

SECURITY INFORMATION

23 Nov 51

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Source Cryptonym: [] References: ZJL-753; 747

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

1. Information in this report was elicited from TSUJI at the same time as that of ZJL-753. The exact date of the interview is not known even to Source, since TSUJI did not give it, but it is believed to be mid-September.
2. Probably the best title for this report would be "mind of a Japanese 'Bourbon militarist' at work". We feel certain that TSUJI is not alone in the crass, brazenly unrepentant opinions he holds, though few are stupid enough (or frank enough: take your choice!) to express them to foreign newsmen. We personally can hardly disagree as a result with TSUKAMOTO's description of TSUJI given in ZJL-747.

23 November, 1951.

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- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (1) Privacy
 - (2) Methods/Sources
 - (3) Foreign Relations

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Subject: TSUJI Masanobu: Views on Rearm-Report No: ZJL-756 (PD#328)
ment and Other Matters.

Date of Information: September, 1951

Place Acquired: Tokyo, Japan

Date Acquired: 5 October, 1951

Evaluation: C-3

Date of Report: 23 November, 1951

Source: C 2

1. On 27 September, 1951, Source had a lengthy conversation with TSUJI Masanobu, who divulged the following information to him concerning an interview he had had a short while before with an American newspaper correspondent.

(The following is quoted by Source from TSUJI.)

- a. "A North American newspaper Alliance correspondent visited my home the other day with an interpreter. He wanted an interview with me. I did not ask his name, nor did he offer it either. I could see that he was still a young and pure-minded individual, not a trickster. I declined his request for an interview. Since he hung around the gate of my house for some time afterwards, and did not show any signs of going home, however, I finally called him in out of pity and met with him on the condition that the period would not be more than ten minutes. Actually, however, my talk with him exceeded ten minutes and lasted about an hour.
- b. "At first, he asked for my opinions on the arming of Japan. My answer was: 'A variety of opinions are reported not only here but throughout the world on the rearmament of Japan. Such debates are already a waste of time. What steps did Stalin take for Eastern Germany? Did he hesitate over petty arguments? How is the rearmament of Japan treated in the Draft of the Japanese Peace Treaty? Even Stalin has tacitly recognized the necessity of rearmament for Japan. The only question remaining is: what means should be taken for the implementation of prompt and efficient rearmament. The step-by-step reinforcement of the existing NPR (Police Reserve) is one way. To cope with an emergency, however, this course is all but worthless. In view of the slowness of the training program for the NPR, little help is held for the future of it. Approximately six million men of the Japanese Army were mobilized in the late Pacific War. Only 10% of them, it is true, could be promptly made available for defense even if equipped with arms. Nevertheless, I believe it to be far more advisable to raise approximately 600,000 of these old soldiers of strong health and excellent mental ability, organize a "Homeland Defense Volunteers Corps" in each local district, provide them with U.S. arms and equipment, give them a quick re-training, and turn them into a supplementary or auxiliary force to the NPR. However, we must take cognizance especially of the fact that America has never given military aid to foreign countries since the end of the war without dispatching a military mission there also which interfered with

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even the most petty details of training. Inasmuch as such an interference in many cases disregards the tradition and peculiarities of each country, it is liable to cause unfavorable reactions. As America has once decided to lease its own arms to other countries, it is natural that it should give a sufficient direction and training on the handling of these arms. But if America were to hold to a policy of non-interference in other respects in case of Japan, I think a stronger Army could be established within a short period.'

- c. "What do you think of General Ridgway?" The reporter asked the second question. My reply was: 'I am not particularly concerned with General Ridgway. I think that it was a worthy event that General Ridgway paid a visit to the Emperor the other day. The visit was of great value to establish real understanding of the spirit of the Japanese subjects. But, if I am allowed to voice a candid opinion on this matter, America was too late in having Ridgway call on the Emperor. If the call had been paid a year earlier, its effect would have been greater. I am afraid, however, that such a thing could hardly be understood by Americans unless they had a far more thorough knowledge of the traditional aspect of this country. If General RIDGWAY were to perform a memorial service for the spirits of the war-dead at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, and arrange for the return of the ashes and remains of Japanese soldiers left on South Pacific islands to their families, what a good and immeasurable effect that would have upon the people of Japan is beyond your imagination. We should not sit by idly to see the Japanese politicians, who do not feel shameful in the least to discard war-bereaved families into the lowest stratum of society, do nothing, while wounded soldiers are loitering on the streets like beggars. If America truly wishes to restore an effective Army in Japan, it should recognize these things first of all.'
- d. "To his third question, 'What is your role in the rearmament program of Japan?', my answer was a question: 'I am at present a purgee who is regarded as an undesirable element by both the American and Japanese governments. Moreover, I have been indicted by the Japanese government as a criminal suspect. Such being my present situation, what possible role could be given to me?'"