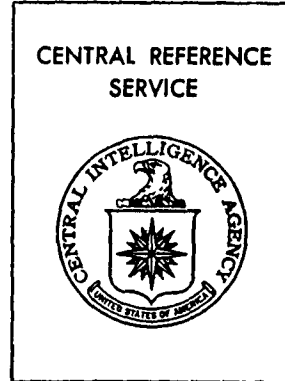


JAPAN

Okinori KAYA

Member, House of
Representatives

A Minister of Finance in the wartime Cabinets of Prince Fumimaro Konoe and Hideki Tojo, Okinori Kaya is a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) elder who heads the "Taiwan Lobby" in the Diet and who is regarded as the parliament's outstanding representative of the "old right." He is a staunch supporter of firm Japanese ties with the Republic of Korea, the Republic of China, and the United States; an active member of numerous anti-Communist organizations; and an advocate of increased Japanese military power coupled with continued reliance on American security protection.



Kaya, who was considered a leading LDP policy-maker in the early 1960's, entered politics in June 1937 when Konoe appointed him Finance Minister. He resigned in 1938, was subsequently made a member of the House of Peers, and in August 1939 became president of the quasi-governmental North China Development Company. Reappointed Finance Minister by Tojo in 1941, he served until February 1944. Kaya was ruled a war criminal in late 1945 and spent the following 10 years in prison. He reentered the political world when Nobusuke Kishi, then Prime Minister, appointed him a member of the influential Economic Diplomacy Council in 1957.

In 1958, when all purge restrictions had expired, Kaya ran successfully for the House of Representatives. He is now serving his fifth term as a delegate from Tokyo's third electoral district. Long an independent member of the LDP representation in the Diet, Kaya aligned himself with Prime Minister Eisaku Sato's faction of the party several years ago.

Okinori Kaya was born in 1889, the third son of a Shinto priest in Yamaguchi Prefecture, and was later adopted by a Hiroshima family of samurai

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Okinori KAYA (cont'd)

descent. After his graduation from the Faculty of Politics of Tokyo Imperial University in 1917, he joined the Finance Ministry and was assigned to New York for 2 years. Kaya became chief of the Ministry's Budget Bureau in 1934, chief of the Finance Bureau in 1936, and administrative vice minister in 1937.

Since his election to the Lower House, Kaya has been chairman of the LDP Social Security Research Council (1960-61), Foreign Affairs Research Council (1960-61), Policy Board (1962-63), and Peoples Movements Headquarters (1965-67). He was Minister of Justice from July 1963 to November 1964. Among the conservative, anti-Communist groups of which he has been an active member are the Peoples Foreign Affairs Association, the Frank Minds Society (*Soshinkai*), the Asian Problems Research Society, the Japan-Vietnam Council on Foreign Relations, and the Japan National Defense Council.

Kaya is said to have a shrewd and logical mind and a good sense of humor. Although friendly, he has a stiff and old-fashioned manner and reportedly is domineering, with a keen sense of his own importance. He is hard of hearing. Kaya and his wife, Haru, have one daughter, Kazuko, who is married to their adopted son, Masao.

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