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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Intelligence Support, OPC.

DATE: 29 June 1950

FROM : Deputy Chief, OCD/BR.

SUBJECT: Request K-2202.

KODAMA Yoshio was released 24 December 1948 along with 13 other suspects following intensive investigation into the evidence. The Legal Section of SCAP announced that it had determined that no additional trial would be brought.1/

KODAMA has apparently led underground right-wing movements since his release, has written a book, and engaged in other activities. His book is entitled "Ware Yaburetari" (We Were Defeated). The notice in Mainichi stated, "This documentary book by an ultra-nationalist gives a vivid account of the rise and fall of Japan's nationalists and militarists." KODAMA is said to "reveal" how mysterious red forces are leading Japan to ruin. The book was published by Tokyo Shuppansha (publishing house), 8, 1-Chome, Minato-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo.2/

There is no direct evidence that KODAMA is leading underground movements but the following statement from Shinso is given for what it is worth:

The fact that the underground right-wing movement is led by former Army officers suggests that the movement has developed from gang activity into a movement for political power. The day that world peace is shattered is anticipated by them as the day of the formation of an army-led government. Furthermore the fact that "Class A" war crimes suspects, NISEIO Toshizo, KAWABE Shozo, TOYODA Soemu, KODAMA Yoshio, SASAGAWA Ryoichi, were released added more encouragement to their belief that their time had come. It is evident that Ex-General URAKI Kazunari and his followers have begun to control politicians, and it is rumored that the President of the Democratic Liberal Party, YOSHIDA, had given tacit consent to their secret activities.3/

The writer lists KODAMA as a "Class A" suspect, but he was, in fact, a "Class B" suspect.1/

A recent report lists KODAMA as one of several (mainly ex-officers) involved in a recruitment program in Japan for Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the CC Clique. It was said that 123 were recruited 11 November 1949. Other officers involved were:

KANDA Koichi, ex-Jap agent in Taiwan.
SAKURAI Tokutaro, well known figure during Japanese attack on Nanking.
TSUJI, who planned anti-Communist warfare for Nationalists in Nanking after the war.
NEMOTO Hiroshi
MAEDA Torao
SATOMI
SAKATA
YOKOYAMA 4/

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(1)(A) Privacy
(1)(B) Methods/Sources
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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Office Memorandum (continued)

Request K-2202 (continued)

When KODAMA was picked up by SCAP in 1945 it is reported that he turned over 1400 mg. of radium worth 250,000 to 400,000 yen, which was placed in the Bank of Japan vaults pending identification. KODAMA is alleged to have said that he had received it at the end of the war from the Japanese Navy vice-Minister TAKEO Tada in lieu of two and one-half million yen which the Navy owed him for work by his procurement organization. The Chinese Restitution and Reparation Delegation in Tokyo has filed a general claim with SCAP for radium looted from China, without making particular allegation.5/

This report has adhered strictly to the request in furnishing an account of KODAMA's activities since his release.

SOURCES:

- 1/ Department of State, T-305, Tokyo, 24 December 1948, Unclassified.
- 2/ The Mainichi, 2 September 1949, Unclassified.
- 3/ Shingo (Monthly Magazine), March 1949.
- 4/ CIA, SO-35307, Tokyo, 10 February 1950, Secret.
- 5/ James Shen for Central News (Tokyo), 24 March 1949.

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