

HAPOR

SMUGGLING (1) OR SECRET RECRUITING (2)

Mainichi, 31 October 1949

RECRUITING SEEM MORE LIKELY TO BE SMUGGLERS' PROPAGANDA

FORMER LT. GEN. NEMOTO IN FORMOSA; BUT NO FURTHER ENLISTEES HAVE FOLLOWED

The U.S. Military Court in Yokohama will conduct a trial of those involved in the China-Japan International Smuggling Incident today (31st). In regard to the incident, Hongkong's "Wuashangpo" (華商報) Newspaper stated that "the smuggling incidents and the attempts made to recruit Japanese soldiers were both one plan of the Nationalist Government. The agent of Chang Kai Shek's Special Operations Section (Tokumukikan) carrying out these two projects was Chu Shao Liang (朱紹亮) of the Guntokoku (軍統局), which is the Special Operations Section of the Nationalist Government organized by such men as Huang (黃) and Ran-i-sha (嚴衣社). The operation is supported on the Japanese side by KODAMA, Yoshio, (former head of the Kodama Kikan in Shanghai) and Colonel Sakata (this seems to be SAKATA, Masamori - 坂田政盛), and SATOMI, Moto (里見南).

The article continued, "the vessels used for the operation are not just the fishing boats generally used for smuggling operations, but also vessels of the Commerce Bureau (76商局). It has been reported that two vessels of this Bureau have put into Kawasaki with about 300,000,000-yen worth of supplies."

If this article of the Hongkong newspaper about the smuggling and secret recruiting is true, and that there is an under-cover Special Operations Section of the Nationalist Government in existence, it turns the spotlight on the fragmentary reports by foreign news agencies in mid September that came out in the Japanese papers also about the trip to Formosa made by former Lt-Gen Nemoto. The following are some facts gathered from informed sources.

Foreign Reports

The trip to Formosa by Gen. Nemoto was reported by UP, AP, Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Monitor and other leading world newspapers, news agencies, and by all of the Chinese newspapers.

Gen. Nemoto started from Kyushu in June (1949) with 6 former Staff Personnel of the Japanese Air Force for Formosa. But in August, on the occasion of the visit of Wu Tieh Cheng (吳鐵城) former vice-president of the Legislative Yuan to Japan, Nemoto was accompanied by LI, Sheng Yuan (李生元) an agent of the Nationalist Government Special Operations Section, and brought back to Tokyo where he contacted Wu Tieh Cheng (as reported by Wenjun - 文濤 a Hongkong newspaper).

The plan to send Japanese pilots to Formosa was discussed at the Supreme Council of the Nationalist Government in Hangchow (杭州) on April 20.

SECRET

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- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (2)(A) Privacy
  - (2)(B) Methods/Sources
  - (2)(C) Foreign Relations

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The plan was put into effect from the 21st, but at 11 pm of that day, a secret directive from Chang Kai Shek was sent to a Japanese man, who was at one time in custody in Sugamo as a war criminal suspect. On the 23rd, CHU, Shih Ming (朱世明) arrived as a representative of the Chinese Mission to Japan to carry out this plan. The Japanese man, afore-mentioned, received and met CHU at his home in Chigasaki. (as reported by the Chicago Tribune)

General OKAMURA, Yasuji (岡村寧次) formerly in command of Japanese Forces in China, and Colonel TSUJI, Masanobu (辻政信), Chief of Staff of Japanese Forces in Burma also took part in the planning. The volunteer corps was to be called the "Japan Volunteer Corps" and was to be composed of air, ground and sea forces. Other persons in Japan involved in the plans included KODAMA, Yoshio (児島幸丸). (as reported by Wenjun)

As leader of the Corps, Gen. Nemoto first went to Formosa. These former Japanese military men had passports as technicians in the cultivating of sugar plantations, and were placed under command of KAGEYAMA, Taro (影山太郎) formerly a member of the Peking Branch of the Chinese Air Lines. (as reported by UP)

Chang Kai Shek, in the meantime, laid down separate plans for an establishment of an air base on Saishu Island, south of Korea as a base from which Japanese pilots could concentrate their air power to bomb Tsingtao. On negotiating with Syngman Rhee however, Rhee refused on the grounds that it would stimulate the North Koreans to attack. These plans were also presented to Allied Forces authorities but were again refused. (as reported by the Christian Science Monitor)

