

Former Lt.Gen. Ishihara Kanji's East Asia League (Toa Renmei) activities have been in the hands of former Col. Tsuji Masanobu since 1945; activities in China have been brisk since the war's end. Ishihara Kanji's deathbed instructions have been conveyed secretly to Chiang Kai-shek. Tsuji has been quite active in dispatching former Japanese Army personnel to Taiwan from Japan.

Comment: As the above report indicates, Tsuji still is far more involved and interested in Thailand than even Source presumed.

Hope for Asia, Tsuji implies, lies in Japanese leadership following a mutually destructive U.S.-USSR war. Japan belongs to the Emperor, not to Stalin or Truman, and the author expresses his "love for...even the worst type of Japanese" as being "far greater than for a foreigner of the best type."(a)

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ESCAPE
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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Former Col. Tsuji Masanobu (? /2398/0207), who has the reputation among the lower classes of being the closest thing Japan now has to a samurai-type hero, visited the Soviet Mission on 14 May 1952 to ask that a letter he had written to his old friend, former Col. Mishina Takaji ("Ryaji" penned in)(0005/0756/7127/2945), be delivered. Mishina is a graduate of the class of 1924 at the Military Academy, a graduate of the War College, and a onetime staff officer in political affairs with the Kwantung Army. He was a classmate of Tsuji and the two worked together in Kwantung Army Headquarters later. Mishina was captured by the Soviets in 1945 and is still a prisoner of the USSR.

there were rumors of Tsuji's close connections to personalities within the present leadership of the new party (Concordia Party). Some members of the Concordia Party have said that Tsuji was in a position to help the party, though only indirectly, since he is still purged and unable to join it. Tsuji has a distant relation by marriage (or by family?) to Ishihara Kanju; however, he seems to have no overt connection to the Concordia Party. Among the real leaders of the Concordia Party, there is a man called Wada Tsuyoshi (or Kei). He was formerly a lieutenant or captain in the Japanese Army, left it to engage in political work in connection with establishment of the Concordia Association (Kyowakai) in Manchuria and was later promoted to the rank of Lt.Gen. in the Manchurian Army. Certainly he was one of those closely linked to Ishihara. Tsuji and Wada were extremely close, and while Tsuji was carrying on secret operations in Japan, he is reported to have concealed himself at Wada's house for about three or four months. Even considering just this fact alone, it is virtually impossible to believe that Tsuji has no connection at all to the new party. Although the truth of the rumor cannot be ~~xxx~~ ascertained,

it is said that Tsuji has promised a financial contribution to the party from the sale of his books and publications.

14 Oct. 51.

Rightist Organizations seen reviving: Atop the list of 61 reviving organisations ~~is~~ is the East Asia League, which looks upon the late Gen. Kanji Ichiwara as its spiritual pillar. A ~~preparatory~~ preparatory committee for the reconstruction of the East Asia League was inaugurated here on July 22. Former Col. Masanobu Tsuji, who was one of the ablest staff officers in the Japan Army, is presumed to be the likeliest candidate to take the reins of the reconstructed East Asia League. (FBIS, JIJDO, Tokyo, 25 July 1952)

Much of the atrocities committed by the Japanese in Malay can be attributed to Tsuji. Many Japanese wonder why he was never charged for these crimes and brought to trial since others have been convicted and executed for the same crimes. (Air Intel Info. Report, 6004th Air Intel Sv Sq, Report No. C-11179, Confidential)

Subject is alleged to be connected with plans for a military coup d'etat. He has been chosen as the front man for the group, and is reportedly under Hattori Takashiro's control (Hattori is the leader of the group) (Field comment: Tsuji does not have the reputation of being under anyone's control. His very successful personal publicity campaign in the summer of 1952 resulted in a landslide vote electing him to the Diet in the 1 Oct. election. Tsuji has persuaded the group that now is not the time for a coup. Apparently is capable of influencing the Hattori group. Tsuji is reported to have a faction in the NSA comprised in part of members of his own 35th class of the Military Academy. *Egy. 229*)

Teuji has been getting considerable financial support from Konomi Ujitoshi, the de facto owner of the Tokyo Onsen (bathhouse), which recently caused a scandal and in which the Iwaki Cement Company invested heavily by donating cement. Konomi served under Teuji when the latter was Chief of Staff of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in the French-Indochina; by bribing South China Sea pirates Konomi traded between Indochina and Shanghai and also helped enforce the Japanese blockade of the South China coast. Saito Jiro, President of the Iwaki Cement Company, also met Teuji and Konomi in Indochina, where he was manager of the company's Hanoi Branch during the war.

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The South Pacific Expeditionary Forces were in action in Burma, New Guinea, the Philippines, Indochina, Batavia, and elsewhere. The war was conducted under the command of General Teruchi, Commander-in-Chief, Lt. Col. Iida in Burma, Gen. Yamashita in the Philippines, Lt. Gen. Imamoto in Batavia and many other military leaders with military forces in totalling 2,500,000 troops. At the end of the war, however, a group of these leaders were punished on charges of war crimes or they committed suicide. Another group of them with the company of 1,000 troops, who had been dispatched to Burma and wished to rebuild the Japanese militarists, took refuge in the Innan area. The second group was reported to have been under the command of Col. Teuji Masanobu, who had been a staff officer of the War Office and later was assigned to the office of Chief of General Staff in Thailand. The rest of the above leaders were repatriated to their homeland, thanks to the good will of America. Col. Teuji appeared all of a sudden in Tokyo this past year, but immediately afterwards covered his traces. It is rumored that the purpose of his visit to Tokyo was to get in touch with Watanabe Wataru.

Out of charges date order