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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

FROM: IID, Consolidation Section

SUBJECT: ONODERA Makoto

Attached hereto are photostat excerpts of documents pertinent to subject which were obtained from FDZ.

Consolidation Section

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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Makoto ONODERA Military Attache. His career as director of Japanese Intelligence activities is well known. A tough, brilliant militarist. In conversation, reserved, quiet, kindly person.

Many in the Japanese Colony in Sweden felt that Onodero will never collaborate with the Allies. I lean towards the optimistic side as a result of very many conversations with him.

Two things should always be remembered about him. He worships the Emperor. It is reliably reported that when the Capitulation came, he said, "Thank God it is over and we saved the Emperor." He expressed his desire to be alone and spent some time before the picture of the Emperor with very great emotion.

Secondly, he hates Communism. Since the Capitulation he devoted his entire time to a study of the methods of the Russian revolution. He is considered a Russian expert by his colleagues. He told me personally that it was his conviction Russia could never be defeated with only military pressure from without, but only through a combination of military pressure from without and intrigues from within: that the time is not ripe for such intrigues because of the intense nationalism which resulted from Russia's great military victories in this war. I asked him if he was of the opinion that if war broke out between Russia and the Western Powers, Japan would quickly emerge as a great Power as a result. He stated categorically that he did not believe such a result would take place, for Japan would become a front line and suffer almost complete destruction, unless Japan and the Western Powers collaborated in Preparedness.

I stated on a number of occasions that we are asking the Japanese to understand and utilize western democratic ideas in the reconstruction of Japan. I stated further that Japan is defeated and has to obey orders. But I felt that whether or not they obeyed them with sincerity would largely depend on how well we learned to understand the Japanese. I told him that from my association with the Japanese I was optimistic that they would react favorably. He agreed in principle. He added that collaboration with the Allies and the reconstruction of Japan is not a decision but a process. That one must watch Policies and the effect on the Japanese over a period of time.

A deep and bitter enmity existed between Onodero and Kanoto, the Japanese Minister in Stockholm. Onodero had his agents WITHIN the Japanese Colony. These in my opinion were, Tomotaro Kanoto to inform on the Journalists, Kitinosuke SATO to inform on the Military and Naval Attaches personnel, and Jun TSUCHIYA to inform on the Legation Staff. These informers openly discussed Onodero as a brilliant Intelligence Director with an incredible amazing capacity to penetrate Intelligence organizations on the very highest levels. It was also stated that Onodero developed an intricate system of contacts, but because of his sympathetic nature, developed loyalty and did not lose even his remote contacts. It was suggested that Onodero presents in his person one of our greatest problems in Japan. That the success or failure of our reconstruction program in Japan would depend on how successful we are in winning over men of Onodero's ability. I explicitly asked how Onodero could be of service to the Occupational Authorities and whether or not he would collaborate. I was told that if allowance is made for his position as a soldier serving his country during the war, and if willingness was shown to understand his record on this basis, he would probably begin to feel at ease. If he were given a position to uncover Underground Nests in Japan and reactionary forces, he could turn in a brilliant job if he would. I suggested he would probably play a double game if he were given such a position. I was told he probably would begin with, but if he saw our policies working towards the betterment of the Japanese people he would progressively collaborate, and would persuade a great many reactionaries to collaborate also.

It was suggested also that Onodero could turn in a brilliant job in gathering information from within Russia through his former contacts, or through establishment of new channels.