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Statements by HATTORI Takashira  
regarding His Activities and Relationships

ZJL-689 (FB-253)

July, 1951.

Tokyo, Japan

18 July, 1951.

6-3 except as stated.

20 August, 1951.

1. I have met with Major General G. A. Willoughby several times, but the number of meetings which I have had with him is by no means unduly great. I cannot help but pay the highest respect to his personality and I feel completely grateful to the deepness of his consideration for me. He was indeed a great general and superior. It is entirely attributable to the assistance of Maj. Gen. Willoughby that I have come to win the understanding and trust of the United States Army. To my satisfaction, I was really able to work well.
2. Regardless of the articles which may have been provided for in the Potsdam Declaration, ever since the surrender of Japan I have been resolutely of the belief that the future world situation would not leave Japan defenseless. Therefore, even since the end of the war, I have been a firm advocate for the rearmament of Japan. I am not a man who availed himself of changing times in which everyone has begun to talk considerably in public about rearmament; ever since the surrender I have been holding firm to the opinion that Japan should be rearmed, and believe that is an absolute necessity. When it occurred last year that a plan was to be drawn up for the formation of a National Police Reserve, I was asked by Maj. Gen. Willoughby to formulate such a program and plan. I took it over. At that time, Colonel TSUJI Masahiko advised me: "Don't accept such a task. It is not the right time to be doing that now." However, I did not conform to TSUJI's suggestion and proceeded with the plan for the formation of a National Police Reserve to the best of my ability, always with the aim in mind of the rearmament of Japan. In TSUJI's opinion, it was very difficult to recruit capable men under the circumstances then prevailing (August-September, 1950), even if the Police Reserve were to be organized. Consequently, TSUJI believed that no useful and competent Police Reserve would be formed. He argued with me that if I brought such a makeshift organization into being despite the attendant circumstances at the time, dishonor might be brought upon me and he told me that I should not make a laughing-stock of myself over such an issue as a Police Reserve force. Thus, his advice was in that way full of favorable and kind considerations for my personal position. Since I was aware of the great trust accorded to me by General Willoughby, however, and since I had been

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy

(2)(B) Methods/Sources

(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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advocating the cause of rearmament for a long time, I accepted Maj. Gen. Willoughby's request with willingness. I did not give in to TSUJI's kind and thoughtful warnings, as I considered that this project was my destiny, and believed that it should be the way of the Japanese people to go along with such directions and to perform the assigned mission, even though it would mean a dishonor to me personally.

However, as it happened, I was not permitted to take the initiative in establishing the Police Reserve and leading it myself, in spite of my efforts. I do not know whether that was good for me or not.

3. Since then, the report and resultant rumors that I was concerned with the National Police Reserve issue have gradually come to spread among the people. As an echo to the public advocacy of Japanese rearmament which became intensified since the end of 1950, voices of accusation and recrimination have been raised against me, becoming more and more intense. My name has appeared in both the TASS News Agency press and in newspapers following the Chinese "communist line. They alleged that my group was unilaterally plotting the re militarization of Japan. They slandered me quite maliciously, saying, "This man is one who was a great wartime anti-American leader and was Prime Minister TOJO's protegee; he has now turned into a spy and tool of America since the termination of the war. This man, moreover, is plotting the rearmament of Japan! If Japan is to be rearmed by a man like him, we cannot stand silently by. In the event that Russia should come into Japan, he would probably cooperate with the Soviets too." Quite recently, again, another baseless and slanderous rumor is being spread about, that "General CHIMURA (Haji or Kasutsumi) and SHIMOMURA (Sadamu) are using me to make preparations for rearmament, and are thus dangerous militarists. Both General CHIMURA and General SHIMOMURA are men of fine character. I have had almost no chance to meet with General CHIMURA. However, I sometimes do pay a visit to General SHIMOMURA, who is my senior officer and my former operational strategy chief under whom I once served. None among the former military men of Japan could equal him in the performance and observation of justice. It is indeed regrettable that I am at present in circumstances which do harm to the name of such a fine and noble superior.
4. I have never thought in terms of effecting the rearmament of Japan by the efforts of my group alone, nor have I advocated excluding other groups. I believe that it is wise policy to rearm Japan; but I know full well how difficult a process those persons responsible for rearmament will be obliged to undertake before it can be realized. I did not undertake the project of the National Police Reserve of my own volition, but rather did it because of the instruction of Maj. Gen. Willoughby. Subsequently, I have entertained no political ambitions whatsoever. I do not have any demands as to my future position either. My current desire is merely to recruit and weld together fine men who are eligible and to see them from a point of view and to create an army of Japan really capable of contributing to world peace. It is extremely difficult to understand the reasoning of those former Japanese Army men, fortunate enough to enjoy considerable confidence and trust of the U.S. Army and contact with the latter, who not only do not try to aid me but who even denounce and exclude me.  
(Evaluation for paras. 3 and 4, excepting news quotes: C-4-propaganda.)
5. As is known to you (Source), TSUJI Masanobu and I have long been intimately

