

February 4, 1991

DRAFT REVIEW

THE ROLE OF THE MIS
IN THE OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

GENERAL POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The essential attributes of the MIS personnel in the occupation of Japan included their ethnic background and/or their linguistic training. In more than one instance, it was a critical factor to know about the local customs or traditions of the areas being occupied.
2. The transitional period from a military environment to a civil affairs role and dialogue required a period of acclimitization and orientation. This transformation was very adeptly accomplished.
3. General MacArthur's posture received the most reverent attentiveness from the indigenous personnel. This mutual respect contributed immensely to the success of the programs carried out by the allied occupation forces.
4. Categorically the MIS personnel were [a] primarily linguists or [b] secondarily linguists. The latter were semi-professional or professional personnel; i.e., scientific consultants, pure and applied.
5. MIS personnel were very actively involved in the food distribution and price control and rationing programs. Shortly after the end of hostilities, SCAPins were issued by GHQ SCAP to the Imperial Japanese Government and Operational Directives were sent to the CG 8th U S Army; these, in turn, were forwarded through channels down to lower eschelons. Nisei were instrumental in the preparation of directives and coordinated activities throughout all levels. (Yoshiwara, Hashitani)

SHORT-RUN PROGRAMS

1. Col. Frank Ikuno who had been employed by the State of Wyoming in pre-war days was with the Shizuoka Military Government Team in 1949. He was deeply involved in prison and labor reform programs.
2. The GHQ special staff sections were actively involved in the overall recovery of Japan. While the initial thrust was to provide the necessities of life: food, clothing and shelter, other activities were being promulgated, both short and long-run. Nisei personnel were involved in essentially all aspects of these programs. The short term programs included reparations (Sasaki), increasing food supply: agriculture (Tanada), fisheries (Munechika) and foreign trade (Furudera).
The reparations program appeared to be fairly straight-forward, except for pleas by Japanese companies requesting exemptions. Increasing food supplies in the short-run included releases thru the U.S Quartermaster Corps, and fuel and supplies for the fishing fleet. Rice was exported to Japan from about 1949 through 1955 and reached a maximum tonnage exported from California in excess of 450,000 tons.

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3. The critical shortage of foodstuffs, especially rice, led to many problems. One of the problem areas was control of rice through so-called legal channels. While the Japanese police attempted to control illicit activities, they were not able to, even with the assistance of occupational forces. Some of the practices which evolved during the early days of the occupation still remain; this is attributable to the fact that Occupation personnel, without realizing the situation, issued orders that conflicted with historical customs or mores. (ex: orders to abolish roten, open air stalls/kiosks on the Ginza).

LONG-RUN PROGRAMS

1. MIS personnel played a very significant role in the long-run reform programs. Perhaps least known, but very successful, was the reform conducted by the CI&E Section of SCAP with respect to the educational system. Unbeknownst to many, there were a number of U.S. educational advisors in Japan. (Tomo Ogita)
2. Shig Takashi (MIS) was on the directorates staff of the World Bank and he had also been on the NRS staff, GHQ SCAP. An interesting sidelight: Shig and a Mr. Owada of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry were scheduled to be participants in the Afghanistan Land Reform program until the Russians moved in on December 1979. These two men were probably the world's experts on land reform at the time.

CONCLUSION

It is evident that a job had been well done in Japan and much credit is due to the Nisei soldiers, many untried and, on the whole, inexperienced, who played a tremendous role in the post-war recovery. The land reform program was one of the greatest, if not the greatest accomplishment of the Occupation Forces in Japan.

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