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SOURCE Minutes of 15th Session of the Cabinet Committee of House of Representatives

TRANSLATION

Report of the 15th Meeting by Members of the Cabinet Committee

FURUKA (IN) Chairman of the Committee: The Cabinet Meeting is now in session. We will discuss today the various amendments proposed for criminal regulations as amended in the official gazette.

ITK (IN) Committee member: Continuing the questioning of the previous meeting on amendments for the National Safety Force (NSF), I request an accounting of weapons and ammunition received by the NSF from the United States.

KAMIMURA (IN) ^{Chief of Staff} Director of the National Safety Force: I will report on the amounts of weapons borrowed from the United States and the details of the loan.

KAMIMURA: No official terms. Loans are made by United States military officers in charge of the garrison posts.

(ITK requests terms for return of borrowed weapons.)

KAMIMURA: No agreement on return of weapons lost or damaged.

ITK: What about repairs?

KAMIMURA: Repairs are the responsibility of the United States military in charge. Negotiations are under way to borrow these weapons.

ITK: What about expenditures for repairs?

KAMIMURA: Parts, etc., are provided by the United States military and are accounted for by the NSF budget.

ITK: What about repairs to be made before the weapons are returned?

KAMIMURA: The United States supplies the parts and the NSF has the obligation to make repairs.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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... is authorized to borrow weapons under Article 29 of the Financial Law. However they are required to sign a private contract with the lender. Can you produce such a contract?

... No. I felt that a contract was unnecessary because this was not a loan for a consideration.

... That is an unexpected reply. According to Article 29 of the Financial Law, a written contract must accompany any borrowing by a Government agency. We repeat the question.

... I repeat, they were not acquired in exchange for a consideration. Therefore I do not believe that I have acted contrary to the requirements of the Financial Law.

... I believe that your action constitutes a violation of the Financial Law. I suggest that you give the problem further study before replying.

... I believe that a contract is necessary in the event of a loan. However in this case the groundwork for an official loan has not been laid. I believe you there I have acted contrary to the requirements of the Financial Law.

... I can see where a contract might be omitted to expedite insignificant transactions, but common sense should dictate that the use of 190 special trucks and other weapons would require a written contract. From this viewpoint, I believe that this is a case of violation of the Financial Law. While on the subject, I wish to inquire for my personal satisfaction: what would the cost of constructing these 190 special trucks and other weapons in Japan be?

NAKAMURA (S): Chief of the Equipment Bureau of MSF: Calculated at the average rate of \$60 to \$1, and based on the standards illustrated in American magazines, etc., excluding expendable items, I surmise that the cost would approximate roughly \$200,000,000.

...uration of expendable items, does it not?

NAKAMURA: Yes.

... Give us an estimate of the expenditure for expendable items during a fiscal year.

NAKAMURA: Although our survey is not yet complete, the figure is estimated to be around \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000.

OYA Shozo (Committee member): Do we possess any weapons that may be considered solely the product of independent Japan? We have recently borrowed frigates, under contract, I assume. We are obligated to return them in their original conditions. In the event of total loss, we are obliged to reconstruct replicas of them. For my personal reference, what do you estimate as the cost for restoring a frigate to its original form in Japan?

NAKAMURA: None of the injury inflicting weapons are owned by Japan. Our materiel consists of vehicles, communication sets, et cetera. As for the costs incurred in constructing a frigate, recent construction costs have amounted to \$2,542,000 for a PF (sic) and \$552,400 for an LS (sic). However, I venture to surmise that their present values are approximately \$500,000,000 for a PF and \$150,000,000 for an LS.

OYA: That is not my question. Since we are obliged to return the frigate in its original condition, the replacement cost in the event of total loss would be exorbitant. Furthermore, the frigates acquired are weather-beaten ships ready for retirement. Why was the contract made calling for a restoration to their original condition?

KAKIMURA: The contract does not call for restoration to their original condition. It calls for restoration to the condition in which they were received.

OYA: In case of total loss, what arrangements have been made to determine their amount of depreciation to deduct from the construction price?

