs.

5. Shift of Labor: There was a definite shift of labor from agriculture to industry. By 1943, the food shortage and the resulting alarm over the shift from farm to factory resulted in a policy of deferring male agricultural workers with 90 (?) days a year of farm work or more.

6. Conscription: After a brief discussion of plans for labor conscription, it was stated that plans for such conscription were quite ineffective in actual practice.