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22 JUN 1948

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FROM Chancery,  
Tokyo to Japan and  
No. Pacific Department.  
21/410/48

Dated 9th June, 1948  
Received }  
in Registry } 22nd June, 1948

F; Japan.

Report by the Assistant Military Adviser on the repatriation of Japanese, prepared from American information; anti-communist attitude of returning Japanese.

Transmits a copy of the above report.

Last Paper

F 7349

(Minutes)

Copy to Lt Col. James Reed (w.o.)

References

P.E.D. T. 2/7  
C.O.D. copy retained R.R. 2/7  
I.R.D. - per copy covering letter.  
Nakamura 2/2/48

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8) Lt Col. James Reed  
(w.o.)  
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Next Paper

F8683

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United Kingdom Liaison Mission  
to Japan,  
British Embassy,  
Tokyo.

Ref No: 21/410/48

9th June 1948. **F 8630**  
**22 JUN 1948**

Dear Department,

We send you herewith for reference a report prepared by the Assistant Military Adviser for the War Office from material provided confidentially by the Americans on the subject of the repatriation of Japanese.

We would add that since repatriation from Soviet-controlled territory recommenced this spring the returning Japanese have been interviewed by both foreign and Japanese press correspondents, and the reports that they have published in the press testify to a general hostility to communism on the part of the returning Japanese.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

*Rw.*

Japan and Pacific Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

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These prisoners consisted mainly of former members of the Japanese Kwantung Army and civilians taken in Manchuria. Others included military and civilian personnel taken prisoner in North Korea, Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands. After lengthy negotiations with the Soviet authorities, repatriation of these prisoners finally got under way near the close of 1946. In processing initial shiploads from the Dairen area, North Korea, Siberia and Sakhalin, certain factors were noted. These repatriates, in general, were destitute, and malnutrition and sickness had reduced many to a pitiable state. Communist indoctrination and Soviet propaganda had caused a certain amount of friction, ill-feeling and uncertainty among them. Personal histories and military service records were incomplete or missing. Military prisoners had been so widely dispersed by the Soviets that all semblance of their original units had been destroyed and unit records had been lost, seized or destroyed. Lack of the necessary information made the task of accounting for missing persons a monumental one.

4. The practice of using former Japanese officers in processing repatriates has had a valuable effect in counteracting Soviet propaganda by which the returnees were led to believe that they would receive little or no help from the Japanese Government. In view of the fact that the Russians have so far released only two officers of general rank and very few prisoners above the rank of army major, it has been the practice for a Japanese ex-

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We are very sorry to  
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viewed by both foreign and Japanese press  
correspondents, and the reports that they have  
published in the press testify to a general  
hostility to communism on the part of the returning  
Japanese.

Very truly,  
Yours ever,  
CHAMBERLAIN  
Special and Pacific Department  
Foreign Office  
London, E.C. 1

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REPATRIATION OF JAPANESE NATIONALS

Shortly after the surrender of Japan in August, 1945, a complicated task was undertaken to repatriate 6,607,150 Japanese nationals, including both military and civilian personnel. At present, 5,861,490 have been returned to Japan, leaving an estimated 745,660 to be repatriated. Of these, 676,831 are being held in Soviet-controlled areas in camps distributed from the Caucasus to the Maritime Province of Siberia and on the island of Sakhalin, plus a few thousands in Dairen and North Korea. In addition, there are about 65,000 to be returned from Manchuria, 3,200 from China, and a few hundred from Formosa and North Indo-China. In order to accomplish the orderly repatriation of such large numbers, it was necessary from the start to establish a responsible authority under the Japanese Government, in co-operation with Occupation authorities, to carry out the reception and processing of repatriates with the greatest possible speed and efficiency.

2. Repatriates are received at three reception centres located at Hakodate, Maizuru and Sasebo. The greater part of repatriates from Soviet-controlled areas are processed through the Hakodate and Maizuru centres, while those from China and South East Asia are received at the Sasebo Centre. Reception centres are under the administration of the Repatriation Relief Board of the Japanese Welfare Ministry. The chief of each reception centre is nominally the governor of the local prefecture. In practice, however, the deputy chief actually directs the operation of the reception centre. Over-all administration of each centre is carried out by the Repatriation and Relief Division, which receives all military and civilian repatriates and processes them as Japanese nationals. Business related to the demobilisation of military personnel is handled by two special administrative divisions. These are the First Demobilisation Bureau Division in charge of military personnel and the Second Demobilisation Bureau Division which handles naval personnel.