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acquainted with each other. TSUJI has for many long years maintained a never-changing friendship towards me. In fact, however, there exists no relationship at all between him and myself. (EVALUATION of last sentence: G-4; MATSURI above indicated that TSUJI knew of his projected task, among other things.) I am not planning Japanese rearmament in cooperation with him. I associate with him at the present time merely as an intimate friend. TSUJI often airs his opinions to me and often brings me information, but he is not doing so at my request. As far as my work is concerned, I have neither requested anything of him nor have I consulted with him. (Evaluation: G-5; Cf. above.) My relationship with him is extremely close personally and privately, but is completely non-existent officially.

The rumor is rampant among the people, nevertheless, that he and I are cooperating closely in working out a plan for Japanese rearmament. TSUJI is a very naive person and he is greatly concerned about me. Therefore, if he hears any malicious slander concerning me, he would investigate and confirm its source and then directly accuse the person who blurted it out of his irresponsibility. The other day, when IMANORO (Hideo) spoke ill of me, TSUJI went to IMANORO and stormed at him. I am indeed grateful for TSUJI's devoted friendship to me. However, when TSUJI castigates other persons in the cause of friendship, the people around the person attacked misunderstand me and speak as if I am urging TSUJI to make such charges. From this they devolve more propaganda. Therefore, some day in the not too distant future, I intend to ask TSUJI kindly for my own benefit not to operate in such a radical and heated fashion.

6. I was several times invited by Mr. MATUYAMA (Ichiro) to visit him, and I met him. I went to see him because he indicated that he was anxious to hear my opinions. I certainly never asked him to undertake any activities for me. When I saw him, I was impressed with his fine character. He was a very gentle and courteous man. Concerning the problem of rearmament, he regarded me, his petty junior and subordinate figure, as if I were an expert, and he showed a serious and respectful interest in my opinions from beginning to end. Although I have no idea as to how much he appreciated of my viewpoint, I am definitely looking forward to the day when Mr. MATUYAMA leads the cabinet.
7. Judging from the recent activities of the YOSHIDA (Shigami) Cabinet, it does not seem that the present cabinet members are even dreaming of the possible emergence of a MATUYAMA Cabinet. The present cabinet appears to be making every attempt to hold down the influence of the powerful MATUYAMA Clique.
8. With the replacement of General MacArthur and the return to America of General Willoughby, the attitude of the U.S. military authorities towards the Japanese Government has relaxed to a certain extent. At the same time, however, the force of recrimination against me appears merely to have become stronger. I feel that even the existing YOSHIDA Cabinet is attempting to get rid of me. (In that connection,) my acceptance of the invitation of MATUYAMA Ichiro is said to be cunningly used against me.
9. As I stated above, I am at present in a tough spot. Some people urge me to take resolute and vigorous counter-measures towards the malicious propaganda and slander (directed at me.) Other people say that TSUJI's close connection personally to me is not doing my reputation any good, and they warn me against any further association with him. I do not have the slightest intention of heeding to these suggestions. If I were to try to make any excuse or to take

