

KODAMA  
Country: Japan

6 May 1952

Full Name: KODAMA Yoshie (見王樂志大)

Alias: SHAKUJI Unkoku

Present Position: Still a purgée from public office. Author of various autobiographical writings. Widely believed to be active in behind-the-scenes rightist activities.

Date of Birth: 18 February 1911

Place of Birth: Yonuki, Potomiyu-sachi, Utsunomiya-ken

Nationality: Japanese

Origin: Father, KODAMA Torishiro, was of the Uthorutani clan, considered to be of Samurai rank. Paternal grandfather was Vice-Governor of the Uthorutani-ken Utsunomiya-ken

Permanent Address: Yonuki, Potomiyu-sachi, Utsunomiya-ken

Present Address: 183, Kabinobizaba, Senriro-ku, Tokyo

Wife: Sanyoko, maiden name KODAMA. Marriage was in 1940. (YONAMA's first marriage to YAMAGUCHI Yuriko, which took place in 1935, ended in divorce.)

Children: Son - Yoditsumi, age 9; Daughter - Yiko, age 6

Education: Completed second-year course at evening session, Tenrin Commercial School, Kyuzen, Korea. Thereafter, his education was largely through his own private study. He is widely read in social ideologies, and such

SECRET-SECURITY INFORMATION

REF. NO. IS-1445-52

PAGE NO. 2

WHO'S WHO

influenced by such nationalistic teachers as OKAWA Shunzei, IMAIZUMI Teisuke and MASAKI Hyocci.

Politics: Ultra-nationalist and Pan-Asianist

Languages: Probably fluent in some form of spoken Chinese, as the result of his many years of dealing with Chinese in China.

Past Career: KODAMA was just 41 in February 1952. Still a healthy active man of high intelligence and strong personal magnetism, he possesses a subversive potential which cannot be ignored. Since his late teens his life has been a blend of fanatical nationalism combined with ambitious opportunism. (His recently translated memoir, "I was Defeated", gives only a very one-sided and self-exonerating version of his acts and motivations). Since his release from Suipyo Prison, his status as a purgée has forced him to conduct his possibly illegal and dangerous activities covertly. Reports of his influential leadership in the revival of nationalist organizations and in shady blackmarket transactions are both insistent and widespread. For these reasons, his past career is here given in some detail and with pertinent comment. Quotations are taken from KODAMA's book, "We were Defeated".

Feb 1911 - Born to a family of Samurai lineage in Fukushima Prefecture.

1916 - Family moved to Tokyo.

1919 - Mother died. As the result of this and of economic depression in Japan, taken by father to live with a sister in Seoul, Korea. After father's return to Japan, temporarily adopted into a middle class family KOMO by name.

SECRET-SECURITY INFORMATION

REF. NO. IS-1445-52

PAGE NO. 3

- 1920 - returned from Korea to native village. Attended primary school while living with impoverished but proud father.
- 1922 - Worked briefly in a spinning mill in Tokyo. Returned to sister's home in Seoul, Korea, and finished primary school. Later, while working in a factory, attended night commercial school in Seoul.
- 1926 - Returned to Tokyo, an orphan, with, in his own words, "the ambition of becoming a powerful individual". Worked in iron factories under grueling child labor conditions, yet managed to attend night school sporadically, where he studied social, ideological and political issues.
- Feb 1929 - Joined AKAO Bin's KENKOKU YAI (National Construction Society). This society was mainly anti-Communist, AKAO Bin still being active today in Anti-Communist and Pan-Asiatic movements through his newly organized DAI NIPPON AIKOKU TO (Great Japan Patriotic Party). KODAMA says he joined the KENKOKU YAI because it advocated "organization of anti-Communist labor unions, and aimed at the overthrow of financial cliques and plutocratic government". One member of the society with whom KODAMA is reported to have kept up close relations even to this day, was the rightist critic, TATEHARA Tatsuo, who is presently reported to be active in nationalistic circles.
- Nov 1929 - Presented to the Emperor in person a KENKOKU YAI petition asking for unemployment relief and protesting against the formation of a leftist party.

