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ONODERA Makoto (1420/6851/1408/0207)

ONODERA Makoto was born on 19 September 1897 at Maesawa-machi, Iwate-ken, Japan. He married ICHINOUS Yukiko in 1927 and they have two sons and a daughter. Both Subject and his wife are of noble birth, he calling himself "almost a baron"¹ and she is said to be related to the emperor.² After cadet school in Sendai and later Tokyo, ONODERA graduated from the Military Academy and was attached to the 29th Infantry in Sendai. He learned Russian there,¹ and can both speak and write it well. His German is poor and he understands some English.² In 1928 Subject graduated from the War College and from 1930 to 1932 was superintendent and instructor in the experimental section of the Army Infantry School, Chiba. In 1934 and 1935 his duties with the General Staff Headquarters concerned only the USSR. From 1935 to 1938 ONODERA was the Military Attache in the Imperial Japanese Legation, Riga, Latvia. In April 1937 he assumed the additional duty of Military Attache to Estonia and Lithuania. In 1938 Subject returned to the General Staff, Tokyo until October when he was attached to the Operations Section of the Expeditionary Force in China on a political mission. After a term of instructor at the Army General Staff College, ONODERA was assigned in 1940 as a colonel, to be military attache in Stockholm.¹ On his way both here and to his former position in Latvia, Subject visited the Military Attache in Moscow. Although he was accredited only to the Swedish Government, Subject's post made him responsible for Norway and Denmark also.¹ (One source claims that at the beginning of the second World War, Subject was in Shanghai where, through Chinese Communist elements, he arbitrarily negotiated for a Sino-Japanese peace plan. However, this was reported to have ended in failure and he was called back to Japan.⁴) One source states that during the war ONODERA's office was perhaps the most important Japanese espionage post in Europe. He received directives from Tokyo covering many and diverse targets and had nearly 2,000,000 yen at his disposal for intelligence operations.³ At one time Subject was reported attached to the Red Army as a foreign observer.²

Regarding the Swedish assignment, a second source claims that ONODERA's authority extended to the Baltic countries, working through German intelligence where there was no Japanese representation. It seems probable that Subject, as he himself boasted, was put in charge of intelligence for the whole of Europe. The evidence shows that he preferred to work alone with little collaboration from assistants, using mainly official sources.² One source

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy
(2)(B) Methods/Sources
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of 1953 stated that ONODERA was known as "Eierkopf" (Egg Head) or "Emnotti" or "Dr. E." while working for Germany as one of her ablest intelligence agents in Stockholm. ⁴ In January 1946 Subject left Naples for repatriation and was interrogated in May. ¹ ONODERA stated that he did not intend to resume his former position of instructor at the Royal Japanese Military Academy of Tokyo but intended to become a private citizen and take care of his farm. He turned to business however and became in due course, thanks to his Swedish contacts, representative of the Gothenburg export company, Gerum and Company, ⁴ at 3, 2-chome, Nishi-Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo.

A document dated February 1952 states that ONODERA was connected with the Harbin Tokumu Kikan and the Shanghai Tokumu Kikan, and attended the first meeting of the Continental Affairs Research Institute. ⁵ He is called a confidential adviser to the Attorney General's Office which obtained a supply of Soviet newspapers through an ICHIYAMA Kanzo (probably UCHIYAMA). ⁶ An April report states that Subject was participating in the KATO intelligence organ. ⁷ Subject is reported working under the Special Investigation Bureau of the Attorney General's office. ⁸ In May ONODERA attended the inaugural meeting of the Sakurada Kai, the name of an organization of graduates of the Japanese Military Academy from 1913 to 1921. ⁹ An October document calls Subject a close friend of Col. JACOBSEN, the Estonian military attache in Berlin. ¹⁰ Final information of 1952 states that Subject associated with the Special Investigation Branch as an advisor until its termination. This source continues that ONODERA planned to go to Sweden in July that year but the Swedish government suggested a postponement of the trip because of Subject's former military attache position. ¹¹

Subject's application for a visa to Sweden was granted in December 1952 and he arrived there the following January. ⁴ His reasons for the trip were private, principally to recover his bank account and other property he left in Sweden at the end of the war when recalled to Tokyo. No Japanese government agency requested him to engage in intelligence activities; however, the trip gave rise to unfavorable publicity in the Swedish newspapers which embarrassed the Japanese consulate in Stockholm. ONODERA's trip was scheduled for 90 days and his status was that of a commercial entrant. ¹² In August 1953 Subject spoke at a Ural Kai meeting on the "European Situation as Seen from Sweden." The meeting was held at the Tokyo offices of the Continental Problems Research Institute. ¹³ A September 1953 report states that nothing is known about the membership of the ONODERA Kikan which was said

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to be submitting information to the MURAI Kikan. Unconfirmed information stated that Subject was taking an active part in the negotiations between Sweden and Japan in which Sweden was trying to sell some AA guns to the Japanese National Safety Forces.¹⁴

In February 1954 Subject reported to be councillor of the Continental Affairs Research Institute.¹⁶ A 1953 address was given as 2441, Setagaya, 3-chome, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo.¹⁵ There is no information later than February 1954 in the files.

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SOURCES

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- 2 - Interrogation Brief, June 1946, B-2
- 3 - FJJ-265, 12 Aug 1953, POLESTAR, B-2
- 4 - Dagens Nyheter, 11 Jan 1953
- 5 - ZJJ-27, 29 Feb 1952, POLESTAR, B-3
- 6 - ZJJ-27, 29 Feb 1952, POLESTAR, B-3
- 7 - A. 7./210, 30 Apr 1952, British Liaison
- 8 - ZJJ-91, 25 Apr 1952, POLESTAR, B-3
- 9 - ZJJ-106, 23 May 1952, POLESTAR, B-3
- 10 - ZJJ-211, 3 Oct 1952, POLESTAR, B-3
- 11 - ZJJ-277, 5 Dec 1952, POLESTAR, B-3
- 12 - FJJ-92, 27 Feb 1953, POLESTAR, B-2
- 13 - FJJ-265, 12 Aug 1953, POLESTAR, B-2
- 14 - CC 532, POLESTAR Sept 1953, POLESTAR
- 15 - G-2 file check, 3 Aug 1953 (date of info, 19 Feb 1953)
- 16 - FJJ-492, 3 Feb 1954

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