KAKIMURA: Representatives of both countries are to meet and negotiate terms satisfactory to both.

FURUDA: TSUJI Masanobu (committee member).

TSUJI: Since the leaders are not present today, let us postpone the details to a later date and conduct a brief questioning. First of all, as you are aware, Article Four, NSF Regulations, enumerates the duties of NSF. The distinguishing feature of this article is the phrase "NSF will maintain the peace and order of our country". This phrase is not included in police regulations. NSF is fulfilling a vital mission similar to the task which was entrusted to the former military of maintaining the peace and order of Japan. However, in order for the NSF, entrusted with this vital task, to execute these duties stated in Article Four, I believe that it is axiomatic for them to follow a basic operational procedure. I wish to inquire if NSF is or is not following such a procedure, and also whether or not the substance of the procedure is excluded from NSF Regulations.

YAMADA Makoto (Chief, Safety Section, National Safety Agency): We follow a basic operational procedure.

TSUJI: Is the organization consistent with our defense plan?

YAMADA: Yes.

TSUJI: According to my observations, the organization is consistent with our defense plan. For example, the staff under Commissioner HAYASHI is organized similar to that of an U.S. field army headquarters. Furthermore, although I am unfamiliar with the details, the organization of the First and Third District Units of the Northern Area Forces is similar to that of a U.S. combat division. Do you feel that the organization of the NSF staff and active forces as a replica of a U.S. field army serves the best interests of Japan's peace and order?

YAMADA: I believe that the organization is suitable as is.

TSUJI: Do you feel that the training is adequate for the purpose to which NSF is dedicated?

YAMADA: Yes.

TSUJI: From my observations, their training is directly contrary to the purpose for which they were organized. For example, most of their time is devoted to simulated attacks against an enemy equipped like them. Have you seen the training schedule for the Special Vehicle Regiment stationed in Shim-Machi which was listed in the Asahi weekly? This training serves no purpose for maintaining peace and order in Japan. Do you feel that the above training program is suitable?

YAMADA: Yes.

TSUJI: Have you observed their assault training?

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YAMADA: Yes.

TSUJI: What is the nature of their assault training?

YAMADA: They are training for the purpose of fulfilling their mission.

TSUJI: This assault training cannot be taken as training in order to maintain peace and order in Japan. NSP is following methods identical to U.S. battle tactics. Do you still insist that NSP is training for the purpose of maintaining peace and order in Japan?

YAMADA: Yes.

TSUJI: You must be mad if you feel that an assault including the amount of fire power utilized by the U.S. is necessary in order to quell a Communist Party uprising within Japan.

YAMADA: I will study your opinion.

TSUJI: That is not my opinion. Do you believe that tactics similar to U.S. battle tactics are suitable?

YAMADA: Yes.

FURUDA: Please address the chairman before speaking to others.

TSUJI: Mr. KANIMURA, do you have the same opinion as YAMADA?

KANIMURA: Previous mention was made of the Communist Party but the target of NSP is not limited to the Communist Party.

TSUJI: According to Article Four, the duty of NSP is to "maintain the peace and order of our country and to protect human life and property whenever the necessity demands." Is it necessary to undergo the type of training they have been receiving in order to accomplish their purpose?

KANIMURA: Internal disturbances and riots are not limited to activities initiated by an element among Japanese nationals. They may arise with the help of foreign nationals. In an extreme case the possibility of an internal revolution similar to the one that occurred in Spain cannot be discounted. The police can handle ordinary cases, but we are hypothesizing various situations that may occur and planning appropriate measures to counter these situations.

TSUJI: I view the assault training as a rehearsal for participation in the Korean War. I believe that is a far cry from the performance of duty specified in Article Four. I will press the issue again after I have made a study of other units. I will pose the question directly to the Minister. Do you feel that the armaments presently possessed by NSP are adequate?

KANIMURA: They are not absolutely sufficient but adequate for the time being.

TSUJI: Do you feel that the 20-ton tank possessed by NSP is necessary for accomplishing the objectives stated in Article Four?

