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Connections Between Rightists and Political Parties			9 Oct 1953	

PERTINENT INFORMATION

Source: Magazine Article

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The attached report is a translation of an article appearing in the May 1953 issue of the Japanese Magazine Jimbutsu Orai (Activities of Personalities). The nature and coloration of the magazine is not known; it does not have too large a circulation. While the magazine is available on the open market, this article by MUGINO Ipei (7796/6851/0001/0365) does contain a considerable amount of information of background interest on the connections existing between various Japanese Rightist and political parties and figures, and is forwarded for that reason.

The following excerpts are taken from pages 1 and 3.

[Redacted section]

MIURA and the Progressive Party

[Redacted section]

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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KODAMA in Possession of ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECURITY INFORMATION

SHIGEMITSU Minoru is closely connected with another former rightist, KODAMA Yoshio. KODAMA is a more orthodox rightist than MIURA; he is connected with AKAO Bin (6374/1442/2404) of the Keigoku Kai; KOSHIMA Masashi (1420/3113/2973) who was connected with the assassination of IWOUE Junnosuke; and HISHIKUMA Goro (5480/3113/0063/6715), who was connected with the assassination of TAN Takuma. KODAMA was the founder of the Forward Attack Unit of the All Japan Patriots Joint Fighting Council. He also attempted to assassinate Premier SAITO Minoru. Later he went over to China, formed the "KODAMA Kikan", and amassed millions as a rightist merchant. Immediately after the war's end, he remitted \$100,000,000 to Japan with the approval of the Finance Ministry and embarked on the development of tungsten and molybdenum mines in Japan. He has also set up two iron foundries in Osaka. Part of the money which KODAMA brought back is believed to have gone into the Prince HIGASHIKUNI Cabinet. KODAMA became an adviser to the Prince HIGASHIKUNI Cabinet, along with OSARAGI Jiro and KAGAWA Toyohiko. Prince HIGASHIKUNI explained that KODAMA was recommended by Foreign Minister SHIGEMITSU.

Now that, since the restoration of independence, all sorts of rightist activities and organizations have been revived, it is likely that the KODAMA-SHIGEMITSU combination will develop anew. And serious attention should be paid to the close connection between KODAMA and HATOYAMA Ichiro. HATOYAMA was recuperating at a hotel in Fukuoka last summer, reportedly at the expense of KODAMA. A building at the back of the hotel was said to be KODAMA's property.

In the midst of the mud-slinging strife between the YOSHIDA and HATOYAMA factions (TH; of the Liberal Party) over the re-election of three important officials of the party, HATOYAMA, MIKI Kakichi, HIROKAWA Kosen, and MIURA had a meeting at KODAMA's residence. People said that they went there just to eat fish from the Tone River. However, the meeting is clear evidence of the growing intimacy between the conservatives and the rightists. At this meeting HIROKAWA apologized to HATODAMA for his (HIROKAWA's) past connection with YOSHIDA. Then HATOYAMA, MIKI, and HIROKAWA shook hands. Their close connection will increase in the near future.

The recent animation in the rightist camp is due to increasing preparations for rearmament and criticism of Occupation policy. But there are no more "big wheels" in the rightist camp; MIURA and KODAMA are the only remnants. The spectacular show they are putting on in dealing with HATOYAMA, MIKI and HIROKAWA is conclusive proof of expansion in the rightist camp.

The rightists are now seriously considering a "coalition cabinet" of MIURA and KODAMA. This does not mean that they would actually be in the Cabinet; rather it means a conservative coalition cabinet to be formed by HATOYAMA and SHIGEMITSU with the support of KODAMA, and by HIROKAWA and MIKI with the support of MIURA in order to step up rearmament. It is widely speculated that there will be a Progressive-HATOYAMA liberal coalition cabinet after the general election. Indeed the Progressive policy is so close to that of the Liberals (HATOYAMA Liberals) as to give the impression of agreement. The only difference is that the Progressives call for the creation of a self-defense army without revising the Constitution while the HATOYAMA party is sponsoring Constitutional revision to create a self-defense army. SHIGEMITSU is quoted as saying, "I hope that HATOYAMA's Democratic League will agree with our party's policy." MIKI broadcast the remark, "It is natural that even without entering into any formal agreement, the HATOYAMA Liberal Party and the Progressive Party will form a coalition cabinet after the general elections."

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Certainly a MIURA-KODAMA coalition is a possibility. There is no doubt that they will act along this line. They also contemplate developing the connection between the Progressives and the Liberals into the creation of a new conservative party composed of SHIGEMITSU (President), HATOYAMA (Honorary President), and MIKI Shichiro, HIROKAWA Kosen, OASA Tadao, and ASHIDA Hitoshi (officials).

