

TOKYO NICHINICHI (Summary of Article)

August 1, 1952

Profile: Masanobu Tsuji

During the war, he was the most famous in the southern areas from Malay through Guadalcanal to Burma. It was not front line commanders but Staff Officer Tsuji who actually guided the operations of the Japanese army. In this sense, he ought to be the first to be resented by the war-bereaved families throughout the country.

Notwithstanding this, it is alarming that he is now a favorite of journalism, writing semi-documentary war records one after another such as "12,000 Kilometers Underground" and "the Malay War", after he suddenly disappeared from the Japanese Army Headquarters at Bangkok on the very day of the termination of the war and dramatically re-appeared in Japan with the close of the investigation of Japanese war suspects by the former Allied Forces. He is a most surprising character though this is the age of "reverse course".

At present, however, he says that new Japan who renounced war should stay out of a third world war. From this standpoint, he delivered a speech forecasting a Russo-American war at the Industry Club the other day, and in the speech he made a conclusion unfavorable to the U.S. Later the speech was exploited by leftwing elements for anti-US propoganda, but it is apparant that he is not a leftist.

Forty-eight years old, he is still a man of activity. With Japan's rearmament held imminent, there are found many pro-Tsuji persons among the old military starting various activities, especially among the young personnel of the National Police Reserve. Moreover, he is said to be connected with the old Eastern Asia League established by the late Gen. Kanji Ishihara. The reaction of the league is being watched with keen interest. No one can say for sure that it will not re-ignite Nazism which may flare up among the people frustrated by the defeat and the Occupation and tired of lukewarm political parties. KH (100)

c. Rightist Speaks in Kyushu: "The Nagasaki Nichi Nichi" newspaper sponsored a public meeting at the Mitsubishi Kaikan, Nagasaki City, on 30 Jul 52 with TSUJI Masanobu as principal speaker. TSUJI, a well known nationalist (INTSUM 3575), spoke on the familiar rightist theme, "Asia for the Asiatics," according to a CIC report. His speech stressed complete neutrality for Japan, national "self-defense," and included remarks "bordering on" anti-American and anti-Soviet propoganda, according to a usually reliable source. The meeting reportedly drew a large crowd which was "wildly enthusiastic" over TSUJI's lecture. (c) (B-2)

Comment: TSUJI, whose writings have attracted considerable attention in the past, apparently now is stepping up his speech making schedule; he has appeared as lecturer at several meetings in recent weeks. Although he reputedly has many loyal rightist followers, his ability to appeal to the general public has not been tested in the past. The brand of neutrality and self-defense which he advocates includes the demand that Japan cease to lease military bases and insistence on withdrawal of all foreign troops. The Nagasaki city lecture may have been part of the campaign now underway to reorganize the old East Asia Comrades League (Toa Renmei Doshi Kai), a campaign in which TSUJI is a leader.

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TSUJII Masanobu

Former Army Officer T. I Masanobu is again out, this time as a  
plot of war. He says, in short: "If there is a war between the  
States and the U.S.R., the U.S. will be beaten. Japan will be destroyed  
again and left in ruins by the Americans. Therefore, our problems  
be solved by us, the Japanese. If the American troops remain here,  
Soviets will declare war -- they will not do that if the American troops  
to leave these shores now". (TOKYO SHIMBUN, Tokyo Aug. 1, 1951--T)

Japan's Control of Asia

So far he (TSUJII) is like other so-called self-styled patriots. But what  
he says after these words, if really pondered. At any rate, in the  
boot, the Soviets and the Americans will become exhausted and will collapse.  
It is then that Japan can rise up again and control Asia.

This former army officer (Panitic -- TOKYO SHIMBUN) apparently cannot forget  
his pet dream. The "Peace Defense Committee" of Japan Communist Party  
took parts of TSUJII's talks and have distributed them all over the  
country. and these Communists declare: "Socialists except those who  
are ready to accept the Communist, have declared themselves below the level  
of war criminals." TSUJII's own public words seem to be of good use  
to the Communists.

But the grounds for TSUJII's talk are just nonsense. He will talk  
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ASSASSINATION PLOT

AFIS Home Analysis 1695-29

Police have learned of a rightist plot to assassinate TSUJII Masanobu, war-  
time operations colonel, from a former air force major arrested for robbery. The  
National Rural Police and the Special Investigation Bureau have assigned agents  
to check on the secret society that allegedly ordered Tsuji's death. Tsuji,  
after reading about the plot in a newspaper yesterday, left his home in Setagaya  
telling his wife, "I won't be gone long." According to his wife, Tsuji knew  
shortly after he began publishing his war memoirs that his life was in danger.  
"Whenever he leaves the house," she said, "he tries to put on a disguise. But  
he has never asked for police protection." (c)

- (a) Yomiuri Shimbun
- (b) Mainichi Shimbun
- (c) Yukan Yomiuri