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Source: YOKURI SHIMBUN (AM)

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PRO-RED EX-SERVICEMEN APPLY FOR
PASSPORTS TO RED CHINA

Last March, public interest was aroused by the arrival of a formal invitation from Red China asking for the visit of ex-servicemen. Later, former Lt Gen ENDO Saburo and others, who had acted as a medium for this invitation, formed a "society for assisting in the dispatch of ex-servicemen to China" and selected 34 officers of the former Japanese Army and Navy as members of the delegation to Red China. Application for their passports has already been filed with the Foreign Ministry. However, the law enforcement authorities are taking a serious view of the ex-servicemen's moves, suspecting that the invitation is not just for an inspection trip but part of espionage activities against Japan. For, their investigations have disclosed that about one-third of the selected ex-servicemen are on the blacklist of the authorities concerned, with some regarded as members of the so-called "Phantom Corps," who pledged allegiance to Russia during their internment in that country, and others presumed to be connected with Red China's espionage organs through trade and illegal transactions in narcotics. Therefore, the law enforcement authorities are secretly investigating the moves of these delegation members and are also watching the attitude of the Foreign Ministry on their application for passports.

The Red Chinese proposal to invite former Japanese soldiers was first made by Premier CHOU En-lai to ex-Lt Gen ENDO Saburo, when a delegation of the Constitution protection league, of which he was a member, visited Peking last December. The delegation was headed by KATAYAMA Tetsu of the Socialist Party. A formal invitation was received in a cable, dated 16 Mar, to the effect that "about 30 ex-servicemen, led by ENDO, will be invited with all expenses to be paid by the Red Chinese Government." The Japanese delegation is to be the guests of President CHENG Chi-jo (程潜) of the Chinese People's Diplomatic Research Society (an organ for handling diplomatic matters with those countries which have not yet resumed diplomatic relationship with Red China).

ENDO immediately formed a "society for assisting in the dispatch of ex-servicemen to China" under the leadership of former Lt Col IDEKURA Tomiichiro, former Maj TADA Issa, former Maj TOKUZANE Suso and former Maj SHIMODA Sanemoto. The society selected 34 former servicemen, including ex-Maj Gen MABUCHI Hayao, chief of the former Army's press section as delegation members and applied to the Foreign Ministry for their passports on 9 Apr.

As for the selection of these members, the society says: "First, we asked ex-servicemen's organizations, such as Kaiko Kai, Suiko Kai and Senyu Dantai Rengo Kai (federation of war comrades' organizations), to recommend appropriate members. But our request was turned down on the ground that our plan runs counter to the character of these organizations, which aim at mutual friendship among their members, and that they do not want to take on a political coloring. Consequently, we consulted with the councillors of Kaiko Kai and its committee members, who were our classmates

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at military schools, and chose those persons who can render equitable judgment and can also utilize the results of the inspection trip in the public interests."

Meanwhile, the application for their passports does not contravene any of the Foreign Ministry's "standards for restricting travel to Communist bloc nations." According to the standards, applicants are denied passports in the following cases:

1. When there is a possibility of bad influence being exerted on diplomatic negotiations, which are in process or to be opened in the future.
2. When public officials are provided with traveling expenses by the governments, organizations and individuals of Communist bloc countries.
3. When applicants are in the leading position of Communist organizations or intend to attend international political conferences..

Moreover, these restrictive standards themselves have considerably lost their binding power, as is evident from the fact that participants in the foreign May Day celebrations were recently given passports. Therefore, there is a strong possibility of the dispatch of the delegation being permitted.

However, upon investigations, the Police Agency and the Public Safety Investigation Agency discovered that one-third of the delegation members are on the blacklist of the law enforcement authorities. Their investigations have revealed the following facts:

1. Though it is said that ex-servicemen have been invited by President CHANG Chi-jo of the Chinese People's Diplomatic Research Society, there is information that the invitation plan was worked out by HSIEN Nan-kuan (鲜 南 关), who is in charge of Red Chinese maneuvers aimed at Japan, during ENDO's stay in Peking.
2. Several members of the delegation are presumed to have been repatriated as spies after pledging allegiance to the Soviet side while being detained in Russia and Red China. There are also several members who belong to the Communist camp ideologically.
3. Several members have close business transactions with pro-Communist Chinese firms, which are regarded as organs for Red Chinese maneuvers in Japan.
4. Several others are employees of firms which are presumed to be connected with the smuggling of narcotics from Red China.

