

JAPAN

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of the United Nations and Far East Command

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CIVIL INTELLIGENCE

1. "Underground Escape" by TSUJI Masanobu:

Comment: Ultranationalist TSUJI Masanobu, author of the best-seller "Underground Escape," who was once a leading figure in the prewar military clique, has had a varied career. He is said to have directed the fighting against the Russians during the Nomohan Incident in 1939, and after that served with the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China. During the Pacific War, he held important roles in Japanese war operations in Southeast Asia, serving at one time under General YAMASHITA. When the war ended he was in Siam, but went into hiding when British authorities listed him as a war crimes suspect. It was not until January 1950, when British war crimes trials had come to an end, that he dared to make his reappearance in Japan. His book recounts his experiences as a fugitive from British justice. (a)

a. Orientalism Can Rule the World: "Underground Escape" has two major themes, one ideological, the other personal. Stated briefly, the author's politico-ideological argument is: Asian relationships have been bungled by Western nations and by Asians themselves, but following a titanic struggle between the U.S. and the USSR, the Oriental races, if provided proper leadership, can become the world's dominating force. In the autobiographic sense, his chief effort is to picture himself as a grand, tragic hero; a man of destiny, blessed with mighty physique, tremendous analytical powers, unbelievable courage, and exceeding charity and compassion. The aim of "Underground Escape," TSUJI says, is "to depict in naked reality the picture of Asia as I saw it." He describes Asia, with the exception of China, as the victim of two main forces; political and military "enslavement" by Western nations and economic aggression by China. As for China, TSUJI believes that that nation has suffered from Western miscomprehension of the "realities" in China and from corruption of the Chinese themselves. Japanese policies on the Asiatic continent might have been better, he admits, but he claims that they were better than those of the West. (a)

b. Avoid Arrest or Work for Asian Unity?: "Underground Escape" is largely plotless, consisting mainly of the innumerable crises faced by the author in his three year, 7,500-mile flight through Thailand, Indochina and China. At war's end, he resolves to go underground for 10 years and work for Japan-Thailand friendship. After two months, disguised as a priest, he learns that arrest by the British is imminent. At this point, he contacts representatives of the Chungking Government and with their assistance flees through Indochina and eventually to Chungking. In two years in China he devoted himself mainly to writing: a letter to CHIANG Kai-shek explaining the Japanese Emperor's friendly feelings for China; a strategic study of Manchurian Topography; a basic manual on modern warfare; "Observations on World War III" - comparing U.S.-USSR strength and predicting a long, costly struggle; a thousand-page "Evaluation of the Material War Potential of the Soviet Union;" and a 400,000-word autobiography. The latter went to his children; all other reports were prepared for the Chinese Nationalist Government. TSUJI claims that during these three years, only his courage and his desire to sacrifice his life for Asian unity sustained him. He leaves the reader with the impression, however, that his primary motive, in reality, was to avoid arrest by the British as a possible war criminal. (a)

(a) Secy Div Japan Branch 2015 P 1105

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c. General Marshall's Forces Hopeless: Since the author claims to have worked for Asian unity and sees China as the heart of Asia, he attempts to analyze the forces which guide that country. He asserts: 1) The overthrow of the Manchu dynasty was not a true democratic revolution but a mere change of dynasties; 2) The death of SUN Yat-sen and CHIANG Kai-shek's subsequent success in subduing the warlords concentrated all power in CHIANG's hands; 3) CHIANG, though completely honest, was surrounded by corruption—corruption so extreme and widespread as to seal the doom of CHIANG's regime and assure eventual success of the Chinese Communists; 4) U.S. policy in China was ill-conceived. General Marshall's mission, as TSUJI explains it, was "to unite China into a modern democratic country, then give economic aid and military guidance, and through the stabilization of the people's lives, prevent the Bolshevization of China." TSUJI says Marshall's efforts were hopeless from the start because there was no unity within the Kuomintang, because U.S. aid to CHIANG convinced the Communists that the U.S. was playing favorites, because the U.S. failed to realize the degree of corruption within the Kuomintang (he says one-third of military supplies sent to China were sold to the Communists), and because one or two postwar incidents involving U.S. troops created strong anti-American sentiments. (a)

d. U.S. Outdone by USSR: The USSR followed a shrewder path, TSUJI says, supplying no material aid, but offering the Chinese Communists "ideological comrades." Wisest of all, says the author, were the British, who kept hands off China and to favor, in a general way, independence movements of all Asian people. The Chinese are eternally Chinese, he says, and we might have seen MAO Tse-tung develop into a "Tito" if, following the Communist victory, we had outdone the USSR in offering aid to MAO. TSUJI believes, despite our failure to follow the course he recommends, that Generals Marshall, Wedemeyer, and Stillwell all recognized the hopeless corruption within the Nationalist regime. 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)