KANIMURA: I feel that the armaments possessed by NSP are excessive if the present peaceful conditions prevail. However, there remains the need to conduct this training to prepare for the future. In that sense, I feel that the armaments are appropriate.

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TSUJI: The 20-ton tank is no match against the 35-ton Soviet tank. In the event of agitation by the Communist Party and other subversive elements, the use of this 20-ton tank would ruin roads and bridges. 35 - 36 ton tanks are needed in order to cope with an invasion by foreign enemy. In the event of enemy attack from within, light armored tanks are more suitable. What is your opinion on the above?

KAMIMURA: I agree that NSP is not properly armed. However, after due consideration of existing conditions, I believe that present armaments are necessary and adequate. (TW: as good as can be expected under existing conditions)

TSUJI: Concentrating in a smaller area, an infantry company possesses two types of guns--rifles and carbines. They use two different caliber ammunition. Do you consider that situation practical?

KAMIMURA: No. We must alleviate this situation by manufacturing weapons within Japan in the future.

TSUJI: According to my observations, types and numbers of the weapons mentioned previously impressed me as being weapons salvaged from the Americans. They seem to be outmoded weapons which are considered slightly too valuable to junk. We should study our national circumstances, terrain, road network, physical features of our troops, our armament and tactics, and present our requests to the U.S. accordingly. NSP cannot make healthy progress by accepting everything that is offered to it. What is your opinion?

KAMIMURA: I concur with your views and hope to direct my efforts in that direction.

TSUJI: Are you willing and prepared to make a convincing request to the U.S. in order to bear out your efforts?

KAMIMURA: We have been placing requests for various items and not just bowing our heads and accepting anything that is offered to us.

TSUJI: Why then, have you been accepting special vehicles and guns instead of rejecting them?

KAMIMURA: I had accepted the special vehicles because I felt that they were desirable in conducting our present training and maneuvers.

TSUJI: Do you intend to continue utilizing two types of basecocks, heavy machine-guns, light machine-guns, and mortars, or do you intend to make aggressive requests for only essential items?

KAMIMURA: I am presently negotiating only for essential items, as you have suggested.

TSUJI: It appears to me that you are attempting to duplicate the 2500 vehicles carried by a U.S. Division. Japan with her scarcity of gas and undeveloped roads cannot possibly bear the burden of a division consisting of 2500 vehicles. Bicycles are much more appropriate for quelling insurrections. Have you given any thought to the use of bicycles?

YAMADA: Yes.

TSUJI: Let me inquire about the military camp. Recently, I inspected the Special Vehicle Regiment at Shin-Machi. I visited the dispensary at noon hours and observed two patients with temperatures hovering around 39.4 degrees. The attending physician was out and although several medical personnel were there, none of them was attending these patients. I called for a military

doctor but he seemed to have left for Shin-Machi for relaxation and apparently would not return until around 2400 hours. About 0900 hours, I visited the dispensary and again took their temperatures. Their fevers had not receded. I called the doctor and he insisted that he had diagnosed their conditions. The patients replied that their cases had not been diagnosed. Strangely enough, there were no fever charts hanging on their bunks. How can we confide our youths to NSF under these unobliging conditions?

KATO Yezo (Chief, Personnel Bureau, National Safety Agency): I am unfamiliar with the incident related by you. I fully realize the responsibilities we owe to our youths. However, under the present circumstances, our sanitary organ is critically understaffed. We are presently attempting to arrange a working agreement of some sort with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and various medical groups. Moreover, plans are under way to establish hospitals in Tokyo, Fukuoka, Sapporo, et cetera in accordance with the 1953 budget. I feel that the completion of these plans will alleviate the recurrence of a similar incident. In re the acquisition of other supplies, I intend to exert all my efforts to create improved sanitary conditions for the youths entrusted to our care.

TSUJI: Who is the present head of the Sanitation School?

KATO: The post is presently vacant and the duties are being handled temporarily by Doctor **MITSUNO**.

TSUJI: A person called **KANO** previously held this post in addition to his regular position, did he not?