3. At the close of the war, the Russians removed a vast number of Japanese nationals, both military and civilian, to prison camps in the U.S.S.R. These prisoners consisted mainly of former members of the Japanese Kwantung Army and civilians taken in Manchuria. Others included military and civilian personnel taken prisoner in North Korea, Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands. After lengthy negotiations with the Soviet authorities, repatriation of these prisoners finally got under way near the close of 1946. In processing initial shiploads from the Dairen area, North Korea, Siberia and Sakhalin, certain factors were noted. These repatriates, in general, were destitute, and malnutrition and sickness had reduced many to a pitiable state. Communist indoctrination and Soviet propaganda had caused a certain amount of friction, ill-feeling and uncertainty among them. Personal histories and military service records were incomplete or missing. Military prisoners had been so widely dispersed by the Soviets that all semblance of their original units had been destroyed and unit records had been lost, seized or destroyed. Lack of the necessary information made the task of accounting for missing persons a monumental one.

4. The practice of using former Japanese officers in processing repatriates has had a valuable effect in counteracting Soviet propaganda by which the returnees were led to believe that they would receive little or no help from the Japanese Government. In view of the fact that the Russians have so far released only two officers of general rank and very few prisoners above the rank of army major, it has been the practice for a Japanese ex-colonel....

colonel to deliver an orientation speech aboard ship to the repatriates immediately upon their arrival. This speech is the beginning of a four-day schedule of processing necessary to put the returnees through the reception centre and forward them to their immediate destinations. The ship is then placed under a brief quarantine while medical authorities make the necessary checks, particularly for evidence of epidemic diseases and for cases requiring immediate emergency treatment. At the same time, necessary business is accomplished with the ship's master regarding passenger lists and debarkation plans. This done, passengers are put ashore by means of small landing craft or similar vessels. Hand baggage is then put through a customs inspection and is treated with disinfectant. Returnees are next given a physical examination, bath, inoculations, and clean, sterilised clothing in exchange for their old clothing. Old military uniforms are collected and sterilised. Quarters are then assigned according to companies and platoons and repatriation certificates are distributed through platoon representatives. Military personnel then begin processing for demobilisation, which takes up the remainder of the first day of processing and carries over into the second day. This is in addition to the regular processing given all returnees regardless of status.

5. Processing continues on the second day with the issuing of relief supplies which amount to some 16 items of clothing and daily necessities. Next in order come chest X-rays, exchange of currency, and payment of relief funds to non-military personnel. Relief payments are so made that each returnee travelling alone will have a minimum of 250 yen and family groups an average of 200 yen per person with a limitation of 1,000 yen for families of five or more. Returnees arriving with less than this amount are paid the difference. This does not apply to military personnel, since those receive a return home fare of 300 yen upon discharge.

6. The third day of processing is taken up in preparation for departure, arrangements for rail tickets, and the distribution of box lunches for travel use according to the requirements of the individual. Government meal tickets are issued for travel time in excess of three days. On the fourth day, repatriates to Japan proper are grouped according to prefectural destination and are placed aboard special trains which leave from stations near the reception centre.

7. Clinic and hospital facilities are provided for returnees during their stay in the reception centre. Upon examination, patients may be placed in quarters or be hospitalised. Special consultations are given for women. Certificates are issued for wounds received in the public service. Quarantine facilities are also provided for the control of epidemic diseases.

8. Consultations are arranged in order to advise and assist returnees in overcoming personal problems. This applies particularly to the homeless and those unable to locate relatives. Returnees travelling with infants often require special care and assistance. All available information is given regarding war devastated areas; city and town maps are on hand showing the burned out and bombed sections of each locality. In some cases returnees have mail from relatives delivered to them at the centre.

9. Returnees are allowed to send free telegrams, and postal facilities are provided. There is a free barber shop. Recreation is available in the form of record players, radios and newspapers, in addition to occasional forums and variety shows. According to the conditions of the moment, the schedule for processing may vary to some extent. Time of ship arrivals,

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...the reception center...  
 ...to carry out the reception and processing...  
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 ...of repatriates with the greatest possible speed and efficiency.

3. Repatriates are received in three reception centers located at...  
 ...of repatriates from Soviet-controlled areas are received through the Harbin and Lianyungang centers...  
 ...and South Korea are received at the reception center...  
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 ...to carry out the reception and processing...  
 ...of repatriates with the greatest possible speed and efficiency.

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 ...to carry out the reception and processing...  
 ...of repatriates with the greatest possible speed and efficiency.

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epidemic control, number to be processed, and the ratio of military to non-military personnel are all factors which may necessitate a change in the processing schedule. All processing is handled on the basis of companies and platoons into which the repatriates are already divided prior to their arrival in Japan and is divided into three phases, accomplished in order by the Investigation, Demobilisation and Grant Sections.

