

Security Information

REPORT NO. ZJJ-239

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. ZJJ-238

Allegedly Being Planned by
Militarists and Ultrationalists.

Tokyo

to 25 October 1952.

CHARACTER OF SOURCE				COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
CHARACTER OF SOURCE	CHARACTER OF SOURCE	HOW RELIABLE	HOW RELIABLE	DISSEMINATED BY OTHER SOURCES	POSSIBLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CONTRARY TO INTEREST
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

American observer from:

- (a) Former Chinese general officer with Third Force contacts, and with wide contacts among ex-Japanese Army officers formerly stationed in China and now engaged in intelligence activities. (Paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6.)
- (b) Japanese rightist, disciple of well-known ultranationalist leader. (Paragraphs 3, 5, 6.)
- (c) Minor Japanese police official in a position to be cognizant of rightist activities in the Tokyo area. (Paragraphs 3, 5.)

Field Comment. Since the practical completion of the depurge of ex-militarists and rightists in the spring of 1952, there have been many rumors concerning rightist attempts to stage a comeback into Japanese political life. This is the first to mention a definite rightist plan involving violence. The existence of this plan is not corroborated from any other source. ZJJ-238 contains information indicating that persons mentioned in this report are considered certain police officials as capable of plotting violence at some future date.

Since the beginning of July 1952 plans for a coup d'etat have been initiated by a group of ex-purgees including former military officers. The leader of the group is ex-Colonel HATTORI Takushiro (2591/6752/0587/0913/0015), the other members of the group being: YODAYA Yoshio (0348/3768/6235/1807/0160), NAKANO Tatsuo (1131/6851/6591/1133), NOGAMI Kenichiro (2603/0355/2008/0001/6715), and ex-Colonels IMOTO Kuzo (0066/2509/1966/0180) and YAMAGUCHI (sm)(1167/2005).

- 2. TSUJI Masanobu (11/2973/0207) had been chosen as the front man for the group. ¹ He is reportedly under HATTORI's control. ² Not a member of the group, but closely associated with IMOTO, is former Rear Admiral SHIBAYAMA Shima (2601/1472/0674/7156), who has close connections with Third Force Chinese. ³ With the aims of the group are: Ex-General UGAKI Kazumasa (13A2/2000/0000/0000), KIMURA Taketaru (2606/2625/1705/1132/6715), NOGAMI Taketaru (1472/0155/0000/0000), MORIYA Masao (2773/2044/0112/1133), WATANABE Tatsuo (3256/8703/1603/0000), and an unspecified number of former members of the Sakano Intelligence Group. The group has the backing of 500,000 persons throughout Japan.

- 5. The original plan of the group was to engineer a coup d'etat, including the assassination of Prime Minister YOSHIDA Shigeru, on account of his hostility toward depurgees and nationalists. ⁴ The group hoped to replace YOSHIDA with a nationalist.

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TSUJI is not YOSHIDA who is the prime adversary of the group, but of the rightists in general, but rather the Socialist Party.

The group is now amenable to postponing the coup as long as the Liberal Party remains in power, or even if SHIGEMITSU Masuda (0050/000/5205), president of the Progressive Party, should become Prime Minister. Ultimately they hope to succeed in having OGATA Taketora made Prime Minister once the rightists get into power again.

5. The group is considering the possibility of some minor assassination attempt in lieu of a coup d'etat. HIROKAWA Kogen (3686/1557/41/1407) is the likely candidate for assassination, and the agent of assassination might probably be either NAKAMURA Takashi (0022/2625/2976) or SAGOYA Tomon (0146/6763/1450/2966/7160).
6. The National Safety Agency is to be utilized in the event of the coup d'etat. IMOTO has already been appointed to a post in the Agency, and TSUJI is in control of a faction within the Agency.
 - 1 Field Comment. KODAMA, AMANO, and HOPMA are well-known ultranationalists who have from time to time been mentioned as associates of TSUJI. IMOTO has previously been reported to be HATTORI's colleague (see ZJJ-67, 72, 84).
 - 2 Field Comment. TSUJI does not have the reputation of being under anyone's control. His very successful personal publicity campaign in the summer of 1952 resulted in a landslide vote electing him to the Diet in the 1 October election. Paragraph 3 of this report indicates that TSUJI is capable of infiltrating the HATTORI group.
 - 3 Field Comment. MORITA Masao is the successor to his brother-in-law, the late TORIYAMA Hideo, as leader of the Patriotic Youth Comrades Association (Aikoku Seinen Yushi Kai). (See ZJJ-238)
 - 4 Field Comment. No breakdown is given for this figure, which seems to be an exaggeration. TSUJI, as leader of the revived East Asia League (Toa Renmei), probably has a following of between 50,000 and 75,000 members.
 - 5 Field Comment. ZJJ-238 mentions the animosity of AMANO and SAGOYA toward YOSHIDA.
 - 6 Source Comment. OGATA is reputed to have influential connections in China and other Asiatic countries, and would therefore be useful in any effort made later by the rightists toward an Asiatic sphere.
 - 7 Field Comment. See ZJJ-238 for police opinion concerning the animosity of SAGOYA toward HIROKAWA, and concerning the possibility of violence being staged by NAKAMURA or MORITA.
 - 8 Field Comment. TSUJI is reported to have a faction in the National Safety Agency, comprised in part of members of his own 35th class of the Military Academy.