#### The Truth about Plans for Recruiting

To determine the truth of the plans for secret recruiting, the reporters went to call on Mr. N., former official of a Japanese Air Line Company, who was first to be consulted on about the plans to dispatch General Nemoto to Formosa. His story on rumors of Nemoto's trip in mid October was as follows:

"On June 18, Lt. Gen. Nemoto and 7 former Japanese officers left Tokyo and on the night of the 24th at 11 pm, they set sail from Okinohososhima (大畑島), off the coast of Nobeoka, in Miyazaki Prefecture. All the plans were laid down by LI, Sheng Yuan (李生元), formerly with the Ran-i-sha (藍衣社) and who claimed he was a special agent of the Nationalist Government Special Operations Section. The vessel used for the trip was Shoshin Maru, the 1st (舟捷信丸) a 50 or 60-ton vessel owned by LI. It is a fact that the group reached Formosa, but it has never been heard that more enlistees followed them there."

According to Mr. K, former member of the Security Section in Manchuria, who was called on by the authorities concerned to tell what he knew about Nemoto's trip, and who met Wu Tien Cheng when the latter visited Japan in August.

"There was a list of the total 135 members of the group, including former officers, who were supposed to have gone along with General Nemoto to see that list."

As for whether Gen. Okamura and Col. Tsuji, former Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Army in China and Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army in Burma respectively, the general opinion of Japanese informed circles is as follows.

Though unconfirmed, Gen. Okamura during his stay in China, cooperated with ~~TU~~ <sup>TU</sup>, Ying Min (杜幸明) formerly in command of the Chinese Nationalist New 1st Army in the Northeast Area in directing operations in post-war Manchuria. Col. Tsujimoto was invited by TAI (戴笠) after the war and in the guise of a Lama priest, he made his way from Burma to Chungking. (Tai was the head of the Guntokyoku, or Army Supervising Bureau and was killed in an airplane accident in 1946.) Tsujimoto has not been accounted for since then, but the very fact that these two men had been connected thus with the Nationalist Government must have accounted for the rumors that they were involved in the Plan. Whether they actually were or not has not yet been accounted for.

Another factor that must be taken into consideration is that almost all of the papers in China from left to right have taken up the case. The leftist publications, in particular, have given a big write-up to UGAKI, Issai (宇垣一成), WATANABE, Wataru (渡辺渡), KARISUE, Seizo (有末精三) and TANAKA, Ryukichi (田中隆吉) all of whom were formerly generals who were connected with China as having taken part in the Plan. Reporters have also called upon KODAMA, Yoshio former head of the Kodama Kikan, at the office at Ginza Ura, 4th Floor of the Yusei Building (裕誠) Daiko Bunshitsu (branch office of Daiko - 大公). This building, incidentally is owned by SAKATA, Masamori, afore-mentioned ringleader in the smuggling case. Kodama had the following to comment on the smuggling and recruiting case.

"I have no connections whatever with the case; and if it were true that such a recruiting plan was really existing, it would have been before the Chinese Communists took Shanghai and Nanking. And even then, it could have been a propaganda of the Japanese smugglers to try to get some trading firms to back them up by trying to make themselves look as though they had special connections with China.

Mr. S. former A-class war criminal suspect, who was released from Sugamo at the beginning of the year had this to say.

"I had heard reports about the recruiting plan, and the plan actually did exist. But according to reports I have on hand, Nemoto did go to Formosa with a feeling of sympathy to try to help out the Chinese, but the plan fell apart due to the sudden changes in the war situation in China and also to international ~~diplomatic~~ situation. In the end, it ended up as Nemoto being used as a tool for the group of Chinese hoodlums who were trying to make some money."

UP reporters also say that the Chinese Mission representatives here in Japan have denied all reports of the Plan; and it would be jumping in conclusions to judge from articles such as mentioned above particularly in the Huashangpo, that there is a Special Operations Section of the Nationalist Government and that a plan for smuggling and recruiting is being carried out at the same time. It is a fact established beyond doubt however, that such a plan was introduced to Japan, and Gen. Nanoto took some men along to Formosa, but it is believed that the actual recruiting did not materialise.

part of the plan

SECRET

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