

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

Op-10-5-3

AS-5/EFSO/Keisker, W.A. (6-10)

AS-5/QQ/Tagahazai, Mrs. Pearl (6-10)

Serial No. 1524

AS-5/P8-2/Development of Our Own (6-10)

JUN 14 1938

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I acknowledge, with appreciation, the receipt of your two PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL letters of 10 June 1938, one containing a copy of the report of Special Agent Robert H. Hicks, dated at Cleveland, Ohio, 28 May 1938 concerning one Ernest August KETNER, and the other containing information furnished by one Edmund Harold Dudley, 819 Medbury Street, Detroit, Michigan, regarding Mrs. Pearl TAGAHASAI.

Very sincerely yours,

R. S. Holmes

R. S. Holmes,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Director of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dictated by Mr. Keisker

Dictated 14 June 1938

Typed by S. Waesche

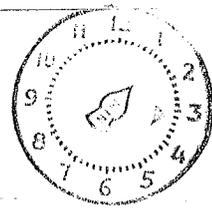
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R. S. Holmes

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

June 10, 1938.



JUN 13 1938

Rear Admiral R. S. Holmes
Director, Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

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A8-5/00/Tagahasai
Mrs. Pearl
A8-5/02/Development of Our Own

Dear Admiral Holmes:

For your information I desire to advise that on May 28, 1938, one Edmund Harold Dudley, a colored individual who resides at 319 Medbury Street, Detroit, Michigan, called at the Detroit office of this Bureau and stated he had in his possession information which he believed pertained to Japanese espionage activities. He stated that he was born in the State of Pennsylvania and lived in that State continuously until October 30, 1937, when he went to Detroit, Michigan, to secure employment. He was eventually employed as a chauffeur by Mrs. Pearl Tagahasai (phonetic), a colored woman, in November, 1937, to drive her Packard sedan. He learned during this employment that this woman was married to a Japanese individual who some time previously had been deported to Canada.

Mr. Dudley also stated that Mrs. Tagahasai apparently was in constant fear of the police. He stated that Mrs. Tagahasai is apparently the leader of a society known as "The Development of Our Own" and that the membership of this organization is limited to colored individuals. The members of this society indicate that it is an educational society but the informant has attended all of the meetings and is convinced the organization was not formed for educational purposes. He also stated that no efforts are made by the society to better the conditions of the colored people. The informant is of the opinion that instructions as to action to be taken by the society are mailed to Mrs. Tagahasai from Canada by her husband, and although this woman resides at 319 Medbury Street, Apartment 2, she receives her mail at 3624 Rivard Street, Detroit, Michigan, under the name of Mrs. D. Summers.

Mr. Dudley stated that meetings of the society are held every Thursday and Sunday and are attended by approximately one hundred colored men and women. The meetings are held on Canfield Street near Beaubien in an old community kitchen. White persons are not permitted to attend the meetings and those present are not permitted to do any writing in the meeting hall.

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Rear Admiral R. S. Holmes

June 10, 1938.

The informant stated that approximately a month ago two Japanese individuals attended the meeting. He was later informed by Mrs. Tagahasai that these men were Japanese Government men and that four of them originally intended to attend the meeting but two of them were stopped at the Canadian border.

Mr. Dudley stated that the real purpose of this society is to unite the Mongolians and colored people in America against the white people and in the event it was not possible to militantly organize the negro race, they are being instructed to maintain a passive attitude and not bear arms for the United States in the event of an invasion. He stated that a great portion of the meetings are devoted to discussing the success of the Japanese in China and on one occasion when the newspapers announced that a secret air corps had been destroyed, the news was received at the meeting with a great deal of laughter.

The informant stated that the members of the organization provide Mrs. Tagahasai with funds for her subsistence and pay her rent and that the society also pays his salary of \$10.00 per week; further that the society purchased the Packard automobile which is supposed to be registered in the name of Mrs. Tagahasai.

Mrs. Tagahasai, according to the informant, advised him that she had been to British Columbia where she went aboard a passenger boat on which no white persons were permitted. She stated that while this boat had the appearance of a passenger ship, it was really a warship fully equipped with guns and armaments and only a few quick changes were necessary to convert it into a full-fledged fighting ship.

The informant indicated at the time of this interview that he was desirous of securing employment with this Bureau since his job with Mrs. Tagahasai ended on May 28, 1938.

The veracity of this informant is, of course, not known by this Bureau but the information furnished by him is being forwarded to you for your information.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

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