FOR COORDINATION WITH U.S. ARMY

Arrested for violation of the Petition Law. Incarcerated and imprisoned until September 1930. During his incarceration made a serious study of ideological movements.

Sept - Released from prison. Returned briefly to KOKUMI KAI, but was dissatisfied with its lack of direct action and withdrew from that Society.

Spent several months studying at the KOKUMI KAI (Imperial Government Society) of the well-known nationalist leader IMAI ICHI Teisuke. He there became acquainted with "the national character of Japan and the Kodo (Imperial way) school of thought". IMAI ICHI taught that the proper direct contact which ought to exist between the Emperor and his subjects was being obstructed by a minority privileged class. KAWAKA was fired with the idea of removing this minority group. In his own words: "I sincerely believed that direct action against corrupt statesmen was a patriotic action which...all youths...should take. I allowed passion rather than reason to become the master of my mind."

Mar 1931 - Became a leading member of the KYUSHU AIKOKU BOHOSHU SOU-YENSHI (General Patriotic Laborers Federation), an amalgamation of TSUKUI Tatsuo's rightist KYUSHU AIKOKU TO (General Patriotic Party) and labor elements formerly in KENKOKU KAI.

Mar 1931 - Member of KEN NIPPON AIKOKUSHA KYODO TOSO KYOGIKAI (All Japan Patriots Joint Struggle Council), an attempted merger by OKAWA Shunzei of all rightist groups in Japan. OKAWA was working hand in glove with the Army "reformists" at this time. TSUKUI Tatsuo, SUZUKI Zenichi and AKAC Bin were other nationalists belonging to this Council.

Arrested for scattering anti-government handbills in the Diet Building. Confined for a month in a police detention cell.

Apr 1931 - Participated in the inaugural of NIKKYU ZENSHI DAI (Japan Joint Struggle Vanguard), a group of selected youths organized by OKAWA Shunzei, from whose ranks came the majority of those later active in the Ketsureidan, 5.15 and Shimpeitai assassination plots.

May 1931 - Arrested while at headquarters of TSUKUI Tatsuo's KYUSHU AIKOKU TO, for having sent a dagger in a letter to Finance Minister INOUE Junnosuke along with the suggestion that INOUE use it to commit suicide. Detained in police cell and at Ichigaya Prison, and ultimately sentenced to four months imprisonment in Sugamo Prison.

Feb 1932 - Released from prison.

Feb 1932 - Arrested and detained briefly in police round-up of rightists suspected of implication in the assassination of INOUE Junnosuke, a part of the

Feb 1932 - Member, Dai NIPPON SEISAN TO (Great Japan Production Party), an amalgamation of rightist groups under KOBAYASHI Gyohsei, which gave vigorous support for nearly a dozen years to every sort of ultra-nationalistic activity, including violence. TSUKUI Tatsuo and SUZUKI Zenichi were also members of this Party.

May 1932 - Made trip to Manchuria, as representative of Dai NIPPON SEISAN TO. Studied under YASAKI Gyohsei, one of the chief architects of Japanese expansion in Manchuria, and chief of the Army's JICHU SHINGOBU (Self-Government Training Department). KOBAYASHI claims that YASAKI was an idealist whose goal of a representative civilian administration in Manchuria caused him to be driven out of Manchuria by the corrupt Kwantung Army.

Aug 1932 - Returned to Japan. Under the influence of YASAKI's teaching founded the DOKUSHITEI SEININ KA (Independent Youths Society) with OKAZONO Yoshina, TOYAMA Hideo and a few other young ultra-nationalists.

