

TRANSLATION

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KODAMA ORGAN STILL ALIVE

(Extract)

"The Kodama Organ is still alive". This is the conclusion reached from the Chocho Maru Incident which attracted the attention of the people because of the puzzling moves of the ship which had given rise to the question of whether its crewmen were smugglers or atomsmugglers?

During the war, with its headquarters in Shanghai, the "Kodama Organ" acquired various concessions through which the organ exercised mastery over business circles and showed its remarkable ability in the field of gathering military information with the entire China as its stage of operations. It seemed that the organ came to an end with the termination of the war since Chief KODAMA Yoshio of the organ was designated as war criminal, other central figures were purged and the organ lost millions of yen it had accumulated abroad.

However, the organ has resumed its functions gradually since about the time when the Chinese Communists began to dominate the mainland of China. And now the organ is engaged in active operations toward China and is called the "Y Organ". The above has become clear by chance in connection with the Chocho Maru Incident.

There was a group of people in black-black Chinese clothes who were in a fury of excitement saying, "We have been deceived. We will disclose the whole truth when we are given the proper opportunity," aboard the "Coronado", patrol boat of the Fukuoka Maritime Safety Office, floating in the Hakata Bay on the morning of 10 June. They were 15 crew of the Chocho Maru who had returned home from Shanghai on the same day together with former fishermen detainees in Red China.

Captain SAITO Iwao of the Chocho Maru and other crew revealed officers in charge only the following fact: The shipowner's IKEDA Masaburo, the President of the Ikeda Commercial Company in the Toranomon Building in Tokyo, Chuo-ku, Nishinabashi, 1-chome, 2-chome, No. 1, and the ship is registered in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

The authorities immediately started investigating and found that the Chocho Maru itself is one of the mysterious ships which the Third District Headquarters of the Maritime Safety Board had been looking for since December 1950. Then, why was the Maritime Safety Board looking for the "Chocho Maru"? It is because the board had already obtained information regarding the secret operations of the "Y Organ". The very "Y Organ" is another figure of the Kodama Organ, which made desperate efforts to serve for the Japanese Army through its military spy operations during the war.

In the past, the Maritime Safety Board received various information on the moves of the Saigo Maru, the Fuyo Maru, the Chocho Maru and other various smallest small-sized boats equipped with wireless apparatus. On the basis of this information, the board drew up a black list, according to which, the head of the "Y Organ" is KODAMA Yoshio and the chief of the staff is KOSHIDA Masaharu, under the leadership of KOSHIDA, some 40 people are engaged in the activities of the organ, including IKEDA, KURIHARA, UOZUMI, MURATA, SAITO, OKAZAKI, other men and two women who were once adventurers in China. Army or Navy officers, or members of military intelligence services.

It was only the middle of last year that it became clear that the Shinyo, the Fuyo, the Choebu and others were no mere smuggling vessels and had some mutual connections among them. Even after the lapse of some time, the authorities were still unable to find out the purpose and whereabouts of the ships despite the Maritime Safety Board's desperate search, because the arrival of information were always too late.

In July 1951, 21 crewmen of a wrecked ship were rescued off Izu Peninsula. They were found to be crewmen of the Shinyo Maru which was on the return from the Southwest Islands. But, whether intentionally or accidentally, the ship, which was an important bit of evidence, sank deep to the bottom of Suruga Bay.

The crewmen of the Choebu Maru said that IREDA had told them they were backed by the United States. He does not know whether this is true or not. But we have heard the rumor that after the death of Mr. TSUJI Kazuo, they presented GHQ with the uranium amounting to several billion yen at the current price which had been hidden in the residence of Mr. TSUJI. It is also reported that they started their maneuverings toward China after obtaining a personal understanding from a certain high-ranking officer in GHQ.

What is the purpose of the I Organ? Is it the assistance of CHIANG Kai-shek, the tie-up with Red China, or mere smuggling? It is still lay covered under a thick veil of mystery.

Mr. YOSHIDA Shotaaro who exclusively takes command of the organ was born in Fukuoka-shi, Chugoku and graduated from the Fukuoka Commercial School. Mr. IREDA Masaburo who is assisting Mr. YOSHIDA and is in charge of financing the organ was born in Fukuoka-shi, Katakura, and was in the same class with Mr. YOSHIDA in his Fukuoka Commercial School days. Fukuoka has been the center of activities toward China since the days of YAMAMOTO Mitsuru, and during and after the war meetings for intrigues have always been held in Fukuoka. Even a single day has not passed without restaurant "Mitsun" on the Hakogawa river seeing some members of I Organ.

Anyway, it seems to be an undeniable fact that as Captain SAITO said, behind the name of the I Organ is a big political intrigue the wires of which are pulled by high-ranking Government officials, political party members and practical businessmen.