KATO: Yes. **KANO** is head of the Staff School. Due to the difficulties encountered in selecting a head for the Sanitation School, and also because the Sanitation School was located at the same site as the Staff School, **KANO** was given the concurrent position until a Sanitation School head could be officially appointed.

TSUJI: If you were sincere in your intent to cure the ill, I see no reason why one or two sanitation specialists could not have been found. Furthermore, in viewing the facilities already acquired, I noticed that the **Harjo Hospital** provided with 100 beds and **Fukuyama Hospital** provides 300 beds, and the **Kurihama Hospital** also provides a vast number of beds. However, these are merely tuberculosis sanitariums and not general hospitals. How many patients are presently assembled in these hospitals?

KATO: We are in possession of the above facilities as well as several unpretentious installations in the various garrison areas. I understand that over 100 patients are presently receiving treatment at **Fukuyama**. I do not possess accurate figures on the number of patients presently undergoing treatment at **Harjo**.

TSUJI: My investigation of **Harjo** in the latter part of the past year revealed one patient. Furthermore, approximately 1000 tubercular patients were being treated at home. How do you account for the above?

KATO: We are exerting every effort to establish collection facilities. It is customary to transfer all tubercular patients to Government hospitals and other designated hospitals. However, when bed space is not available, we permit patients to receive treatment at home by physicians selected by them.

TSUJI: Home affairs officials, police officials, regular army officers, et cetera seem to dominate the NSF staff. Are former military personnel also employed by the G-1 Section and the procurement field?

KATO: Yes. Former military personnel are being employed by the G-1 Section and procurement.

TSUJI: Who are some of the ex-military personnel presently employed by G-1. None are listed in my personal file.

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KATO: ~~Mr. WADA~~, an ex-Army Lt. Col. is assigned to G-1 as assistant section chief.

TSUJI: Each headquarters seems to be supervised by a government official, with the assistant superintendent and chief of staff positions held by the Army and Navy respectively. What is your opinion on this triumvirate management?

KATO: We select our personnel on the basis of efficient operation.

TSUJI: On one occasion when several hundred ex-military personnel were earmarked to enter NSF service, a certain superintendent gathered all the officials and instructed them as follows: "Our number one enemy is the Communist Party. Our number two enemy is the ex-militarists. Soon a group of ex-militarists will be arriving. We must cooperate in order to protect our leadership rights." Do you believe that we can establish an admirable NSF while such differences exist between ex-militarists and internal affairs officials?

KATO: I believe that in order to build an efficient NSF answerable to the people's expectations, they must reconcile their differences and work in harmony.

TSUJI: In that event, an error was made in selecting a superintendent who would give such preposterous instructions. You yourself are disrupting peace. What is the basis for considering ex-militarists as enemies?

KATO: This is the first time I have heard of such insolence. It is difficult for me to answer your question at this meeting.

TSUJI: According to my investigations, 50% of the regimental commanders, 80% of the district superintendents, and 70% of the section chiefs above of the First Staff are complete dilettantes. No wonder YOSHIDA claims that NSF is not a military organization! Do you not feel that it is improper to select top officials in accordance with civil service regulations?

KATO: According to NSF Regulations, those who previously held the positions of NSF staff officers or guard officers are prohibited from being appointed as director general, assistant director, internal bureau secretariats, and section chiefs and above of the various bureaus. However ex-militarists are not restricted from positions of regimental commanders and below.

TSUJI: I have heard rumors of impropriety within NSF. For example, certain top staff officers have been confiscating a portion of the food ration. Those who have been discovered are conveniently rotated from post to post. Next, certain superintendents are rumored as having their mistresses managing the post canteens. A certain intermediate staff officer is said to have a girl-friend managing a restaurant. Local inhabitants proclaim that NSF personnel are inept for battle but skillful in accumulating wealth. Resolute steps must be taken to safeguard the 830,000,000 yen NSF budget in order to prevent its collapse from within. CHIANG Kai-shek's defeat was not because of superior Communist strategy. It was due to internal degeneration. Is the NSF following an identical path?

