

Op-23D4

*Copy delivered to
Comdr. Hudson, 23Y 18 June.
who showed it to
Capt. Robinson.*

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18 June 1946

MEMORANDUM for Op-23C242 Files

Subject: Japanese Activities Directed Against the United States
Indicative of Preparations for World War II.

1. On 31 May 1946 the Office of Naval Intelligence received a request dated 29 May 1946 signed by David Marcus, Colonel, GSC, Chief, War Crimes Branch, Civil Affairs Division, War Department, asking that Navy Department information regarding 28 major Japanese war criminals be made available for screening by an officer to be detailed by Colonel Marcus to obtain from this information such material as might be useful for further processing and transmission to SOAP, the processing to be done in cooperation with appropriate officers of the Office of Naval Intelligence. This material has been assembled from Op-23F141 and Op-23D4 sources. Col. Marcus has not sent his representative to date because he wishes first to conduct preliminary discussions with a representative from SOAP who recently arrived in Washington. In connection with this same matter, Lt. Comdr. W. H. Coleman, Jr., USNR, of Op-23D4, in a recent conference with Capt. J. J. Rochefort of Op-23F1, Comdr. R. E. Hudson of Op-23Y21 and Comdr. J. R. Bromley of Op-23F141, was asked to assemble information on Japanese espionage and related activity directed against the United States in the period roughly from 1931 to 1941.

2. The following is prepared as an outline of the type of pertinent information concerning the subject which has been assembled as a result of the above-mentioned conference to be used as reference material by a United States representative in preparation for assignment to the International Military Tribunal trials in Japan.

3. The assembled information falls under the following general headings. Samples of typical materials in these general categories are described:

a. Japanese Naval Intelligence

Information regarding intelligence and espionage activities of Japanese Naval representatives in the United States. Included are case histories of eleven Japanese Naval officers, of John S. Farnsworth, former U.S. Naval officer, and Harry T. Thompson, formerly a yeoman in the U.S. Navy. Records show photostatic copies of notebooks, diaries, correspondence and the like as evidence of intelligence operations. Samples of other typical materials are:

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a translation of a document taken from Lt. Comdr. Toshikazu OHAE, IJN, espionage agent who visited U.S. West Coast ports in 1937, noting in detail intelligence information to be gathered, apparently for the naval high command in Tokyo; a report from IJND showing identical contacts for Japanese Army and Navy espionage agents; a report of a substantiated case of a Bureau of Fisheries official of the Japanese Government shipping in the crew of an American fishing vessel with the aid of a Japanese Consul and the connivance of the Japanese crew members; a IJND report showing intelligence and propaganda activities of 58 Japanese men-of-war, naval tankers, and merchant marine training vessels in visits at port of Hilo, Hawaii, between 1920 and 1940 ostensibly to take on water and provisions which could have been done more readily at Honolulu; a letter from the Domestic Branch to the Director of Naval Intelligence under date of 3 January 1941 pointing out the espionage activities on the West Coast of the Japanese Naval Inspector's Branch Office in Los Angeles; USSBS reports describing pre-war intelligence activities of the Japanese Naval Attache offices in Washington, D.C. and Mexico City.

b. Japanese Military Intelligence

This material is much the same as that under a. with respect to Imperial Japanese Army espionage agents in the United States. Included are case histories of five officers, and a photostatic record regarding a Japanese newspaper of San Francisco, the New World Sun, which in June 1939 was requested by the Japanese Military Attache, Embassy, Washington, D.C., to make an immediate and nation-wide survey of the Chinese and their organizations in the United States.

c. Japanese Foreign Office Intelligence

Information showing the intelligence gathering and propaganda activities of the Japanese embassy and consular agencies in the United States and their close liaison with Japanese societies and firms (for example, last item noted under b.) for intelligence and propaganda purposes. In this connection there are case histories on at least five Japanese diplomatic officials, and detailed reports of espionage activities with the Japanese on the part of one Otto Kuehn, a German alien and ex-German naval officer. Typical samples of material in this category: a list of 17 Japanese societies, offices and firms in New York City engaged in collecting information for the Japanese Government as listed in a December 1940 report to Japan by a Japanese government official in New York City; photostatic copies of translations of pre-war traffic via commercial facilities in encrypted messages from the Japanese Consulate-General, Honolulu, containing information of military significance; detailed IJND reports on espionage activities of the Japanese Consulate-General, Honolulu, its staff, contacts, agents, including detailed chart showing channels of its influence and sources of intelligence information in the Territory; various reports indicating the

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preparations in 1941 for closing up of diplomatic agencies and departure of key personnel; a 13ND report in August 1941 describing attempts of Japanese Consulate, Vancouver, B.C. to hire a Canadian to procure military and naval information concerning Alaska; various reports showing activities of diplomatic agencies in gaining information of strategic and tactical nature regarding the United States.

d. Japanese Activities Relating to Critical Materials

Reports of Japanese interest in and purchases of such critical materials as aviation gasoline, oil, diamonds and precision machine tool equipment. Reports of attempted mercury smuggling in the United States and Mexico -- such activity in Mexico having been first noted around the latter part of 1940; about 30 Japanese ships are cited as having listed legal shipments on manifest or ~~not having known~~ to have carried smuggled mercury from Mexican ports between July 1940 and September 1941.

e. Japanese Organizations and Firms

Extensive information on intelligence, espionage and propaganda activities, particularly in U.S. West Coast areas, of Japanese organizations and firms with substantiating exhibits. Included are detailed reports on espionage activities of Mitsui & Co., Mitsubishi Trading Co., Ltd., Japan Mail Steamship Co., Ltd., Japanese banks in 12ND. There are detailed reports on the Japanese Navy Association, the Japan Trade Agency, the Japan Institute and the notorious Tokyo Club Syndicate and its interlocking affiliations.

f. Japanese Propaganda

Reports of significant Japanese propaganda techniques and machinations in the United States. The following efforts are shown: to foster discontent among negroes in this country (there is a case history on Yasuichi MIKIDA in this connection); to encourage such groups as the Silver Shirts organization; to influence Japanese in this country in favor of the "mother" country. Included are case histories of Ralph Townsend and Frederick Williams who were paid by the Japanese for their propaganda activities.

g. Miscellaneous

Samples of material in this category: "Pearl Harbor: The Planning Stage," a detailed account of the conception and planning of the Pearl Harbor attack in the crucial mid-1941 months as recalled in detail by an apparently reliable CPO who worked with the higher ranking Japanese Navy staff officers at the time; reports on American publications as a source of espionage information prior to as well as during the war; a report of Japanese merchant ships

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(TATSUTA, HIKAWA, UTSUKUSHIMA and SHOYO) having orders to be met at sea by two Japanese destroyers in November 1941 and to be escorted back to Japan from eastern Pacific waters; a blueprint of foreign powers war vessel silhouettes found on a Japanese merchant ship in January 1941; a report of 25 June 1941 citing 14 Japanese merchant-type vessels which had called at the Port of San Francisco and had from one to eight gun mount positions; a letter from L2ND under date of 24 October 1940 citing statements of the English editor of the New World Sun, Mr. NISHIDA, who quoted an "off the record" remark of retiring Ambassador HORINOCHI to the following effect: while it might be temporarily delayed, war between Japan and the United States was inevitable because of fundamentally irreconcilable differences; various reports reflecting suspicion of widespread espionage engaged in by Japanese-owned fishing craft in West Coast areas for many years prior to the war.

Wade H. Coleman, Jr.
Lt. Cmdr., USNR

Dictated 18 June 1946
Dictated by Mr. Cary
Typed by A. Nile

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