



# 国际检察局讯问记录

Numerical Case Files Relating to  
Particular Incidents and Suspected War Criminals,  
International Prosecution Section (1945-1947)

国家图书馆 上海交通大学 编

37

國家圖書館出版社

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Case # 211

4 Dec. 45  
Re: Kiichiro HIRANUMA

Status: Pending

Memo for the File:

The following  
information was contained in a SCAP  
press release dated 2 Dec 45:

HIRANUMA, Kiichiro. This career politician rose to the highest appointive position through the legal profession as prosecutor, judge, Vice-Minister of Justice, Vice-President of the Privy Council, Minister of Justice, President of the Privy Council, Premier, Minister without portfolio, Home Minister, etc. He was created a baron in 1936. In 1942 he headed the Japanese Liaison Mission to Nanking.

No active investigation is  
being conducted in this matter

Ltj H. Tarnant,  
Maj. Gen.

Copies  
1 File  
Ser. 1



4 Dec 45

CASE NO. 211

RE : HIRANUMA, Kiichiro.

STATUS: Pending.

MEMO FOR THE FILE:

Source : Not stated.

From : Nippon Times, #16780, 4 Dec 1945.

Information:

"HIRANUMA, Kiichiro. This career politician rose to the highest appointive position through the legal profession as prosecutor, judge, Vice-Minister of Justice, Vice-President of the Privy Council, Minister of Justice, President of the Privy Council, Premier, Minister without portfolio, Home Minister, etc. He was created a baron in 1936. In 1942 he headed the Japanese Liaison Mission to Nanking."

U DEVELOPED LEAD:

Review Nippon Times "morgue" for possible further information.

*Joe B. Alexander*  
JOE B. ALEXANDER  
2nd Lt., Inf.

COPIES : 4 File

CASE NO. : 211

SERIAL NO. : 2

CASE NO. 211

RE : HIRANUMA, KIICHIRO ✓

STATUS : PENDING

As of 12 Dec., 1945, the following information on the above named subject was obtained from C & S Files.

Source : Intelligence Research Project

Baron; President Privy Council, Former Premier.

1865 Sept.	Born Okayama Prefecture. Unmarried.
1888	Grad. Tokyo Imperial Univ. Law School. Entered Justice Ministry. Judge, Tokyo, Chiba, Yokohama local courts. Judge, Tokyo Court of Appeal.
1906	Director, civil and criminal affairs Bureau, Justice Ministry. Toured Europe and America.
1907	Received doctorate degree; Procurator General; President Supreme Court.
1907 or 08	Vice Minister of Justice in Saionji Cabinet. ✓
1912	<del>Vice President Privy Council.</del> 1930 Pres. Judicial System Council Chairman, Religious System Investigation Committee. Member Shrine system Inv. Committee
1923	Minister of Justice, Yamamoto Cabinet ✓
1923	Appointed to House of Peers.
1926	Created Baron. Pres. Nihon University. Pres. Kokuhonsha, Rightist Dryan Pres. Shuyodan
1936	Pres. Privy Council
1939 Jan-Aug	Premier
1940 Dec	<del>Minister without portfolio in second Konoye Cabinet.</del> Home Minister, second Konoye Cabinet. ✓
1941 Jul-Aug	Vice Premier and Minister without portfolio in third Konoye Cabinet ✓
1945 Apr	Pres. Privy Council
1945 Jun	Named as one of leaders of Home Defense League.

ADDRESS: 429 Nishi Okubo, 1 Chome, Yodobashi, Tokyo.

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SERIAL NO. : 3

Statement from "Government by Assassination" - CIS Files.

Characterizes Hiranuma as a sincere unbeliever in political parties. As founder and leader of the nationalistic Kokuhonshu; as Premier and later he nursed a moderate course. When Germany negotiated a non-aggression Pact with Soviet Russia on 23 Aug., 1939, thus casting a shadow on his cabinet's Pro-Axis policy, Hiranuma's strong sense of responsibility made him resign, even though his cabinet had refused to conclude military alliance with Germany as desired by Japan's military extremists. Never an ardent pro-German collaborationist; rather advocated rapprochement with democracies.

When Hiranuma joined second Konoye Cabinet, 7 Dec., 1940, he and the Premier were generally regarded as the strongest possible combination obtainable of Japanese civilian political leadership. Believed sympathetic with Konoye's policies.

A bitter opponent of London Naval Treaty; approved of Japan's withdrawal from League of Nations, abrogation of Washington Naval Treaty, and conclusion of Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany in 1936, and later with Italy. Gave support, nevertheless, to those groups desiring peace and opposing closer alliance with the Axis. While Premier he dispatched secret missions to Axis capitals to hold in check Ambassador Oshima in Berlin, and Ambassador Shiratori in Rome, both extremely Pro-Axis.

Misc. Information:

Head of SEISHIN SHYU DAN (National Spirit Mobilization Association)  
Present organization has a membership of some 250,000.

Source: Publication, SEATIC Pub No 188, dated 14 July 1945, p. 16.

