

18 May 65

Okinori KAYA

JAPAN

Minister of Justice

Okinori Kaya, appointed Minister of Justice in July 1963, has been an influential figure on the Japanese political scene for many years. Before his current appointment, Kaya had served since July 1962 as Chairman of the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) Policy Board. A chief policy maker and leading economic and financial expert in the LDP, Kaya has been described as an "elder statesman". He is an advocate of Japanese rearmament. A member of the House of Representatives from Tokyo's third district since May 1958, Kaya has also served the LDP as Chairman of its Social Security Research Council (1960-1961) and of its Foreign Affairs Research Council (1960-1961) and of its Foreign Affairs Research Council (1959-1960). During 1959 he also served as an adviser to the Economic Development Promotion Committee. Formerly a member of the Kishi faction, Kaya aligned himself with neither of the groups formed after Kishi dissolved his faction in November 1962.

Kaya was born on 30 January 1889, the third son of the chief priest of a large Shinto shrine in Yamaguchi prefecture. His original family name was Fujii, but he was adopted by a sumurai family of Hiroshima prefecture named Kaya. Kaya was graduated from Tokyo Imperial University in political science in 1917. After passing the civil service examination, he was assigned to New York from 1918 to 1920 as a clerk attached to the Ministry of Finance. He remained with the Finance Ministry after his return to Japan in 1920 and by 1934 had become head of the ministry's Bureau of Accounts. He was made head of the Financial Bureau in 1936 and in February 1937 was appointed Vice Minister of Finance. The following June he was named Finance Minister in the first Konoe cabinet, serving until his resignation in May 1938. Later that year Kaya was made a member of the House of Peers. In August 1939 he was appointed President of the North China Development Company, a government-subsidized organization engaged in industrial promotion in northern China, where he remained until his appointment as Finance Minister in the Tojo cabinet in October 1941. Kaya served as Finance Minister through most of World War II, resigning in February 1944 but remaining as an adviser to the Finance Ministry until the end

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of the war. In August 1945 he was made Chairman of the newly formed Postwar Currency Problems Committee, but in September of that year he voluntarily surrendered himself when identified by occupation authorities as a war criminal.

Paroled
Despite defense allegations that Kaya had not been an active supporter of the militarists while serving in the cabinet, he was found guilty by the International War Crimes Tribunal and sentenced to life imprisonment. After serving ten years in Sugamo prison, however, he was paroled in September 1955. In October 1956 he led a trade mission to Southeast Asia sponsored by the Asian Society for Economic Cooperation.

Paroled
Kaya and Nobusuke Kishi ^(deleted) had been cabinet colleagues at the beginning of the war and had ~~been~~ imprisoned together at Sugamo for more than three years. Kaya reportedly was one of Kishi's chief supporters in the latter's campaign for the prime ministership. In March 1957 he was named a member of Kishi's Economic Diplomacy Council, an advisory group to the Prime Minister on important external economic problems, and served as Kishi's "personal adviser."

Paroled
In April 1958 Kaya, along with all remaining "Class A" war criminals, was restored to full civil rights. In May 1958 he was elected to the House of Representatives.

Ikeda appointed Kaya Chairman of the LDP Policy Board. A Japanese newspaper suggested that Yoshida viewed Kaya as the only party member capable of counteracting Ichiro Kono after Sato had withdrawn from the cabinet. Kaya is reportedly considered by LDP leaders as an elder to whom they owe respect for his years of government service, although some doubts were raised as to his ability to cope with the complications of postwar party policies. An unnamed party spokesman, according to a Japanese newspaper report, commented that while Kaya was an irreplaceable bulwark when he shared their viewpoint, his obstinacy made him very difficult to deal with when he had a different opinion. Recently, however, his autocratic attitude has reportedly mellowed somewhat and he is said to be more willing to listen to advice from other members of the Policy Board.

Kaya is a strong supporter of rearmament and feels that Japanese national defense can best be accomplished through security treaties with the United States. Kaya has been

described by Japanese newspapers as a member of the "Republic of Korea lobby" within the LDP and as a member of the group which subscribes to the importance of the Chinese Nationalist government in Taiwan as opposed to the Chinese Communists. He is particularly insistent on continuing the normalization talks between Japan and South Korea, warning of the military threat to Japan of a potentially hostile government in South Korea. In 1961 other newspaper articles included Kaya as a member of the Soshinkai, an ultra-conservative group within the LDP which proposed to organize a popular movement to expose the menace of international Communism and which reportedly was a source of embarrassment to many other LDP members. He has been a consultant to the Asian Society for Economic Cooperation since 1956.

Kaya's recent foreign travels have included a ten-day tour of Europe at the invitation of Japan Air Lines on the occasion of the inaugural of its southern route to Europe in October 1962; a short trip to Taiwan in March 1961 as a member of a seven-man Diet mission visit to the United States in February 1959; and the tour of Southeast Asia sponsored by the Asian Society for Economic Cooperation in October 1956. Before World War II, in addition to his tour of duty in the United States during 1918 and 1919, Kaya spent some time in Europe serving as an aide at the Naval Disarmament Conferences held in Geneva in 1927 and in London in 1930.

Kaya's wife, Haruko, was born in 1892; they have one daughter, Kazuko, born in 1921 and married to Masao Kaya (who has assumed his wife's family name), currently a Director of the Japan Development Bank and the Bank of Japan. Okinori Kaya has a limited knowledge of English.