Oct 1932 - While KOBAYASHI and his DOKUSHITEI SEININ KA colleagues were engaged in plans "to assassinate the Genro (Elder Statesman) surrounding the Emperor", a pistol exploded accidentally at their headquarters, and the plot was discovered by the police (closely implicated in this plot was TOYAMA Hideo's TENYO KAI (Heavenly Action Society). TOYAMA, though still a purgée in 1952, is frequently rumored to be engaged in rightist activity).

- Oct 1932 - Arrested. Failed in attempt to commit suicide by shooting, during the (cont'd) course of his trial. Detained, indicted, and imprisoned until April 1937.
- Mar 1935 - During a three-months parole from prison for reasons of convalescence from illness, met and married his first wife, TAUCHI Kiriyo.
- Apr 1937 - Released from prison. Given a welcome party by rightist colleagues including his former teacher IRAIZUMI Teisuke, who had acted as defense counsel for the Kotawaidan criminals while KODAMA was in prison. Leading member in NIPPON JIKU (Japan Institute), a group of disciples of IRAIZUMI Teisuke engaged in disseminating the writings of the rightist philosopher TAMAATSU Tochio. Member of DAI AJIA KENSETSU JI KAI (Great Asia Establishment Society) which had been founded by KODAMA's former teacher YASAKI Ryosai, after his return from Manchuria. KODAMA contributed articles to the Society's journal Dai Ajia.
- Oct 1937 - Made a brief trip to North China as a special staff official of the Foreign Office Information Bureau. His inspection trip included an investigation of Mohammedanism in the North China area.
- Dec 1937 - Returned from China. Organized the TAISHI HOKUAI KAIFUTSU KOKUMIN DOMEI (China Problems Settlement National League), through which he intended to publicize Japan's possibilities in China. This organization had semi-official backing from some of KODAMA's connections in the Foreign Office.

- Feb 1938 - Manager, KOKOKU SEINEN KOKUAN KAI (Imperial Youths Roundtable Society). In this capacity, he visited both Army and Navy Ministries to explain the purpose of a stronger China policy. Founded the NIATSU KAI (February Society), which was really his TAISHI HOKUAI KAIFUTSU KOKUMIN DOMEI under a less nationalistic-sounding name. The NIATSU KAI, in addition to its interest in Japanese policy in China, took a hand in national politics, giving support to the National Mobilization Bill and the Electric Power Control Bill.
- May 1938 - Made trip to North China and Inner Mongolia, with the backing of DAI AJIA KENSETSU KAI and the Foreign Office.
- Sep 1938 - Back in Japan, was one of the organizers of SEISEN KANTETSU DOMEI (Holy War Execution League), a rightist group aiming to attract Japanese youth to expansionist activities in China.
- Oct 1938 - Founded SHININ NIPPON UNDO (Japan Youth Movement) as a successor to his NIATSU KAI. This Movement emphasized the role of youth as the main force in the reconstruction of Japan. The organization published the monthly thought magazine, Seinen Nippon (Young Japan).
- Jan 1939 - Made trip to Central China, ostensibly under the sponsorship of his SEISEN NIPPON UNDO, but actually backed by the Foreign Office.

- Dec 1939 - Reorganized his SHININ NIPPON UNDO under the new name of KOKU SEINEN UNDO (Great Asia Youth Movement), with the intention of broadening his movement to include youths of Manchuria and China. Published the magazine Seiji (Justice) under the auspices of this group "to paint the true picture of the situation in China". Because the magazine was critical of Japanese official policies in China, according to KODAMA's almost every issue was suppressed. A subordinate group within the KOKU SEINEN UNDO was called the AJIA SEINEN SHU (Asia Youth Society).
- Jan 1940 - Made lecture tour of western Japan, speaking on "the solution of the China Incident".
- Feb 1940 - Conferred with Lt. Gen. ISHIMURA Kunji, noted leader of Japanese expansionist philosophy, and received from him a letter of introduction to Colonel TSUJI Masanobu, who was in charge of the Army's "thought" activities in Shanghai.
- 1940 - Married for the second time. His second wife was HONMA Sayoko.
- Apr 1940 - Went to Shanghai. Met Colonel TSUJI, and was requested by TSUJI to cooperate with him in ideological operations, as an unofficial employee of the General Headquarters of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China.
- 1940 - Made frequent trips between Japan and China, particularly Shanghai during the rest of the year partly in the capacity of representative of Gen. ISHIMURA's TOA HONREI (East Asia League). Claims that he was trying to

