

SECRET CONTROL

STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington, D.C.

25 September 1946

COUNTRY: China.

SUBJECT: Historical Note on the Sino-Japanese War: Plans Made in Early 1939 by High-ranking Japanese Army Officers for its Immediate Settlement through Negotiation with Chungking.

DATE OF INFORMATION: January - June, 1939.

EVALUATION: B-3, except as otherwise indicated.

REFERENCE: (a) ONODERA, Maj. Gen. Makoto -- Biographical Sketch of: SSU, 25 Sept. 1946, DB #1226.

1. The following footnote to the story of the Sino-Japanese conflict was supplied by the subject of Reference (a) during his interrogation at Sugamo Prison, Tokyo (8 May - 20 July 1946), by a representative of SSU.

2. From October 1938 to June 1939 ONODERA, then a Lieutenant Colonel, was attached to the Operations Section of the Japanese Army Expeditionary Force in Central China, with headquarters in Nanking. (He had previously served in both the China and the Russian Sections of Department II, Imperial General Staff, Tokyo.) His assignment was the gathering of intelligence concerning China's Communist and Nationalist movements, with emphasis on the "C.C. Group" of the latter. A list of the agents and sources which he used at that time is given in Reference (a).

3. ONODERA states that the information provided by his organization of agents proved conclusively for him that the establishment of the WANG Ching Wed regime as a Japanese puppet government (ultimately inaugurated at Nanking in March 1940) would be fatal to Japanese policy in Asia. He, therefore, proposed to his superiors that negotiations for an immediate settlement of the war between Japan and China be undertaken directly with Chungking. The commanding officer of the Central China Expeditionary Force, as well as his chief and assistant chief of staff -- General YAMADA Osamu, Lt. Gen. YOSHIMIZO Teiichi and Maj. Gen. SUZUKI Shunzou, respectively -- all agreed secretly with ONODERA and the matter was taken up with War Minister ITAGAKI Seishiro in Tokyo.

4. ITAGAKI started negotiations with CHIN Li Fu, one of the two "C.C." brothers, through Hongkong. The plan was discovered, however, and successful completion of the negotiations was made impossible by Colonel KAGURA Sada (a)ki, one of BARC's foremost supporters and afterwards largely responsible for setting up the puppet government at Nanking. The affair caused a considerable scandal in Tokyo as a result of which YAMADA (who subsequently became Inspector General of Military Training, in Japan), YOSHIMIZO and SUZUKI were obliged to leave China. ONODERA, himself, retired temporarily from General Staff activities, but in July 1939 was assigned as an instructor at the Army General Staff College.

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((SSU note, C-2; from "Japanese Intelligence Organizations in China," an overall study covering the war years, SSU, June 1948 --

Other prominent Japanese Army officers serving in China were strongly opposed to the formation of a puppet government under WANG. Among these were Col. WACHI Takaji, Chief (1938-40) of the 2nd or Intelligence Section of the China Expeditionary Forces General Headquarters in Nanking, and his assistant, Col. TSUJI. WACHI and TSUJI were endeavoring to enforce a policy of complete military domination of China by dividing the country into two states, the North China Provisional Government and the Taishan Puppet Regime.

The officer in charge of the 2nd Section of the CHY GHQ was in many respects the most important man in the Expeditionary Forces as a whole. Although the 1st Section was theoretically responsible for the planning and execution of the war, these functions were in fact controlled by the 2nd. Most of its leadership consisted of radicals who shaped the direction and execution of warfare in China with strongly independent power, regardless of the policies and directives of the Tokyo-appointed commanding general. Their independence frequently went to the extent of ignoring the orders issued by the Imperial General Staff.

Maj. Gen. KAWAMOTO, Col. OKAYA and Col. OGURA (ranks cited are probably those in effect at the war's end), who succeeded WACHI and TSUJI, were alike with the latter in recalcitrance and in opposition to the policies later supported by the WANG government.)

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