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AH000

RC: 5. Feb. 12, 1944

Subject: Japanese News Service in Turkey

Source: Received by Director, OWI, Turkey, Feb. 8 and turned over to AH001 in view of X-2 relations with source.

Sub-source: AH350

Evaluation: Sub-source considered reliable.

Summary

Presents data on personalities and propaganda program of the Japanese with respect to Balkans, Soviet Union and Middle East. Operations centering on Turkey.

Action: This report is going out through OWI channels also by pouch this date. OWI made translation but we have original hence OSS should make necessary distribution without delay as it is assumed that we have accepted responsibility.

Distribution: Copies to Saint, Washington, London, MB, Istanbul.

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Date: 2001, 2005

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W 34 Reg Int 152, Box 3  
Istanbul, 28.1.1944

Subject: Jap.ND in Turkey - Group Aoki-Izumi

D 4-5  
July: Japanese News Service  
in Turkey

(N.D. = Nachrichten Dienst == News Service).

After Morio Aoki, as previously reported, through Izumi's assistance brought about a division of his information system, his whole effort was directed to build up the apparatus on this new basis so that he could satisfy the demands of a much larger ND central in this important key position for Japan lying between Europe, Russia and the Anglo-Americans. This goal has not yet been achieved but important progress has been made. The steps taken toward news service are as follows:

A) As our investigation already shows clearly, the Japanese central in Turkey wants to be extensively and above all speedily informed on all events inside Europe. This is necessary for them in the case of particular happenings in Europe to be able to compare these with the succeeding reactions in other countries and in this way obtain a fairly well rounded off picture of the world situation on at least the European-Asiatic situation. For details see below.

B) The same applies to the Soviet Union. From there also the Japs want to be kept informed continuously in Turkey. Details see below.

C) The third line of attack is the part of Asia designated by the Japs as the "Western Asiatic territory" which covers the geographic area known to us as "middle east". The interest is principally in Irak, Iran, the Persian Gulf down to India. At the same time they do not entirely neglect the actual Mediterranean countries in this area but consider them of secondary importance aside from the specific individual problems. In the Mediterranean countries of this area the Jap. ND concentrates particularly on troop movements on a large scale, especially the movements of large masses of transportation. The official ND works in this connection parallel to the military ND but independently. Details follow later.

From the above it is evident that Turkey assumes a first Class position in the policy of the Japanese ND on an organization and news basis.

Details of the above:

A) European news arrives in the Istanbul branch and is worked on by Izumi. They are differentiated as:  
Balkan Information: arrive by courier or radio. Reports follow continuously by the technically speediest way.  
European News: arrive from time to time in the form of combined

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situation reports. Transmission either by mouth or through special agents or in writing via normal courier. In the latter case they go right to Ambassador Kurihara.

The Balkan reports indirectly come through Jap. connections in the countries reported on who are charged with these duties by Izumi and the frame-work of the total organization. This special information service is supplemented by the following lines:

Momotaro Enomoto. Main residence Budapest, frequently at Berlin and Sofia.

Vladimiro Velikotny. Main residence Budapest but also in Madrid, Paris, Sofia. Connections to German offices and the known White Organizations. Amongst others: Turku-Romanow, Jordana-Paris. Lately also Kowalski - Bucarest in competition with Umeda as known.

Matoff. Up to the present at Sofia. Press management, connections with army. Location unknown since Jan. 10th.

Boris Dimitroff. Sofia, press management. Works at the same time for the Soviets with the knowledge of the Japanese.

Danoff. Sofia, journalist. Location unknown since Jan. 10th.

Balawski, Budapest. Bulgarian military attache.

Dr. Kawassy, Budapest. Details still outstanding, not confirmed as certain.

Kovacs, present location unknown, probably Budapest. Formerly Turkey.

All the listed subsidiary connections are at the same time and mainly in the service of the local ND chief, but the reports go in the same form by courier to Enomoto who then uses them for his reports to Izumi. This system was found to be too lengthy, circumstantial and therefore unsatisfactory. Aoki, therefore, urged the addition of a second man to help out Enomoto. This additional help seems to be Kenkiti Osima. He formerly had a name in the sport world, has been living for five years in Germany and has been on a Balkan trip for several weeks to get acquainted with his territory; officially in order of "Tokio Nichi-Nichi". From the beginning of January until the 28th he was in Istanbul where he was introduced into the requirements of the Balkan information service and Izumi.

Yokikazu Oda. Presently still in Istanbul with the intention eventually to move to Budapest.

Informant in Sofia: Dragoff, Sofia, journalist, with the connections since January 10th, present location unknown.

Informant in Budapest was released December 1943. Successor not appointed yet, possibly Ono or Shikizu, both still in Rome.