10. In the Investigation Section, the returnee is sent to the Compilation Sub-section where he is asked to supply supplementary information to the list of military units which were active at the time of surrender, then he is questioned for information to assist in compiling an accurate roster of his unit's personnel. Returnees who have brought back the ashes or personal effects of deceased comrades turn these over to a responsible sub-section. The same sub-section issues certificates which verify wounds received in the public service and examines the personal memory statements of returnees for the purpose of making necessary changes or additions. Returnees are then sent to the Investigation Sub-section. Using a unit roster of unreturned personnel as a basis, returnees are further questioned for information to clarify the status of individuals not yet repatriated. Presumption of death based on statements of returnees requires confirmation by at least three persons.

11. Processing by the Investigation Section having been completed, the returnee is next sent to the Demobilisation Section, which is divided into five sub-sections, all of which conduct the same type of work, and a special sub-section which conducts special investigations. Here, upon submission of a personal statement of his service record, the returnee is formally discharged from the service.

12. Under the Grant Section are five sub-sections, conducting the same business. Here the returnee submits a personal statement of the status of his back pay and allowances. He is then given a certificate of accrued pay and allowances and receives an allowance of 300 yen for his return home. Each returnee is then checked to see if he has completed all demobilisation processing, and received his Repatriation Certificate.

13. Under present Japanese law, missing military personnel cannot be presumed dead simply on the basis of time lapse. Therefore, even after repatriation of Soviet-held prisoners is completed, it seems certain that the Demobilisation Bureau will be left with a large residue of unfinished business. In this respect alone, the investigative work carried on by Demobilisation Bureau Personnel at the Reception Centres is of considerable importance. The fact that this work is being carried out largely by former Japanese military men and the great interest taken in the fate of unreturned personnel has had much effect in off-setting Soviet propaganda aimed at destroying the repatriates' faith in the present Japanese Government. However, the special processing given returning military personnel is only an addition to the over-all processing given to all repatriates whether military or civilian. This over-all process is the responsibility of the Repatriation and Relief Board Division which is made up almost entirely of persons with no military background. About half of the Demobilisation Bureau personnel at the reception centres are ex-military men. Of the combined total of Japanese Government personnel at the reception centres, about 30 per cent are former military personnel.

United Kingdom Liaison Mission in Japan.  
TOKYO  
4 June 1948

colored to deliver an explanation of the situation of the country...  
The returnees are divided into three groups...  
The first group consists of those who have been...  
The second group consists of those who have been...  
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The returnees are divided into three groups...  
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of military to non-military personnel and all factors which  
may necessitate a change in the respective schedule.  
personnel is listed in the basis of organization and location  
into three categories: military, non-military, and  
civilian. The first two categories are already divided into  
naval, army and air force, respectively, and are  
in order of the investigation, respectively, in the

10. In the investigation section, the personnel  
is sent to the Organization and Section which is to supply  
a preliminary information to the list of military units which were  
active at the time of departure, that he is questioned for information  
to assist in compiling an accurate roster of the unit's personnel.  
Personnel who have been transferred from one unit to another  
during the period covered by the investigation are also included.  
Some units have been transferred which vary widely in  
the public service and various the personnel carry out  
of personnel for the purpose of making necessary changes or  
revisions are then sent to the Investigation and Section. Being a  
unit roster of transferred personnel as a basis, personnel are  
further questioned for information to clarify the status of individuals  
not yet reported. Investigation of each based on status of  
returnees requires consultation of local records.

11. Proceeding by the investigation section having  
been completed, the returnees are sent to the Organization  
Section, which is divided into five sub-sections, all of which  
conduct the same type of work, and a special sub-section which  
conducts special investigations. Here, each individual of a  
personnel at least of his service record, the returnee is normally  
discharged from the service.

12. Under the Great Section are five sub-sections,  
conducting the same business. Here the returnee maintains a  
personal statement of the status of his bank pay and allowances.  
He is then given a certificate of account by the returnees and  
receives an allowance of 200 yen for the return home. Each  
returnee is then asked to see if he has completed all obligations  
process and, and receive the organization certificate.

13. Under recent reports in, military military  
personnel cannot be returned directly on the basis of the report.  
Therefore, even after registration a military personnel is  
completed, it seems certain that the Organization Section will  
be left with a large number of military personnel. In this  
respect alone, the investigative work carried on by Organization  
Section personnel at the present time is being carried out largely  
by contract. The fact that this work is being carried out largely  
by contract Japanese military men and the great interest taken in  
the rate of unreturned personnel has had much effect in setting  
back progress aimed at decreasing the number of military  
the current Japanese Government. However, the special processing  
given returning military personnel is only in addition to the  
over-all process given to all registered military personnel or  
civilian. This over-all process is the responsibility of the  
Organization and Relief Board which is made up almost  
entirely of persons with no military background. About half  
of the Organization Board personnel at the present time  
are ex-military men. Of the combined total of Japanese Government  
personnel at the reception center, about 30 per cent are former  
military personnel.

United States Liaison Office in Japan  
WFO  
4 June 1948

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.