- 1940  
(Cont'd) - help Col. TSUJI "purge" the Japanese Army in China. KODAMA's former mentor, UESAKI Hyosai, who had run afoul of the Kwangtung Army, accused KODAMA of having become a tool of the militarists. KODAMA states: "My youthful blood would not allow me to lose interest in the activities of the Army, or to remove myself from social activity, just because the Army happened to be chauvinistic". KODAMA claims that TSUJI "fought courageously against all the evil forces within the Japanese field army". Since his release from Suzamo prison, KODAMA has frequently been mentioned as having close contact with TSUJI, whose reputation in general is that of an adventurer, and who in the last years has been frequently reported to be involved in recruitment of Japanese soldiers and weapons for Chinese Nationalist forces, as well as to be an important figure in behind-the-scenes rightist intelligence activity.
- Feb 1941 - Chief of the Far Eastern Section of SASAGAWA Ryoichi's nationalistic KOKUMI TAISHU TO (National Resurgence Party). Under the auspices of this group and of his own KOA SEIKIN GAKAI, KODAMA made speeches on the general China situation during the three-month period of Jan-Mar 1941. (SASAGAWA's ultra-nationalist career goes back at least to 1931. Since the war he has been reported to be active in underground rightist resurgence efforts, and to be KODAMA's political mentor. SASAGAWA is also reported to be closely associated with the activities of TSUJI Masanobu).

- Feb 1941  
(Cont'd) - manager of the NIPPONSEIJI SEININ KAIGI (Japanese Youth Council), an attempted merger of nationalistic organizations whose aim was to propagate Japanese throughout the world. This group was loudly anti-American during the year before the war.
- May 1941 - Representative of his KOA SEIKIN GAKAI in the new HAI NIPPON KOA KOGAI (Great Japan Rise Asia League), an amalgamation of 61 societies concerned with Japanese activities overseas. KODAMA was made a Director of the League, through the recommendation of SASAKI Ryuzaro, former Communications Minister in the first KONOE Cabinet. Earlier, in 1937, KOGAI had backed KODAMA's NISHI KOGAI KAISETSU KOKUMI KAIGI.
- Aug 1941 - Leading member in KAKIYATSU KAIGI (August Society), whose members were the leaders of various nationalistic societies desirous of intensifying Japan's nationalistic ideology in the face of threatening war. The Society disbanded, when Baron HIRAYAMA was shot at with a pistol formerly owned by KODAMA. KODAMA was briefly grilled by police.
- Dec 1941 - Accepted job of setting up a purchasing agency in Shanghai for the Japanese Naval Air Forces. From this time on KODAMA shuttled back and forth between Japan and China, conducting a procurement campaign under the very difficult circumstances of private industrial competition, intra-service rivalries, and depletion of stockpiles.