The main duty of Oda, however, is to get information and work on special questions in his territory in the course of frequent trips in the Balkans including Budapest.

In addition to courier information Izumi on special cases received by way of radio the necessary information from the

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local ND chief. For instance with regard to the effects of the bombardment of Sofia on January 10th details were received from Izumi a few hours after the first bombing, while otherwise any kind of information was lacking.

The following could also be found out about the work of the official ND of the European south-east and east:

1) In Budapest there is an active use of Polish informants who have their headquarters in the Erzsébet-Körut in Budapest. These connections work under the General Government via Pressburg. In setting up and developing these connections, a Japanese diplomat named Shimizu was active; his identity is not established as his name is frequent in the Japanese language.

2) A surprisingly large information system comes together in Pressburg. It is in the hands of Okiyama-Pressburg; it works particularly in the G.G - the Protectorate. The leading members are Yamaguchi - Vienna and the representative of "Mitsui" in Prag; name uncertain.

3) The reports available in the ND Central Turkey on Rumanian are surprisingly weak. This is mainly due to the fact that Rumania is reserved to Umada who due to well-known competitive reasons shuts off reports to Izumi. But after Umada left Sofia somewhat hastily Jan. 10th in order to remain in Buearest, Aoki figures he can obtain his cooperation as the competition with Enomoto is automatically weakened. Up to the present Aoki resp. Izumi were almost exclusively independent on the occasional reports of Oda as to information obtainable about Rumania from diplomatic sources.

B) With regard to operations about the Soviet Union the following details were noted:

1) In Ankara the personal contact of Aoki with the Soviet Ambassador has again increased substantially as there had been certain weakening during the period of Moscow and Teheran conferences. The contact mentioned is restricted, as far as can be established, to formal invitations on the part of the Soviets to social receptions and to one-sided request for meetings by Aoki to the Soviet Embassy. To the Axis partners Aoki declares his visits are due to about 60 requests for transit visas through the Union. Extreme secrecy is maintained on details of the talks by Aoki and his co-workers.

In Istanbul it has been ascertained that Izumi in his apartment: Istanbul - Nisantas, Emlak Caddesi, 13/3, carries on secret meetings with Russian elements. Surveillance reports more or less regular meetings with at least four people of which one is reputedly identical with a White Russian named Gorschenin (Report being checked). Two others cannot be identified. It has only been determined that they speak Russian between them. The fourth finally in the course of the last two months was recognized twice when entering the Soviet Trade Bank in Istanbul,

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Istiklal Caddesi. The determination of his name is still expected. His visits to Izumi are irregular, three times during the period from the 1st to the 15th December 1943. Duration of visit 15 minutes to an hour. Description: About 45 years old, appearance not striking; dark, small moustache; dark accentuated, almond shaped eyes, slim figure, height about 1.75. Caucasian type.

2) An effort to set up regular connection between the Japanese Embassy in Ankara and that in Moscow continues (see our previous report). As can be recalled, Aoki suggested to Uchida - Berlin - a trip of Izumi to Moscow to find ways and means of establishing closer cooperation between the Japanese Embassy of Moscow and that in Berlin via the Embassy in Ankara. This proposal at that time was rejected by Ozhima in order not to endanger Japanese-Russian relations. The Soviets refused as before to permit any courier connection of any kind between Moscow and Ankara direct. Also a regular telegram transmission through the Embassy between Moscow and Ankara direct is impossible.

As far as can be determined here the diplomatic connections of Aoki and his efforts around the Soviet diplomats in Ankara are serving to find out a way to make possible the desired connection between the Japanese Embassy in Moscow officially and with the knowledge of the Soviets.

As this effort, however, has been unsuccessful up to the present, Aoki is also trying to obtain unofficial contact with another personality in Moscow who has means of transmitting information to Ankara and it would also be useful in other ways. This personality in question does seem suited for this purpose. The preparations in process, however, are of very delicate nature and it is not practical to report on it before the matter is settled.

C) Will follow shortly with the next courier, also an explanation of the activity of ministers Chiba and Tanabe.

Istanbul, Feb. 4. 1944

Subject: Continuation of Report of January 28.

Referring to point C:

Of the previous report the working of the "Western Asiatic territory" and India was taken away from Istanbul by Aoki on purpose and is now exclusively directed from Ankara. Certain technical assistance which is still required in Istanbul (it is a matter of single talks regarding meetings and so forth) is taken care of by Y. Aoki. The latter is Chancellor of the local branch of the Embassy.

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The main effort in setting up connections in this territory is placed on Nakao who is a Moslem married to a Turk, has good Moslem connections and has been very active in the Irakian-Iranian sector.

