

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

JUN 3 1942

From file, Japanese Consul General in Honolulu, T.H., advised that all activities on the part of the Japanese Consul General in that city were of the express direction of the Government. [REDACTED] of any espionage acts conducted by himself or his staff. [REDACTED] that if espionage had been conducted by members of his consulate it was without his knowledge. [REDACTED] the matter that he would not discuss the affairs of his consulate or the information in the possession of his official personnel. [REDACTED] not privileged to disclose. [REDACTED] the Japanese Consul General was not properly notified to the [REDACTED] and therefore was without official status in the eyes of the United States. [REDACTED] stated that "anything would have been done, not done by him officially and not as a private person". [REDACTED] the remainder of the interview, [REDACTED] would not affirm or deny that the Japanese Consul General or consular agents engaged in intelligence or espionage activities on the island and that their activity was of the direction of the Japanese Government and that he was not a member of the Japanese Government.

Colonel Hayes A. Kroner
General Staff
Chief, Military Intelligence Service
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Kroner:

As of possible interest to you, there is attached hereto a memorandum reflecting information concerning the activities of the members of the Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, Hawaii, which was furnished to this Bureau by a confidential and reliable source.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

cc-Rear Admiral T. S. Wilkinson
Director
Office of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

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Room 2055

JUN 4 1942

ROUTE TO:-

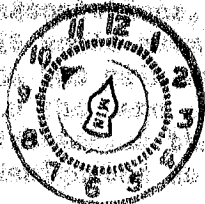
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Case No. 2

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OFFICE OF
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MEMORANDUM

Nagao Kita, Japanese Consul General in Honolulu, T.H., advised that all activity on the part of the Consulate General in that city was at the express direction of his Government. He disclaimed knowledge of any espionage acts committed by himself or his staff, indicating that if espionage had been committed by members of this consulate it was without his knowledge. Subsequently, Kita stated that he could not discuss the affairs of the Consulate as the information in his possession was official business of the Japanese Empire which he was not privileged to disclose. When informed that Otojiro Okuda, the Vice Consul, was not properly notified to the Department of State and therefore was without official status in the eyes of that Department, Kita repeatedly stated that "anything Okuda may have done, was done by him officially and not as a private person". Throughout the remainder of the interview, Kita would not affirm or deny that the Consulate General at Honolulu engaged in intelligence or espionage activities on the basis that all of their activity was at the direction of the Japanese Government and that he was without authority to disclose his Government's business.

As to the status of the so-called "Consular Agents", Kita related the usual story of their origin and duties, that is, they were so designated to assist the illiterate or the otherwise incapable Japanese in filing the numerous forms pertaining to family records required by the Japanese Government. He explained that the term Consular Agents was erroneous in describing them as they were not officials of the Japanese Government and possessed no official or legal status. Kita advised that in China in the exercise of their extra-territorial rights, the Japanese Government employed persons who had "legal connections" with the Japanese Consulate, to discharge among other things, duties similar to those performed by the Consular Agents in Hawaii. He stated that the use of Consular Agents is not common throughout the Japanese Consular Service; and as far as he knows, exists only in the Hawaiian Islands. He stated that duties similar to those of the Japanese Consular Agents were performed on the mainland of the United States by various Japanese associations and had Japanese associations been in vogue in Hawaii during the early days of Japanese immigration, Consular Agents would not have been designated as their functions would have been carried out by the Japanese associations.

Kita was explicit in stating that Japanese Consular Agents had no further duties or obligations to the Japanese Government than the Japanese associations, such duties being as stated, the filing of innocuous forms. It would seem directly from Kita's explanation, that Japanese associations on the mainland of the United States, or at least the officers thereof, are in the same position as Consular Agents in Hawaii. It is observed in this connection that several of the Hawaiian Japanese associations have been designated as Consular Agents.

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With further reference to Japanese associations, Kita informed that the Japanese societies in China, where he was formerly a Consul General, have "legal connections" with the Japanese Government, naming the "Kyoru Min Ki" (Overseas Brotherhood Association) as one of this type. However, he claimed that none of the Japanese societies in the United States has a legal or official relationship with the Japanese Government.

Kita denied using Japanese priests or language school teachers in intelligence work or being acquainted with any priest, other than Bishop Gikyo Kuchiva of the Hampa Monastery at Honolulu.

He also denied association with Otto Kuehn, who has been taken into custody for espionage, but admits being acquainted with Dr. Klaus Mehnert, alien German professor formerly at the University of Hawaii and now editing the Twentieth Century, a German propaganda magazine published at Shanghai, and a German, name unknown, who was in Hawaii en route to Japan where he is attached to the Japanese Music College. He stated that he also knew another German, but did not recall his name or anything concerning him, who may be Kuehn.

He denied that he utilized the services of Kuehn to get intelligence information, stating that "they employed no persons not officials of the Consulate for that purpose".

Otojiro Okuda, Vice Consul at Honolulu, also stated that all information in his possession pertaining to the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, was official, which he was not at liberty to disclose.