It is not known whether this plan was originated by orthodox politicians like HATOYAMA, MIKI, HIROKAWA and SHIGEMITSU and then backed by MIURA and KODAMA or was shaped up by MIURA and KODAMA. The question of chicken or egg coming first is irrelevant; they are the same thing. The same is true of the relations between the rightists, the Progressives and HATOYAMA.

KODAMA Yoshio

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KODAMA was an adviser to the Prince HIGASHIYAMA Cabinet after the end of the war. Immediately afterward, he was arrested as a Class A War Criminal. After his release from jail, he published a book entitled Inside and Outside of Jail and caused a great sensation. But soon his name left the public eye because the people considered him neither a rightist nor a militarist. His name recently came to the fore again in connection with HATOYAMA Ichiro and HIROKAWA Kosen. HATOYAMA met HIROKAWA at KODAMA's residence in Jiyugasaki, and with MIURA, KODAMA has been exploiting skillfully such "big wheels" as HATOYAMA, SHIGEMITSU, and HIROKAWA.

KODAMA's flexibility, strong character, and talent have won general admiration. He stated as follows in his book, I Was Defeated:

"I entered the Kenkoku Dai at the age of 19 in 1929 and fought against Communism. At that time the Kenkoku Dai planned to make an appeal direct to the Emperor in opposition to the newly formed Labor-Farmer Party. I promptly agreed to this plan and accepted the mission to put it into practice.

"On November 3rd, I brought an appeal direct to the Emperor on his way to Meiji Shrine. Then I was held in the Ichigaya Prison on the charge of violating the Petition Law and sentenced to a 6-month imprisonment, and then transferred to Urawa Prison. I was released from there in 1930 and again joined the Kenkoku Dai."

"MIURA, Director of the Kenkoku Dai, has the following to say about KODAMA: KODAMA is a man of few words and straightforward personality. In the midst of a situation of emergency, he blazes and walks out. He fought with other members of the Kenkoku Dai and got his head injured."

"There is no doubt that KODAMA in those days was a straightforward, honest man. In 1902 he attempted to assassinate Premier SAITOH. In 1903 he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. This attempt failed and was the cause of his being expelled from the ranks of the Kenkoku Dai."

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In those days the Army and bureaucrats used to use such rightists for confidential operations. They referred to him as an interesting, useful man because of his attempted assassination and direct appeal to the Emperor. As soon as he was freed from jail, KAWAI Tatsuo (3109/0064/6671/1133), Chief of the Intelligence Department of the Foreign Ministry, gave KODAMA ¥3000 and told him to make a trip to China.

After KODAMA went to China he was engaged in special operations for Vice General IWAI. His monthly salary at that time was ¥500, which was high for an ordinary salaried employee. No wonder he could not easily quit that job.

The special operation paying ¥500 monthly was to insure the personal safety of WANG Chao-sung (3076/0340/6900). He was just like KOMURO Isamu toward the close of the Shogunate.

KODAMA had more talent than any other rightists which he could use to equal the success attained by HATOYAMA and HIROKAWA. He possessed a special talent for raising funds. He was not just a simple man, but a smart businessman. Just before the Pacific War, KODAMA spoke to Lieutenant General YAMAGUCHI, Commanding Officer of Air Force Headquarters, of the necessity of establishing an organization to purchase war materials from the interior of the continent, and the Kodama Kikan was authorized.

The KODAMA Kikan purchased various metals, machinery, equipment, Korean carrots, and oranges, etc., and did business in them on a small scale. A boat of not more than 100 tons carried the goods on the Chato River. But great profits were made, and the assets of KODAMA at the war's end was equivalent to approximately ¥3,200,000,000; this was for the most part confiscated by the Chinese Army.

The balance of ¥3,900,000 deposited in Japan was contributed to schools and nebularly associations. Even then KODAMA still had considerable assets left. It is said that he was given a grant of about \$400,000 by the Occupation Forces, for tipping them off about radium buried at the residence of TSUJI Yorioh (#11929/0857/0362). The profits were also said to have been derived from business which he has had with TSO Estan-lung (0246/3763/7893) on the strength of a ¥150,000,000 loan from the Tokyo Trust Bank. It is not known which story is true, but the fact that HATOYAMA and HIROKAWA are still under KODAMA's control would indicate that he still has funds. Rumor also has it that KODAMA arranged the HIROKAWA-HATOYAMA conference to form HATOYAMA's cabinet; how which he could make money, or to get fund donations from

KODAMA is said to be to start a new political party. In any event, KODAMA remains in the light of security with his own intelligence and talent.

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