

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

Shirai

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Japanese journalist (B). Appraisal of Content: 2.

- SHORIKI Matsutaro laid his plans for obtaining control of television in Japan while he was held in Sugamo Prison as a Class "A" war crimes suspect and began his maneuvers to accomplish them as soon as he was depurged. Among other tactics he used the threat of exposing corruption in the Communications Ministry to win his television franchise.
- Meanwhile, SHIBATA Hidetoshi, a news commentator for the Japan Broadcasting Association (Nippon Hoso Kyokai)(NHK) conceived the idea of linking Japanese television with American, receiving American technical and financial assistance in return for cooperating in American propaganda efforts. He discussed this plan with high-level officials of the U.S. Department of Defense and of the voice of America who were visiting Japan and obtained their approval. SHIBATA then approached FURUGAKI Tetsuro, Chairman of the Board of Directors of NHK, to take charge of the Japan end of the program, but FURUGAKI had decided, after a tour to inspect television in the United States and Europe, that Japan should not undertake a television network for five years more. When FURUGAKI turned down SHIBATA's plan, SHIBATA took his idea to SHORIKI and SHORIKI accepted it. Since late 1952 SHIBATA has been SHORIKI's principal assistant in the Japan Television Network, Inc.
- SHORIKI was successful in obtaining the first television rights in Japan and hoped to keep all Japanese television commercial, on the theory that Government interference could lead to thought control. His most recent moves have been to add microwave broadcasting to his television network, but the Radio Wave Supervisory Committee of the Diet recently refused to authorize commercial television stations to engage in microwave broadcasting. Members of the Committee and officials of the Communications Ministry have prepared and circulated a pamphlet "exposing" SHORIKI's maneuvers towards Government officials, in retaliation against SHORIKI's threats to expose Government corruption. The issuance of this pamphlet started a wave of protest against SHORIKI's plans by all the newspapers except the "Big Three"--Asahi, Mainichi, and Yomiuri. SHORIKI planned to make microwave broadcasting services available to the "Big

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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Three" only, thus cutting the smaller newspapers out on news beats.

4. Nine local newspapers have organized a "Union of Newspapers Opposing Civilian Microwave Facilities" and on 11 November 1953 representatives of the union handed a protest against the SHORIKI plan to Postal Services Minister TSUKADA at the Dai-Ichi Seimei Building in Tokyo, where he was attending a national mayors' conference. On the morning of 14 November they called on Vice Premier OGATA Taketora and left with him a protest against the use of foreign capital in Japanese television. They left a similar protest with Chief Cabinet Secretary FUKUNAGA Kenji.
 5. An additional cause of trouble for SHORIKI is the charge, made by investors in his television network, that he misappropriated the network's funds, ¥2,000,000,000 worth, to start his new Osaka Yomiuri newspaper. In addition, this newspaper is not doing well financially.
1. Source Comment. There is plenty of such corruption to expose.

Field Comment. SHORIKI's previous position as President of the Yomiuri Shimbun would put him in an excellent position to carry out these threats.