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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1948 Press Censorship Reports, Japan			15 Sept 1953	

PERTINENT INFORMATION

Information on Subject, KODAMA Yoshio, contained in the above referenced document has been excerpted verbatim below.

Enclosure F 11 Aug 1948

Subject: The SHIN YUKAN Newspaper.

1. VITAL STATISTICS

A. General Information.

1. SHIN YUKAN is a two-page afternoon daily printed in the Japanese language. The paper is published at 3, 1-chome, Shiba-Hamamatsu-cho, Minato Ward, Tokyo, where it was established 13 January 1946. The telephone numbers of the journal's offices are 43-1511, 43-1512, 43-124, 43-123.

2. The SHIN YUKAN Shimbun Sha is a private publication house owned by Mr. Jukichi KOGEN, who purchased the old Yamato Shimbun Sha (Yamato Newspaper Co.) in November 1945 for the sum of ¥159,000. The fact that the transaction was not handled through usual brokerage would indicate some irregularity in the nature of the deal. The Yamato Shimbun was owned by Yoshio KODAMA and managed by Fumio IWATA. IWATA was assisted by Hikotaro YOSHIDA.

At the war's end, when KODAMA realized that his unusual activities (see 1 C, below) would probably give rise to his purge from semi-political affairs, he instructed KOGEN to purchase the Yamato Shimbun, for which he is alleged to have given KOGEN ¥5,000,000. This is completely plausible in view of the rather small cost of the Yamato Shimbun to KOGEN, especially since the deal was closed without benefit of a broker.

The Yamato plant had been seriously damaged during wartime air raids; necessary repairs cost ¥220,000, including ¥30,000 spent in the printing department. Present capitalization is believed to be ¥1,750,000.

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B. Staff and Personnel Background

1. The owner, Jukichi KOGEN, was president and publisher of the SHIN YUKAN until he relinquished his position to Koshiro SHIMADA on 25 November 1947. KOGEN had been purged on 12 November 1947 as a result of his past connections with the notorious Kodama Agency (Kodama Kikan). Consequently, KOGEN can now have no

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy

(2)(B) Methods/Sources

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legitimate journalistic affiliations with the publication of the SHIN YUKAN. As far as can be learned from sources available to CCD, KOGEN continues in the capacity of owner of the firm.

SHIMADA himself is said to have had close ties with the Kodama organization. He was described by the CCU employee who interviewed him as "a fairly upright type of person who displays signs of great embarrassment" when references are made to his work for KOGEN on the Asiatic continent during the war years.

KOGEN's past connections with the Kodama Agency in China are said to have netted him the grand sum of ¥10,000,000. With these funds - hardly a paltry figure at the time of the surrender - he presumably bought out the defunct Yamato Shimbun. He is concurrently vice-president of a construction contracting firm known as the Midori Industries, Ltd. (Midori Sangyo Kabushiki Kaisha), of Showa-dori, Tokyo. Hikotaro YOSHIDA is president of the Midori firm.

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7. Until 30 June 1948 Yoshio OBARA, a former member of the Kodama Kikan, was treasurer of the newspaper firm. He resigned in order to assume the duties of treasurer of the newspaper firm. He resigned in order to assume the duties of treasurer of the Midori Sangyo Kabushiki Kaisha. A successor to OBARA has not yet been appointed.
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C. The Kodama Kikan

1. The Kodama Agency (Kodama Kikan) was a vast comprador group working in behalf of Japanese expansion and aggression on the Asiatic mainland. Its headquarters was in Shanghai, but Kodama agents operated from the Amur River southward to the Irrawaddi and Salween Rivers. Organized and operated by Yoshio KODAMA, it dealt in the procurement of war supplies for the Japanese expeditionary forces and in particular the Naval Munitions Board. Although the Kodama group specialized in the procurement of the non-ferrous light metals, its agents dealt in a sprawling brokerage that included all sorts of raw materials, ammunition, food, clothing and vehicles. Not a small part of the material handled was captured American, British and Chinese military supplies and equipment.

2. The item in which traffic was especially heavy, and of signal interest to Allied censorship in Japan, is intelligence. KODAMA supervised a group of talented and persistent spies. KODAMA himself was well known in Japan and China as an Anglo-phobe, a conscientious rightist, an agitator for Tenno-ism, a terrorist and confirmed disliker of Americans. An orphan since his thirteenth year, he had been forced to shift for himself in order to survive. He has traveled extensively in the Orient, and knows it well.

3. KODAMA launched his illegal operations in China in 1930. The Japanese government, including the Foreign Office, the War Ministry, the Navy Ministry, and the Special Higher Bureau (Tokkoku) paid him well for everything he brought them, but turned a blind and almost condoning eye on his methods of operation. The Army and Navy are said to have profited well from the resale of looted articles "procured" by KODAMA and his strange consortium.

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4. KODAMA was surrounded by a group of drifters and soldiers-of-fortune that included a one-time Communist, Hiroshi KADOYA, an intelligence operative at the Japanese consulate in Shanghai, Eichi IWAI, staunch ultra-nationalists such as Ryoichi SASAKAWA and Hikotaro YOSHIDA, and common adventurers such as Fumio IWATA and Jukichi KOGEN.

5. KOGEN eventually became a department head in KODAMA's munition factory, which was established after the Japanese government granted the Kodama Kikan official recognition in June 1943. KOGEN never failed to contribute his share of intelligence in Chinese military and economic matters: he was chief intelligence agent on Manchuria and Korea for the Agency.

6. The Agency lasted until the very end of war. Today, Yoshio KODAMA is in Sugamo Prison awaiting arraignment as a war criminal. YOSHIDA, the IWATA's and KOGEN are in Tokyo - purged, but free. KADOYA and SASAKAWA are believed to be somewhere in Japan. SOMA, a gambler and another influential member of the Kodama Kikan, is somewhere in Japan. KODAMA's entire group have been called "the most despicable enemies of mankind and of democracy."

THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION PERTINENT
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