

SHORIKI Matsutaro

Chief of the Yomiuri Hoshi, stated to a newspaper reporter, Mr. Herley Lamburg, on 6 December, that if freedom of the press had been permitted, the war would not have broken out. His remarks follow:

"I have done nothing for which I shall be put to trial by the Allied Nations. The employees of the Yomiuri Hoshi, who are demanding my resignation as Chief of the Office, made a false report to MacArthur's headquarters. There must be some misunderstanding. I have done nothing for which I must be held responsible as a war criminal. But since I was aware that a certain misunderstanding existed in this connection, I was prepared to find my name on the list of war criminals. ~~SHORIKI~~ The military authorities began to control the press ten years before they commenced the invasion of China, and they were threatening the press with cutting off the supply of materials necessary for the publication of newspapers. Japan has been thrown into the present terrible condition simply because it did not have freedom of the press."

Concerning SHORIKI's statement that a false report had been sent in to MacArthur's Headquarters, Mr. SUZUKI, Chairman of the Press Union Committee, comments:

"Mr. SHORIKI is laying the blame at another's door. He says that the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander decided to arrest him on the basis of the employees report, but in so saying he is questioning the authority of the Supreme Allied Headquarters. Information gathered by SCAP is not groundless, nor is SCAP easily influenced by outside suggestions. Moreover, the employees have never falsely accused SHORIKI. The entire nation is well aware of how articles published by Yomiuri were provoking war before, as well as during the war. None can deny the fact that the Yomiuri Hoshi was turned into an organ of Nazism, and was driving the Nation toward war. SCAP will not overlook such facts. He says that he was forced against his will by the military authorities, to co-operate in the war. That is a glaring falsehood. There are many facts which testify to his positive co-operation in the war.

"Didn't he insist in his broadcast to America that the actions of the Japanese military authorities at the time of the China Incident were fair and just? Everyone knows how much the Yomiuri was influenced by him a mile or a grince of the military clique. It is also an undeniable fact that he had ambitions to become Home Minister in the TOJO Cabinet, and that he was made a member of the House of Peers by Imperial nomination, as a reward for his co-operation.

In addition to these facts, he stubbornly suppressed democracy in newspaper articles, as well as in the system of the Yomiuri Office. This suppression, however, created a movement by the employees to democratize the paper. How can such a man as SHORIKI, who dares to suppress democracy, clear himself of war crimes? It is difficult to decide which is larger, his crime as a suppressor of democracy or as an advocate of war."

YOMIURI HOSHI, 6 December 1945
ATS NO. 263, 18 December 1945

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency

Date: 2005