Member of KOKUHONSHA (Society for the foundation of the State) considered a more dangerous society than the Black Dragon Society because of its influential and powerful members. In existence as of 10 Oct., 1945.

Source: OCCIO Ops rpt of interrogation of SHIGA to Officer in Charge, APO 500 ad 12 Oct., 1945.

Justice Minister MATSUZAKA, Hiromasa, is Hiranuma's close friend and Protege.

Source: OSS, 1 Aug., 1945.

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CASE NO. : 211

SERIAL NO. : 3

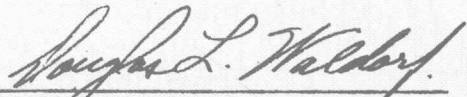
Member of SHIN EI HA (Pro-English Group) and member of SHIN BI HA (Pro-American Group).

Source: Weekly CIG Rpt. # 14, dtd 14 Aug., 1945, fr. 310th CIC Det.

Hiranuma, as the strong man of the second Konoye Cabinet stood for Kodo but opposed those wanting totalitarianism. In Aug. 1941, Konoye and Hiranuma were still trying to avoid war. Assassins unsuccessfully tried to kill Hiranuma on 14 Aug. 1941.

Source: Talischus, Tokyo Record.

As chief of the KOKUHONSHA reactionary society Hiranuma was rendered impregnable at the Foreign Office. Is very intimate with TANI, Chief of Asiatic Bureau of Foreign Office, who is a brother of General TANI of the Army, and thus both have close relations with the Army. (TANI was successor to TOGO as Foreign Minister in 1942. Replaced in 1943 by SHIGEMITSU).



DOUGLAS L. WALDORF  
2nd Lt., Infantry

COPIES: 3 file  
1 Judge O'Dell

CASE NO.: 211

SERIAL NO.: 3



CASE NO. 211

RE : HIRANUMA, KIICHIRO  
STATUS : PENDING

MEMO FOR FILE: Present status and whereabouts of above named subject.

DIRECTIVE : 1 Dec. '45 (AG 383.7, 1 Dec. CI)  
STATUS : Former Premier; Vice Minister of Justice, President Supreme Court.  
PLACE : To be delivered to SUGAMO Prison by 12 December, 1945.

DOUGLAS L. WALDORF  
2nd Lt., Infantry

COPIES : 3 file  
1 Judge O'Dell

CASE NO. : 211

SERIAL NO. : 4

REPORT

FILE NO. 211

RE: HIRANUMA, Kiichiro

REPORT BY : Lt. Waldorf

DATE: 14 December, 1945

STATUS : Pending

It has been determined that HIRANUMA, Kiichiro, is not in confinement as of this date in accordance with Directive Dtd. 1 Dec. '45 (AG 383.7)-- Refer: Ser. 4, Case 211) because of illness.

It is the desire of Judge Dell and Mr. English that HIRANUMA be made available to them for interview at the earliest possible time; arrangements therefore, will be undertaken that this office is informed as to the date of HIRANUMA's subsequent confinement.

PENDING

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DOUGLAS L. WALDORF  
2nd Lt., Inf.

COPIES : 3 file

Case # 21

RE : HIRANUMA, Kiichiro

STATUS: PENDING

Memorandum for the Files:

On 4 December 1945 CIS files reflect the following information on personnel indicted as War Criminals and ordered apprehended 3 Dec 1945.

Born 1865, a career bureaucrat who rose to the highest appointive position through the legal profession as prosecutor; judge; Vice Minister of Justice (1907); Vice President of Privy Council (1912); Minister of Justice (1923); created Baron (1926); President of Nihon University; President of Privy Council (1936-39); Premier (1939 Jan-Aug); Minister without Portfolio, second KONOYE Cabinet (Dec 7, 1940); Home Minister second KONOYE cabinet (Dec 21, 1940); Vice Premier and Minister without Portfolio, third KONOYE Cabinet (1941, July 18-Oct); President Privy Council (April 1945). In the fall of 1942 he headed a Japanese diplomatic mission to Nanking, including ARITA and NAGAI. According to an official Japanese report of April, 1945, after his retirement from office in 1941 he contributed greatly as one of the elder statesmen to the prosecution of the war.

Having never held an elective position and exerting consistent political pressure through his rich experience in extensive personal domination of the Japanese bureaucracy Baron HIRANUMA is the dean of the reactionary bureaucrats of Japan. His extreme nationalistic reactionary influence was long ago feared by the single surviving Genro, SAIONJI, who, until his death in 1940, steadfastly blocked HIRANUMA from the Premiership but failed to keep him from the Presidency of the Privy Council (1936).

HIRANUMA's chief contribution towards creating a peculiarly Japanese type of fascism was exercised through the Kokuhonsha (Society for the Foundation of the State) of which he was the founder (1926) and president for many years. The Kokuhonsha was ostensibly founded for the purpose of combatting democratic and leftist thought chiefly amongst university professors and government officials. It soon passed beyond this rather elementary aspect and became a wide organization embracing the key members of bureaucracy such as GOTO, Fumio, senior Army and Navy officers and prominent business men such as IKEDA, Seihei. Through the wide interlocking connections of this reactionary society, the Japanese government leaders, certain sections of business leaders and senior Army and Navy officers were able to fashion a peculiarly Japanese pattern of totalitarian control.

