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## Kaji dies; was writer, spy suspect

Tokyo (AP)—Wataru Kaji, a political writer once suspected in Japan of being a double spy for the United States and the Soviet Union, died of cancer Monday in a Tokyo hospital, hospital officials reported. He was 79.

Mr. Kaji, whose real name was Mitsugi Seguchi, was born in Oita prefecture and graduated from Tokyo University.

He joined an anti-militarist writers' movement and in 1936 fled to Shanghai, where he became friends with two Chinese leftist writers, Lu Hsun and Kuo Mo-jo.

As the Japanese army drove into China, he joined the Chinese effort against the invaders, traveling to the front to indoctrinate Japanese prisoners.

During World War II, he set up a Japanese People's Anti-War League and became acquainted with the late Edgar Snow, an American writer and expert on China. Mr. Kaji also worked with the U.S. Office of War Information, producing leaflets against Japanese imperialism.

Japan surrendered in 1945, and Mr. Kaji returned to his homeland in 1947. He joined in a move to promote relations between Japan and China and ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the upper house of the Diet, or parliament.

While undergoing treatment for tuberculosis in November, 1951, he purportedly was abducted by a U.S. intelligence unit. According to his account, he was tortured but refused to cooperate with the Americans in their espionage plans.

U.S. authorities said at that time he had been detained as an international spy.

The incident led to suspicions by Japanese authorities that he was a spy for the United States.

The United States released him in 1952. In 1953, he was accused by Japanese authorities of being a spy for the Soviet Union.

Mr. Kaji was found guilty by a Tokyo district court of violating a law barring Japanese from sending short-wave radio messages overseas, but a higher court found him innocent. The ruling was not appealed.

He was frequently hospitalized because of his tuberculosis but continued his political writing.