Judging from these data, the law enforcement authorities assume that the invitation for ex-servicemen has the political objectives of (1) breaking up rightist forces by having ex-servicemen change their view on Red China, for the purpose of speeding up the adjustment of relations between the two countries, (2) fanning the nationalistic feeling of ex-servicemen into the form of anti-Americanism, and (3) blunting the criticism of the former military against Red China. It is also suspected that other major objectives are the collection of information on Japan's internal conditions, communication with the undercover Red Chinese agents in Japan and the issuance of instructions on duties and assignments for the new machinations directed against Japan.

Standing Director TADA of the ex-servicemen's society for sending a delegation to Red China said: "We had no special standards for the selection of delegation members. We chose those persons whom our group of ex-servicemen considered appropriate. Red China may have various

objects in view, but I presume that no delegation members will be easily led to become devout supporters of Red China. There are some who are averse to Red China paying all traveling expenses. I think, however, that there is no need to worry about this. We will see what should be inspected in Red China and will make outspoken criticisms."

Chief ONO of the Second Guard Section of the Police Agency said: "I suppose that the delegation will eventually be given passports under the existing standards for restricting overseas travel. However, one-third of delegation members are on the blacklist of the authorities concerned, including those who apparently stand on the side of the Communist bloc, though we cannot reveal their names. It is suspected that several of these persons have joined the delegation on orders from Red China."

Chief ENDO of the passport section of the Foreign Ministry said: "It cannot be said that this application for passport cannot be accepted legally. However, it appears that opinions in the Government and the Liberal Democratic Party are divided on whether to grant passports. This section cannot make a decision on this issue independently."

The applicants for passports follow (former military ranks in parentheses):

KANAZAWA Masao (vice admiral), president of Junyo Bussan; TOKUNAGA Sakae (vice admiral), agriculture; ENDO Saburo (lieutenant general), agriculture; TANITA Isamu (lieutenant general), advisor to Ebihara mining; HORIYU Kazumaro (lieutenant general), researcher and commentator on the Soviet Union; IKEDA Susuhisa (lieutenant general), advisor to Kabukiza; TSUCHI Akio (lieutenant general), director of the continental problems research institute; IMMURA Toshinobu (lieutenant colonel), official of Koko Shoko; TADA Isao (major), official of Shinko Trading; TANIZAKI Suetaka (major), official of Ota Trading; SHIMODA Minoru (major), official of Rengo Kogyo Kasei KK; WATANABE Wataru (major), official of Central Trading KK; MARUUCHI Hayao (major general), editorial writer of Shizuoka Shimpo; OKAZAKI Genkai (naval captain), director of the national economy research society; KUBOTA Yoshie (colonel), director of Taiyo Kiki KK; SHIGEKAWA Hidekazu (colonel), consultant for "Chugoku Tenbo" (Outlook on China); SUZUKI Keiji (major), advisor to Tamen KK; ONODA Sutejiro (naval captain), official of Harbor Transportation KK; KAGEYAMA Seiji (intendant colonel), director of the pharmaceuticals import association; KATO Yoshihide (major general), director of the Japan bowling association; SOGA Kiyoshi (naval captain), official of the Sasebo Shipping Industry KK; MIYAKO Minoru (colonel), advisor to Nisshin Industry KK; MACHINO Seishi (lieutenant colonel), business division chief of Kyoei Enterprise KK; TOYOEDA Shigeharu (lieutenant colonel), official of Marunouchi Commercial KK; MIKAI Seichiro (major), official of Oboro Towel KK; OKADO Yoshikado (army warrant-officer), official of Hinawari Transport; SUGI Kenya (major), standing director of Nichinan Industry; YOSHII Mitsumi (major), attorney-at-law; ODAJIMA Shoichi (captain), standing director of the Friendship Cross Society; KANEKO Sai (captain), assistant professor at the Tokyo Agricultural College; OKABAYASHI Ryushi (captain), employee of Dainichi Machinery Works; MIYAHASHI Hidetaka (captain), employee of Tairyu KK; UCHINO Haruyoshi (major), official of All-Japan Products Hall; and SHIMIZU Ren (military cadet), official of the Japan Legal Books and Forms Sales Office.