- Dec 1941  
(Cont'd) - Concurrently with his Naval Air Force procurement job, was acting as reporter on naval conditions in Shanghai for the Liaison Bureau of the Foreign Office.
- Jan 1942 - Co-speaker with SASAGAWA Ryoichi at a KOKUMI TAISHU TO rally, at which he gave a speech entitled: "Destroy America and England".
- Apr 1942 - Ran unsuccessfully for the Diet.
- Jul 1943 - Given official sanction to call his procurement organization the FULABA KIKAN, his operations involved the spending of vast sums for the Naval Air Forces, and later for other services. Much of his purchasing had to be on the black market; widespread rumors emanating from Shanghai credit KODAMA with having amassed an enormous personal fortune in these KODAMA KIKAN years.
- Nov 1943 - In Tokyo on a liaison mission at the time of the establishment of the Munitions Ministry. Took over the management of the rightist newspaper Yezato Shinbun on the death of its proprietor, his old friend IWATA Fumio.
- Mar 1944 - Given additional duty by Naval Air Force of acquiring and operating mines in Japan producing rare metals, such as tungsten and molybdenum. Took over the management of at least four mines.
- Oct 1944 - Assumed presidency of the Nichinan Kogyo K.K. (Japan Southern Mining Co. Ltd.), at the request of the Navy.

- 1945 - During the last months of the war given many official chores in the Navy's last minute attempts to repair airfields, salvage scrap, electrolyze salt, etc.
- Aug 1945 - Present as a friend at the suicide of Vice Admiral ONISHI, after the surrender announcement.
- Aug 1945 - Non-official member of Police Affairs Bureau.
- Aug 1945 - Member, Cabinet Advisory Council, in Prince HISAHITOMI's Cabinet. This post was obtained through high influential connections, including General ISHIMURA.
- Oct 1945 - With the coming of the Occupation, began to organize a new "democratic style" political party, the NIPPON YOMMEIN TO (Japan Peoples Party).
- Dec 1945 - Apprehended as a Class "A" war crimes suspect.
- Jan 1946 - Interned in Sugamo Prison.
- Dec 1946 - Released from Sugamo Prison, unindicted. Turned over to the Occupation authorities a quantity of radium valued at between \$250,000 and \$400,000 which had been given to him at the end of the war by TADA Takeo, Navy Vice Minister, in lieu of \$2,500,000 still owed to him by the Navy.
- Placed in Class "A" purge status, where he still remains as of March 1952.
- POST-PRISON CAREER: In a postscript to his autobiographical memoir, "I was Defeated", dated December 1951, KOLATA has this to say of his life since his release from Sugamo:

"I was only out of prison for a few hours when I realized that I was now in a second prison -- the prison of a Class "A" purge! Three years have passed... Now, in this second, barless, prison, I have spent my days of inactivity, yawning with boredom... I have become a fisherman -- an angler! A perfectly good machine just sitting out in the rain."

The degree of reliability of this estimate of his activities by KOLATA may perhaps be judged by the interpretation which KOLATA presents of his past career in the same autobiography. In it, KOLATA portrays the violent ultra-nationalistic activities of his youth as the result of an honest and enthusiastic desire to reform governmental corruption and pitiful labor conditions; states that he underwent a spiritual regeneration during his long imprisonment in the thirties; interprets his arduous activities in Japanese expansionist fields after his release from prison as an effort to understand and cooperate with the Chinese; and explains his long and close association with the military, whose aims and methods he continually disapproves, as an attempt on his part to clean up military corruption and promote Japanese ideals. From the day in 1926 when he returned to Japan from Korea as a lad, fired with the ambition of becoming a powerful individual, KOLATA's life has been filled apart from the prison years, with extraordinary activity. He himself may ascribe his efforts to an idealistic desire to bring into being a reformed and strong

Japan; others may consider that most of what he has done has redounded to his own fortune and prestige. In either case, the habit of being energetically busy is ingrained in him. It would be naive to take seriously his words about "days of inactivity" in these post-Sugamo years.

In the first place, though his purge status prevents KOLATA from taking open part in political or policymaking industrial activity, there is nothing to prevent his such-reported sub rosa association with former colleagues. Among these colleagues are many who are actively preparing for some sort of a comeback into the life of Japan in the post-Occupation period. Ultra-nationalists, militarists, industrialists, government bureaucrats, Old-line connections from the naval procurement days, -- many of them now excluded from overt assumption of important posts, but most are still capable, still influential, and still ambitious. YOMURA's personal prestige is undoubtedly great among the large number of pre-war youths who came under the spell of his unquestioned magnetism, during the period when he was fitting the accent on youth in his Japanese expansionist adventures.

