

# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: ATR DISPATCH NO. FJJW-141  
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

CLASSIFICATION

FEB 25 1953

TO : Chief, Japan Composite Unit. DATE: 17 February 1953  
FROM : Chief, FE.  
SUBJECT: GENERAL.  
SPECIFIC: CE.  
- ONODERA Makoto.

1. The arrival of Subject in Sweden on 10 January 1953 on a business trip was covered in all Stockholm newspapers. Attached is a translation made in the field of the article which appeared in Dagens Nyheter of 11 January 1953, and of extracts from articles in Svenska Dagbladet and Stockholms Tidningen, both of 12 January.
2. The [ ] station is making further inquiries about Subject's activities in Sweden. We will forward anything obtained from them as soon as we receive it.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

APPROVED

By: [ ]  
Attachments: 3.

27 MAR 1953

CPB  
RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICER

CPB/1  
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

FORM NO. 81-28  
JUN 1949

(12A)

## NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2005

Dagens Nyheter, January 11, 1953:

#### JAPAN'S ACE SPY VISITING SWEDEN

Brigadier General Makato ONODERA, 1941-1945 Japan's Military Attache at Stockholm, known even as "Eierkopf" (~~the Egg~~ <sup>Head</sup>), or "Eronatti", or "Dr.E.", who during World War II was one of Germany's ablest intelligence agents in Stockholm, returned on January 10 for the first time to Sweden after having been compelled to depart, similar to the other Axis representatives, from this country at the close of the war.

He arrived in Gothenburg on a Swedish visa as a Japanese businessman, and the fact that the Alien Control Commission (Utlänningskommissionen) has permitted him to return is considered rather surprising by persons who are familiar with his former activities in this country.

The General has the reputation of being one of the most skillful agents ever affiliated with the German intelligence service and is, in addition to Scandinavia, India, Turkey and the Near East, an expert even on Spain and Austria, and has extensive contacts even in the USA. His achievements in Stockholm included the selling of diplomatic codes to the German intelligence service, which rendered him a good deal of money. It is not known whether he succeeded in taking his earnings with him out of this country.

Onodera arrived in Gothenburg after having changed at Copenhagen from the Tokyo SAS airplane to the Gothenburg plane. In Gothenburg he had made a reservation at the hotel Park Avenue in his own name, but the rooms were unoccupied throughout the day. Instead, Onodera was occupying a large suite of rooms one storey up which had been booked in the name of Torvald Garne, the Gothenburg businessman. Onodera refused to take any telephone calls and did not wish to comment upon his visit in Sweden.

According to information received from the Alien Control Commission, Onodera's application for a visa was granted already in December, at a session at which even Lieut. Colonel Hakon Leche from the National Defense Staff and Assistant Chief of Section Cronvall from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present. There was no one to object to Onodera's visa application chiefly because it was not

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plans submitted in writing to Major Heinrich Wenzlau, the German Air Attache, consisted in establishing a chain of secret wireless stations between Stockholm and the USA, with relay stations to be established at Vienna and Barcelona.

As a counter-service for carrying out this project Onodera - at least in his letter to Major Wenzlau - only requested to be supplied with all the data the Germans were able to secure in Portugal and Spain for the use of the intelligence service of his own country.

Onodera was among the group of Japanese diplomats who after the war's end, in accordance with the decree of General MacArthur, were repatriated to their own country. Onodera stated that he did not intend to resume his former position of an instructor at the Royal Japanese Military Academy of Tokyo, but intended to become a private citizen and attend to his farm. He turned, however, to business and became in due course, thanks to his Swedish contacts, representative of the Gothenburg company.

According to managing director Gerum, Onodera is supposed to remain in Sweden for about two months. He is to discuss plans on expanding Swedish export trade to Japan, but Mr. Gerum did not wish to go into details.

This paper understands, however, from another source that the export plans concern a commodity, which is being produced by a factory owned by the Cooperative Wholesale Society (Kooperativa förbundet) and is used by the Swedish State Railroads. It is assumed that this commodity may find a market in Japan. A Mr. Watanabe, who is the son to a sister of the present Japanese Minister of Finance, is visiting with director Gerum at the same time as Onodera.

Pinpoints from other clips on the same subject

STOCKHOLMS-TIDNINGEN states that Gen. Onodera is visiting Sweden in order to make preparations for the construction of a factory in Japan which would start producing ISOFLEX, the Swedish insulation material, on license. The machinery would be purchased in Sweden and the project is "interesting" according to Mr. Torvald Gerum. This material is used in Swedish railroad cars and buses and is even being produced by a San Francisco factory under the Swedish managing

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director Tore Elving. As Japanese railroads and other means of transportation must be thoroughly re-equipped after the wartime wear and tear, it is assumed that the Swedish product may be of great use.

According to the paper, General Onodera had a cold even when leaving Tokyo. The cold became more severe after Onodera's first contact with the damp Gothenburg air, which sent him immediately to bed. He developed a high temperature and was unable to take any calls because of his sore throat.

Director Gerum says he is not informed of Onodera's wartime work, but is convinced that he worked solely for his own country and never against Sweden.

SVENSKA DAGBLADET repeats the information about Onodera's wartime "business transactions" in Sweden, but adds that nothing has been officially established. For obvious reasons, he was unable to resume his former position at the Tokyo Military Academy and became a businessman. The paper points out, however, that the fact that Onodera's visa application was considered at a plenary session of the Alien Control Commission, indicates that the matter was more complicated than usual. This is further indicated by the large number of government authorities and persons contacted in the matter, as well as by the presence of the representatives of the Defense Staff and Foreign Office at the session of the Alien Control Commission. According to the paper, the Foreign Office, Defense Staff, Alien Control Commission and Security Police have been unable to confirm the information about Onodera's activities as a German agent, but the general impression is that he was rather active during his service in Stockholm.