It was pointed out that although he had been notified to the Secretary of State, his duties were terminated before June 25, 1941, when his position was filled by Kita and he was thereafter without official status in the eyes of that Department. He then became highly agitated and stated that everything he did "was not on his own discretion or own responsibility," and as he was merely following out his instructions as a Consular official, his acts were not espionage. He continued by stating that he did not consider reporting the movements of the United States fleet espionage, as such were reported in the newspapers and available to anyone. He would not admit instructing anyone to observe the movements of the fleet, but when it was indicated to him that various Government investigative agencies had knowledge of this activity and the forwarding of such information to Japan by the Consulate, subsequent statements by Okuda indicated that he accepted this knowledge as fact. He stated that it was his duty to report industrial, military and general information to Japan, again adding that he does not consider reporting fleet movements espionage as such is Consular business.

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With reference to Otto Kuehn, Okuda denied knowing anyone by that name or having relations with or employing a German for intelligence information. Upon being informed that it was known that he drove to Kalan (phonetic), Oahu, to his residence from Honolulu with Tadasi Morimura, stated and Richard Masayuki Kotoshirido on the Saturday following the last arrival of the Tatsuta Maru in October, 1941. He stated that he made this trip to see a golf course there and had brought along his golf clubs. He admitted that his companions did not have golf clubs, that he did not see a golf course nor play golf. He denied giving money to Okuda for delivery to Kuehn, but when questioned about handing a package to Morimura he admitted giving him a package, stating that he did not know what was in it. He also denied that he waited for Morimura after the latter left the automobile, or visitors to the Consulate at the purpose of their visits.

When questioned again on this subject, Okuda would not repeat his statement concerning the package, but continued to insist that his only purpose in this trip was to visit a golf course. As a previous statement of Kotoshirido verifies the fact that Okuda did take golf clubs with him, it is apparent that they were taken as an alibi. Section of the Foreign Office.

Okuda would not make a definite statement relative to Morimura's position in the Consulate or his visits to Pearl Harbor. He also would not admit specifically the transmission of any information to the Japanese Foreign Office. Taro Hamasaki, a Hawaiian-born Japanese, formerly connected with the Tokyo Mishi, was said to be now employed by the Japanese Foreign Office.

With reference to Consular Agents, he advised that their certificates as such were to show ability to prepare reports rather than any authority. He stated that there were about 220 of them in Hawaii and that their duties were the same as described by Mr. Kita. Okuda stated that one or two of them had talked to him about complying with the act requiring the registration of agents of foreign principals, but he did not consider them as agents of the Consulate or of the Japanese Government. He, as did Kita, stated that the work of these Consular Agents, is discharged on the mainland by the various Japanese associations who performed the work handled in Hawaii by Consular Agents. His description of their duties was identical to that of Tadasi Morimura, the secretary at the Consulate, admitted making numerous trips to Pearl Harbor and vicinity but would not indicate specifically either the dates, purpose or identities of persons accompanying him, stating that he did not enter prohibited areas. He also admitted talking to one Uto, an elderly Japanese who operates a soft drink stand on Pearl Harbor Peninsula, affording an excellent view of aircraft carriers moored in the harbor, but only about his business. He also admitted visiting two school teachers at Aiea, near Pearl Harbor, Mrs. Masu and Kogan Yashizumi, concerning Japanese school affairs and to have driven to the heights at Aiea, overlooking Pearl Harbor.

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SUBJECT: Activities of the Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, Hawaii.

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He denied any contact with Otto Kuehn or knowledge of him.

Morimura stated that this was his first Consular post, his previous dealings being in the Trade Bureau of the Foreign Office at Tokyo. He stated that he assisted in repatriation work for about two months, and thereafter aided Yuge in copying and other clerical work at the Consulate.

Kokichi Seki, a secretary of the Consulate, acting in the capacity of treasurer, denied knowledge of any activity of the Consulate other than routine financial matters. He stated that he has never received cash from any Japanese ships entering the port or from any source except small sums paid for filing fees. He also claimed to have no knowledge of the identity of visitors to the Consulate or the purpose of their visits.

In discussing his acquaintances in the Foreign Office and at Honolulu, he indicated that he worked in the Bureau of Treaty and Conventions of the Foreign Office with Kumao Okazaki, a graduate of the University of Hawaii, whom he now believes to be in the Investigation Section of the Foreign Office.

Seki also stated that Takashi Toshiyuki, a Japanese born at Hilo, Hawaii, and a graduate of the University of Hawaii, is an employee of the Japanese Foreign Office. Torao Kawasaki, a Hawaiian-born Japanese, formerly connected with the Tokyo Nichi, was said to be now employed by the Japanese Foreign Office as a translator. His whereabouts was not known to Seki.

Kyonosuke Yuge, the Secretary in charge of the General Office of the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, claims to have no knowledge of any intelligence activity by that office.

Yuge discussed Japanese Consular Agents, stating that in Mansekol (phonetic), his previous post, there was no necessity for them in view of the large number of Japanese associations who performed the work handled in Hawaii by Consular Agents. His description of their duties was identical to that previously given herein.

As contact for the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, Yuge stated that he went to Melling (phonetic) with one Mizusawa, a Consul at Honolulu three years ago and there visited Dr. Seigichi Ohata, Feichiro Mashara and Motiochi Kobayashi. These three persons have been interned.

No information was elicited from Samon Tsukikawa, Mrs. Sadako Okuda, Saburo Sumida and Robert Hiroyoshi Sumida.

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