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Japanese Activities and Intelligence Machine in the Western Hemisphere (declassified 2/27/1985)

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January 3.

Subject: Japanese Activities and Intelligence Machine in the Western Hemisphere.

Summary of Information:

Recent Japanese Activities in Latin America. Recent reports have been received of suspicious movements of Japanese in various parts of Latin America, particularly Mexico, Approximately 5,000 Japanese are congregating at some undetermined point in strategic Baja California. In this connection, 100 of a Japanese population of 600 in and around Ensenada, recently left the region in a ship anchored off the coast.

The Japanese practice of closking subversive operations with "legitimate business fronts" exists in Mexico as well as in the United States. The Japanese have placed Golonel Tadafumi Vaki, I.J.A., in an important position within their Intelligence Metwork in Nexico. Reports believed reliable indicate that Golonel Waki has in his possession maps of strategic areas in the Mavaiian Islands.

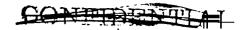
In Peru it is reported that the 30,000 or more Japanese living there are highly organised and that, following anti-Japanese riots, they distributed rifles to all their establishments. In the United States there is a possible infiltration of Japanese espionage agents through Cuban and Florida ports. A similar danger exists on the Pacific Coast and Mexican border.

Since the outbreak of hostilities, Spanish Consuls in the United States have taken over all official business for the Japanese Consulates. Japanese and Spanish Pascist collaboration is carried on extensively in Mexico and the Philippines through the following organizations: Las Misiones Jesuite del Sapon, Sociedad Nipo-Espanola, Falange Exterior Espanola, and Liga Anti-Comintern Repanola,

De Japanese Intelligence Machine in Western Hemisphere. In December, 1940, it became apparent that the Japanese were going to effect a reorganization of their Intelligence Network in this hemisphere

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by intensifying the espionage activities of non-political agencies here.

In streamlining their Intelligence Machine the Japanese have been guided by two major considerations—that of a system of "total intelligence" such as the Germans have developed; and establishment of a completely integrated intelligence organization which in time of war and the breaking off of official relations would be able to take over intelligence operations on a major scale.

The focal point of the Japanese espionage effort has been the determination of the total strength of the United States. In anticipation of possible open conflict with this country, Japan vigorously utilised every available agency to secure military, naval, and commercial information, paying particular attention to West Geast, Panama Ganal, and Hawaii. Surveys were made of persons and erganizations opposing United States' intervention in the European War, and close attention was paid to all anti-Jewish, Communist, Negro, and Labor Novements.

Although never fully developed, this new espionage organization was characterised by a high degree of decentralization. The general pattern included individuals, small groups, and connercial organizations functioning separately yet directly controlled by Imperial Japanese Government through Embassy and Consulate.

The new program provided for the utilisation of citizens of foreign extraction, aliens, Communists, Megroes, Labor union members, anti-Semites, and individuals having access to Government Departments, experimental laboratories, factories, transportation facilities and governmental organisations of various kinds. Missi and Japanese aliens were not everlooked.

In event of open hostilities, Mexico was to be the Japanese intelligence nerve center in the Western Hexisphere, and in anticipation of war, U.S.-Latin American intelligence routes were established, involving extensive cooperation among Japanese, German and Italian intelligence organizations.

In this connection there should be kept in mind themproximity of San Diego to Tinjuan and of El Centro to Newton Deliga, ediong with Yuma, Negales, El Paso, Laredo, and Browney 1214, Are well known Japanese "post offices" and espionage centers.

Outstanding among the Japanese espionage projects was their comprehensive surveys of the entire western coast of North America.

Japanese Propaganda in the United States has for the most.

part been under direction of a special division of the Japanese Fereiga Office in Mekye. Local control was administered through the Muhasay in Yashington, as well as the Consulator in key cities and Consular Agents in Japanese communities.

g. The Token Club Fratients. This is an excellent illustration of the extremely complicated interlookings which characterises Japanese groups.

Matil recently the Polyo Club of Les Angeles, with chief subsidiaries, the Vichibel Regro Katcha of Les Angeles and the Tokyo Club of Seattle, constituted the nucleus of a system of gambling clubs from Alaska to Mexico. A widespread decentralised system of Japanese "clube," labor organizations, and legitimate business groups has been converted fate an imperious unit of the control Japanese Intelligence Motorets. There can be no doubt that most of the leaders have been and still continue to function as key sporatives for the Japanese Severament along the Vest Genet.

It is reported that the Tokyo Ulub is no longer in existence but it may be that the former loaders have retired behind now "fronts,"

A. Januara Comeries. Alaska and Yest Coast. Whether Steeling or shore-based, American or foreign-erned, the Alaskan emperies employ a considerable amount of Japanese empiral and labor, American loaders in the fishing-coasing industry stress the fact that the Japanese involved are contered in definitely strategic places throughout Alaska, and that there exists the possibility that some of those Japanese may have military or nevel connections.

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July B. 1942

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