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Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

This information was obtained by (] from HARUKE Yoshitane, who had it direct from TATSUMI.

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Subject: TATSUMI Eiichi: His
Position and Policy

Report No: ZJJ-57

Date of Information: Early March 1952

Place Acquired: Japan, Tokyo

Date Acquired: 20 March 1952

Evaluation: C-3

Date of Report: 28 March 1952

Source: Former high-ranking Kempeitai officer in close contact with HARUKE Yoshitane.

1. On 24 February 1952, HARUKE Yoshitane held an informal conference with TATSUMI Eiichi at the latter's home. TATSUMI commented that he was not usually at home on Saturday and Sunday (the 24 was Sunday), from which HARUKE drew the conclusion that those were the days he reserved for consultation with Premier YOSHIDA Shigeru.¹ One other caller, SUGITA Kazuji, of the Demobilization Bureau, joined the conference part of the time.
2. TATSUMI stated that his association with YOSHIDA is purely personal and he visits the premier only upon invitation and never offers information unless he is asked for it. He is trying to avoid being involved in the rearmament issue, merely answering questions on it when requested, because he feels that if YOSHIDA resigns, he himself would be automatically severed from the rearmament program. He stated that therefore he was collecting information and opinion on rearmament and asking assistance from former associates and military figures, such as IIMURA Jo, KOTSUKI Yoshio, MIYAZAKI Shunichi, SHIMOMURA Sadamu, and YAMAMOTO Moichiro, and presenting these data as from the army.²
3. In regard to rearmament matters generally, TATSUMI made the following remarks:
 - a. Although he would like to use HATTORI Takushiro in working out a rearmament program, the many unfavorable comments on him received in letters, apparently from former officers, make it difficult.³
 - b. The unification of navy circles on rearmament is only apparent; beneath the surface the navy is as deeply split as the army. It is, however, trying to close the rifts, which the army is not.
 - c. The work on rearmament undertaken by the WATANABE Research Institute is of great value for interesting the public, although as a private research it is not of direct value to the government.
4. During the conversation, another visitor arrived at the TATSUMI home but was escorted into another part of the house and not invited to join the conference. HARUKE believed that this caller was MATSUTANI Makoto,

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partly because he was kept out of sight. In HARUKE's opinion, TATSUMI actually uses MATSUTANI as the top-ranking member of his advisory staff but keeps the connection secret from his other associates.⁴

5. Early in March, another conversation with HARUKE brought from TATSUMI a statement that one of the difficulties of his position was that contacts with some persons might start rumors of government influence. One of his problems is MASAKI Jinsaburo, former general, a native of the same town and living near TATSUMI in Tokyo; TATSUMI is greatly concerned over the attitude of MASAKI's followers. The two men are not in contact because TATSUMI hesitates to make an advance, fearing that it would start rumors, and MASAKI will not because TATSUMI was junior to him in the service and he resents not being consulted on military problems. A plan for resolving this delicate situation is sought by friends of both, possibly through the agency of former Lt. General TSUCHIHASHI Yuitsu, who is closely connected with MASAKI.
6. A renewal of relations with MASAKI would assist TATSUMI, both by unifying some dissident elements of the army and by giving him additional backing in rearmament matters to replace the support of the six-man committee⁶. Even before the committee dissolved, TATSUMI had lost its sponsorship because of his opposition to an extensive depurge of former regular army officers.

- 1 Field Comment. According to another source, TATSUMI divides his time between the KAWABE Organization and government interests on a half-day basis, morning to KAWABE and afternoons to the government. See ZJJ-56.
- 2 Field Comment. These ex-generals were reported earlier as assisting TATSUMI in preparing military advice for YOSHIDA. They make up the "Rokumin Iinkai." See ZJL-737A and ZJL-771.
- 3 Field Comment. It has been previously reported by the same source that, on information from HATTORI, TATSUMI is friendly with HATTORI but does not discuss rearmament with him. See ZJL-767.
- 4 Field Comment. HARUKE offered no basis for this conjecture otherwise. According to another source, MATSUTANI is associated with TATSUMI as a close personal friend and is active in the NPR. See ZJJ-56.
- 5 Field Comment. Who's Who in Japan states that MASAKI is from Saga-ken, but TATSUMI is reported in ZJJ-56 to be from Shimane. For comments on MASAKI's activities, see ZJJ-34.
- 6 Field Comment. This board is discussed in ZJJ-53 and ZJL-771.

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