These factors tend to give more than gossip-value to the persistent rumors and reports of KOLATA's post-Sugamo activities. Also, such is reported from sources whose credibility and reliability prevent classification of the information as

special bias or simple rumor-mongering. A cross-section of KODAMA's activities which are frequently rumored or reported is given below:

**Disposition of his Kodama Kikan assets:** KODAMA is widely believed to have amassed a vast personal fortune through his procurement activities for the Naval Air Forces. Numerous reports credit KODAMA with having disposed of these assets at the close of the war, among his Kikan colleagues and other rightist associates, not without an eye to retaining a proprietary interest in the ventures which these assets might serve to finance. It is often alleged that KODAMA has much of his fortune left untouched, cached away until the day when it may be more openly used. KODAMA himself says that such profits as he acquired he has spent, largely in philanthropic efforts.

**Political Influence:** KODAMA is rumored to have acquired his advisory post in the HISAGUNI-KUJI Cabinet in 1945 through the good offices of influential military and rightist colleagues, and perhaps also through the judicious use of funds. He is reported to have succeeded, during his brief tenure in the Cabinet, in having the rights to cultivate airfields and parade grounds formerly under Army control allotted to MIKAMI Taku. (MIKAMI, former Navy Lieutenant, was one of the leading actors in the 5.15 assassination incident in 1932, and is now said to be incitrating, along nationalistic lines the young ex-servicemen who are farming the former airfields).

KODAMA is also frequently mentioned as having personal access to such political figures as HAYASHI Ichiro, and to high level figures in the present Japanese government, through his former political contacts. As of 1951 and 1952, KODAMA is reported to be closely associated with SASAGAWA Kyoichi, former lead of the ultra-nationalist KOKUSUI TAISHU TO in which KODAMA was a leading member from about 1941. (SASAGAWA is said to be presently active politically behind the scenes, and to be KODAMA's political mentor). KODAMA is reported to be backing a group of rightist critics headed by TSUKUI Tetsuo, with whom he has had a long association in nationalist circles. (TSUKUI is considered to be the right-hand man of another of KODAMA's long-time associates, ARAO Bin, who is now, since his debarge, organizing a new rightist party, the DAI NIPPON AIKOKU TO (Great Japan Patriotic Party), and running under its ticket for a by-election to the Diet). Toward the end of 1951, KODAMA was reported to have raised some ten million yen in support of the activities of a new rightist organization in Kyushu, the NIPPON KENYU TO (Great Japan National Construction League). This League has among its backers OGATA Taketora, long-time nationalist and bureaucrat with present-day political ambitions, and such reformed Communists as MATSUDA Kenzo and SAITO Kanabu. KODAMA is said to have procured the ten million yen from industrialists whom he staked from his Kodama Kikan assets at the close of the war.

**Connections with Chinese:** KODAMA has frequently been rumored to be keeping contacts with Chinese with whom he has had close association since the late nineteen thirties. In 1949, he was persistently mentioned as being involved in black market and smuggling operations whose alleged purpose was to raise funds for procurement of weapons and recruitment of Japanese personnel for Chinese nationalist forces in Formosa. In this connection, KODAMA's name has been linked with that of former Lt. Gen. HIRONO Hiroshi, and with the notorious Dai Nihon smuggling case.

**Information Procurement Activities:** KODAMA is reported to be connected with the KYOKKO JIJU KENKYU KAI (War Eastern Affairs Research Society), and under its auspices to be operating an information network for anti-Communist industrial circles. He has been reliably reported as wishing to offer his anti-Communist information gathering facilities to Occupation authorities. In the matter of information gathering and disseminating, he is reported to be closely associated with HASEGAWA Sadachika and ex-Col. TSUJI Masanobu.