KATO: I realize that lack of discipline is the singular gangrenous evil prevailing within the organization. I am doing everything in my power to prevent the occurrence of such incidents.

TSUJI: I cannot accept such a simple answer. I expect you to conduct an immediate fact-finding investigation. In addition, I believe that adjustments should be made to conform to Article Four concerning Japan's defense plan, and to Item 1, Article 12, "In Re Basic Plan and Regulations for Guards." These adjustments should be made with NRP and the Autonomous Police for the purpose of maintaining peace and order within Japan. Thus, you must learn to take pride in the various aspects of NSF disposition, organization, training, operations, et cetera.

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ITZ: TSUJI has indicated that impropriety exists within NSF. I feel that this matter should not be treated lightly. I hope that the presence or non-presence of the alleged impropriety will be clearly revealed after the conclusion of a thorough investigation.

KATO: I will determine the proper procedure for conducting an investigation after grasping the true intentions of TSUJI's abstract questioning.

ITZ: I believe that it is the responsibility of NSF to announce the facts as soon as possible. I request that the chairman admonish NSF and also conduct a thorough investigation in re these facts.

FUNADA: I shall comply.

X FUNADA Shigemasa (Committee Member): Next on the agenda, the Decoration Law proposal is soon to be adopted. We are deliberating on the amendments to be added to the Decoration Law providing decorations for those who perform meritorious services during the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars were awarded the Order of the Golden Kite. This procedure was completely abolished by American decree. We hope to introduce an amendment permitting them to wear these awards again. However, an adequate procedure must be found for supplying the annual pensions that accompany these awards. Veterans of the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars are now in the 60-70 age bracket. Would it be possible for the chairman to negotiate with the Minister of Transportation to provide these veterans with free transportation in order to visit YASUKUNI Shrine to pay their respects to their fallen comrades?

FUNADA: I shall comply. If there are no other problems, we will continue with the proposal to amend a portion of NSF regulations tomorrow.

FUNADA: Let us continue with the proposal to amend a portion of the Ministry of Health and Welfare Construction Regulations.

TSUJI: An organ to study the population problem has been established within the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Is this Ministry capable of solving this problem without external aid?

X OUCHI Shigeru (Vice Minister of Welfare for Government Affairs): The population problem is a vital one that appears before the Diet from time to time. We realize that this problem cannot be solved by the efforts of this Ministry alone. We plan to obtain the opinions of the various Ministries and establish a cooperative organ to expedite a solution to the population problem.

TSUJI: I feel that the population problem is one among others--national development, birth control, emigration--that should be handled by an organ staffed with experts assembled from various fields and under the direct control of the Prime Minister's Office. Although I concur with the proposal for the formation of such an organ, I believe that your proposal to establish this organ within the Ministry of Welfare is absurd.

OUCHI: I concur. However, since the population problem is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Welfare, the present proposal is being undertaken by that Ministry.

TSUJI: This problem is a vital problem for the Liberal Party as well as the Government. We should endeavor to solve it. I believe that the proposal that this plan be retained in that light.

X OYAMA: The proposal for the formation of this organ within the Ministry of Welfare is not as absurd as suggested by TSUJI. Actually, the Population Problem Research Institute has been in existence within the Ministry for the past 30 years. Experts from other fields have been in constant association with the Institute. Preparations have not as yet been sufficiently made to

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Expand this organ into an independent organ. Although the plan is ideal and seemingly efficient, the organ cannot function effectively without proper preparation.

TSUJI: May we then consider the existing organ a temporary organ not concerned with the basic problem in the future?

OSAMA: I shall refrain from predicting results for the distant future. However, because of the nature of the problem, the Ministry is not diverting its energies into associated fields. Associate Ministries are also covering their own fields.

TSUJI: I will conclude my questions with the hope that this organ will ultimately expand into a responsible and effective machine.

FURUJI: Are there any other questions? --If not, the meeting is adjourned for today. We will reconvene at 1000 hours tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 1158 hours.