



authenticity of the published reports describing KOIKE's death, and purpose foul play of new kind by the Soviets.

5. MURAKAWA had established a personal reputation by his researchs in bacteriology. The Soviets undoubtedly planned to glean from KAWASAKI every scrap of data he possessed in the field of bacteriological research. They conducted a thorough examination of him and his previous activities. His chief interrogator was an unidentified Soviet bacteriologist. As a result of the interrogations, MURAKAWA was probably able to determine fairly accurately the actual progress made by the Soviets in the field of bacteriology, the levels of research achieved, and the nature of their techniques. His follow interviews believe that, even if KAWASAKI had completed his twenty-year sentence, the Soviets would still not have repatriated him.

6. Both KOIKE and KAWASAKI were imprisoned at Yamovo, where, in cooperation with other prison camps, the prisoners were at Jalasno and released. It appears strange, however, that KOIKE and KAWASAKI, two such comparatively young men, were interned with some senior Japanese, and all the more strange that these young men died. Their deaths occurred, also, at the same time that Japanese-Soviet relations were on the point of being resumed. These circumstances, together with the considerations that (a) had KOIKE returned to Japan, there surely would have been a popular revolution to the suffering he presented, and (b) KAWASAKI had surely learned much about the progress of Soviet bacteriology, could very well have led to the deaths of these two Japanese former officers.

7. It is known that the Soviets believe that one way to do away with a person is to have someone normally close to the victim poison or otherwise bring about the victim's death. In the cases of both KOIKE and KAWASAKI, someone close to either one could have been used by the Soviets to handle the earlier duty.

8. Four or five of the references in the group to which KOIKE and KAWASAKI should have belonged,<sup>9</sup> when questioned on the subject, could not state positively that the deaths of KOIKE and KAWASAKI were not planned by the Soviets, since Soviet action cannot be predicted. One of the reporters ventured that if KOIKE and KAWASAKI were killed, the Soviets would have been sure to take great pains, in advance, to conceal the facts. This, together with the fact that the two men died in a POW internment camp, raises the determination of actual causes of death more difficult.

Field Occasals

1. Reported in the 11 December 1956 Joan Times KAWASAKI Tosuo. Probably identical with the Leitchman Column KAWASAKI Tosuo (077/ 3119/057/0005/1133). who was listed in POW-REP as a member of the National Corp, a former bacteriological specialist (SHE) bacteriological UNIT that was given the Russian much information on the UNIT, and one of the Japanese were detained still detained in the USIR who were considered likely candidates for use as Soviet espionage agents. If they were repatriated to Japan. Probably also identical with the KAWASAKI Tosuo who was included in the Soviet list of Japanese Internees 1955 in the Soviet Union given to SIMONOVICH Janov on 5 September 1955, and the KAWASAKI Tosuo who, according to the 28 June 1955 London Sheldon, was one of the thirty-five detained in Yamovo

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Camp in the USSR who were visited by MATSUDA Stajeru on his trip to the USSR in 1955.

2. Japanese Comment. The principal function of this unit was water purification, but the Soviets later charged that it was a bacteriological warfare unit of the Japanese Army.
3. Source did not specify at which Iwanovo KARASAWA was interned. The 27 December 1956 Japan Times states that KARASAWA and KOMEI were detained in Iwanovo near Moscow. We are unable to determine with certainty which of the eleven Iwanovo in the Moscow area is meant; however, it may be Iwanovo (165-49, KSA-49), in which there is a prison camp, and which is near Moscow.
4. According to the 11 December 1956 Japan Times, KARASAWA died of gastric ulcers on 20 October 1956.
5. Probably YOSHIDA Takidiro who, according to another source, returned to Japan with KOMEI's remains in his charge, and who has been acting surreptitiously since his return to Japan and is at present under surveillance by the Japanese authorities. According to the 27 December 1956 Japan Times, YOSHIDA testified that the Soviets did not murder KOMEI.
6. According to another source, KOMEI became ill on 20 October 1956, his illness being diagnosed as a simple cold. On 25 October 1956, his condition had not improved, and he was examined by a Soviet physician and confined to a hospital. On 27 October 1956, a Soviet specialist was called from the Pof camp at Iwanovo. Presumably the hospital in which KOMEI was treated was not within the Iwanovo Pof camp.
7. Although this name was reported as NISHIURA, it is given as NISHIURA in this report because other sources indicate that this name is NISHIURA, because the official Soviet list gives the name as NISHIURA, and because the newspapers also list the name as NISHIURA. According to the 27 December 1956 Japan Times, NISHIURA also testified that the Soviets did not take the life of KOMEI. According to another source, NISHIURA, who repatriated to Japan on 26 December 1956, is residing in Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.
8. According to another source, this autopsy was conducted on 30 October 1956.  
  
Japanese Comment. It seems from the medical point of view that death would be unlikely to ensue from the acute kidney inflammation described above. Were the case acute, KOMEI would surely have shown or felt symptoms before the onset of the acute stages if the case was acute, it must be concluded that the infection was incited by external causes. In late August 1956, KOMEI had written to his family in Japan, stating that he was in good health. It must be deduced from this letter, the last received from him, that he was not suffering from kidney trouble at that time. It is interesting to note that NISHIURA observed that KOMEI's autopsy revealed abdominal contusions, as if he had been struck

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or kicked in the vicinity of the intestines. According to Yuriy Aleksandrovich Rastvorov, Moscow considered the most important prisoners of war from Japan those who have connections with the Japanese imperial family. Rastvorov has said that Moscow planned to make future use of such prisoners. KONO was, of course, extremely close to the imperial family. In the case of KONO, also, there was no reason to hold him on war crimes charges. During the war, he had been a field artillery battery commander in North Manchuria. He was not accused by the Soviets of war crimes, and there was no good reason for his long internment. It can be concluded only, therefore, that the Soviets detained KONO for purely political reasons.

9. This group returned to Japan on 26 December 1956.

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