The questions dealt with primarily by the Civil ND in this area are:

- 1) Raw material production of the Anglo-Americans especially oil. Technical extensions for oil production and oil transport.
- 2) Road and transportation conditions.
- 3) Ship movements in the Persian Gulf.
- 4) Activities of Arab or other native groups against the Anglo-Americans, or political and economic conditions to create such groups.
- 5) Development of the Soviet positions in the sector, successes of the Soviets, communistic questions, etc.
- 6) Political reports from India.

With regard to these points, following is to be noted:

Only questions 1/3 are of acute interest to the Civil ND and information on them is therefore sought for with corresponding means. Questions 4/6 are worked on just as seriously but with definite signs that they are long-term operations.

The connections established in the "West Asiatic Territory" to answer all 6 questions are:

- 1) Affixed Iranian connection, Hasan Sanjani, in Beyrouth with further connections in Baghdad and Teheran. Transmission of reports is over a certain courier of the Iranians not known to us. Delivers primarily material on the oil question from Irak and Iran and on road and transportation conditions.
- 2) An occasional Afgan connection bringing material from Waziristan and the north-western provinces.
- 3) A regular Polish connection from the Miski circle. Supplies information on Soviet operations in the Middle East.
- 4) The connection in New Delhi previously reported on political information. The India work is to be intensified from now on. To cover this sector the Indian specialist recently arrived in Ankara, Tanabe, is to be used.
- 5) The movements from the Persian gulf, especially Basrah: The

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The connection was originally Kovacs known, experienced and directed. But since his expulsion from Turkey the connection has only been carried on with great effort and entirely severed for 6 weeks. A new connection has been worked on.

6) The previously described, fairly extensive Armenian net-work, including primarily Shamli and connections is now apparently being dropped as Shamli has no longer the confidence of the Japs. This net-work finally was covering Syria as well as Irak and English occupied Iran. Details regarding Shamli are available at Ala.

Outside of the three previously described sectors A, B and C, it is obviously to be noted that the entire Civil ND is active against Turkey and the Anglo-Americans without differentiation.

Regarding Turkey all possibilities are used to obtain information. With regard to activities against the Anglo-Americans the following is to be noted: The civil ND concentrates in this connection exclusively on determining political and military political events in the widest sense of the word. Although we had in our own interest directed particular attention to this point, we had to recognize that the civil ND is only superficially informed on direct, actual, military events which occur for example in Cairo or Palestine. This line of activity is apparently left to the organization of Tataishin and Matsuhara. An exception is the movement of the English commercial and war vessels in the eastern Mediterranean in so far as they lead to the conclusion that a larger movement of ship tonnage is taking place from the eastern Mediterranean to other scenes of activity. For this question these Armenian connections were used who, as previously reported were active in the same countries with similar questions for the Soviet interests (see our interim report of March 1943). Difficulties have recently occurred in this complex developments of which cannot be foreseen now. All that can be determined is that at least a large part of the 6 above named connections either have only been given up or will be given up. Detailed report follows when the situation is clearer.

Aside from these details the Civil ND is working at high pressure on clearing up the inner American situation, in a political and economic, as well as military direction. The following questions are being dealt with:

1) American production figures especially in airplanes and tonnage.

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- 2) Progress in building up the army with possible details.
- 3) An exact observation of inner political events in the United States which could have a general effect on the conduct of the war or a special effect on Japan.

The direction of this information - work for which practically the entire forces of the civil ND in Turkey have been available, has been taken over recently by Minister Chiba. He was formerly Ambassador in Vichy. He is not officially accredited in Turkey but covers his stay here with the explanation that he is waiting for his transit visa through the Soviet Union. Statements of Morio Aoki leave no doubt that every care has been taken that Chiba will not get his transit visa for a long time. The Japanese say the minimum is 6 months.

The following facts have been determined with regard to Chiba and his previous activity:

- 1) He was active in Vichy with the rank of Minister. After Morio Aoki left Vichy, he took over his connections and continued them!
- 2) Chiba is considered an expert particularly on the U.S.A. He worked on his connections from Vichy in one direction over Marseille and Spain to North Africa. On the other side through a group in Lisbon including the Domei representative Sato to South America and the U.S.A.

His appearance in Turkey surely is not equivalent to giving up the above named connections through the civil ND but it shows that the working conditions for the Japs in Lisbon and also in North Africa recently have become so difficult that the presence of Chiba at this post did not pay. His transfer to Turkey indicates the attempt to build up Turkey as the information basic for the questions described above.

Regarding Oda: The former named in our report of January 28th has since been excluded from Turkey. Grounds: Espionage against Turkey, using agents from the Circless of Veliotny.

Details with Ala.

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