It is noteworthy that HIRANUMA has built up a powerful machine within the bureaucracy consisting chiefly of senior officials of the Ministry of Justice, notably who former Ministers of Justice, SHIONO Sushiko and MATSUZAKA Hiromasa. This clique within the bureaucracy might be described as the "prosecutors" clique because like HIRANUMA, it's boss, this clique consists chiefly of members of the prosecutors section of the Ministry of Justice. The most ruthless prosecutors in the years before and during the war usually fulfilled the post of Minister of Justice. It is through men like HIRANUMA and his henchmen that Japanese courts became a ruthless instrument in suppressing all freedom of thought, persecuting even the mildest form of political dissent. It is significant that well informed liberal Japanese assert that in the latter stages of the war the most savage political oppression within the country was directed by the prosecutors in the Ministry of Justice. They even brow-beat and frustrated judges who were prepared to release political prisoners who had served their term.

The one plea which HIRANUMA's defenders will make is that he was luke warm in his attitude towards Japan joining the Axis. While this may be so, it still remains to be proven. But even if this were so, HIRANUMA remains the most consistent and uncompromising exponent of Japanese reaction. He is a far more dangerous man than the NAKANO Seigo type who slavishly tried to imitate the Nazi brand of fascism and adapt it to Japan. HIRANUMA, much more cautious and realistic, was careful to preserve the more feudal and hierarchical nature of Japanese society and working within that framework he calculatedly prevented the development of any democratic or liberal movement. So feudal is his thought that he was opposed throughout his public career to universal male suffrage (not to mention universal suffrage) on the grounds that only the head of the family had the right to vote. His political thought is particularly dangerous because it consists of a mixture of Shinto mysticism and shrewd political realism and this mixture has served to confuse many western observers who are inclined to dismiss him as a rather harmless crank.

Over the past fifteen years, holding such key positions as Minister of Justice, Home Minister, Vice Premier, Premier, and President of the Privy Council, HIRANUMA was the archreactionary of the bureaucracy. In Japan, where there has been no counterpart of the Nazi Party it is essential to realize that the most evil political figures have worked through the Army or the senior bureaucracy. But it would be a gross simplification to regard the Army as containing the only dangerous fascist politicians and intriguers. Of the civilians, HIRANUMA is the archetype of the peculiarly Japanese type of fascist bureaucrat. It would be illogical and unjust to detain lesser bureaucratic reactionaries who have looked for HIRANUMA as their champion and leader while leaving him untouched.



Consequently, as a result of his long and only too effective efforts in laying the domestic foundations for Japanese fascism, Baron HIRANUMA should be detained as a potential war criminal.

He qualifies under Paragraph 7-a of Joint Staff Basic Directive for Post Surrender Military Government in Japan Proper of 3 November 1945.

S E C R E T

*James J. Gaine Jr.*  
JAMES J GAINE JR  
Capt, INF

COPIES:

3 File

RE: HIRANUMA, Baron Kiichiro: President, Privy Council. Former Premier;  
Former Home Minister

AGE: 80 Years

ADDRESS: 429 Nishi Okubo, 1-chome, Yodobashi-ku, Tokyo

BATES:

L' %

1865 Sep Born Okayama prefecture; 2nd son of Shin Hiranuma; unmarried  
1888 Graduated from Tokyo Imperial University, law  
Entered Justice Ministry  
\* Judge, Tokyo, Chiba, Yokohama local court  
\* Judge, Tokyo Court of Appeal  
1906 Director of Civil and Criminal Affairs Bureau of Justice Ministry  
1906 Toured Europe and America  
1907 Received doctorate degree;  
Procurator General  
President of the Supreme Court  
1907 or 08 Vice Minister of Justice in SAIONJI Cabinet  
1912 Vice President, Privy Council  
\* President, Juridical System Council  
\* Chairman, Religious System Investigation Committee  
\* Member, Shrine System Investigation Committee  
1923 Minister of Justice in YAMAMOTO Cabinet  
1924 Appointed to House of Peers by Emperor  
1926 Created Baron  
n - President, Nihon University  
- President, Kokuhonsha, rightist organization  
- President, Shuyodan  
1936-39 President Privy Council  
1939 Jan-  
Aug Premier  
1940 Dec 7 Minister without Portfolio in second KONOYE Cabinet  
1940 Dec 21 Home Minister in second KONOYE Cabinet  
1941 Jul 18 Vice Premier and Minister without Portfolio in third KONOYE Cabinet  
1945 Apr President Privy Council  
1945 Jun 30 Named one of the leaders of the Home Defense League

Holder of the 1st O.M.; Sr. 2nd class of court rank.

BIOGRAPHY:

Hugh Byes in "government by Assassination" characterizes HIRANUMA as a sincere unbeliever in political parties. As founder and leader of nationalistic Kokuhonsha (disbanded after Tokyo military revolt of 26 Feb 36) was supposed to have totalitarian leanings, but as Premier and later he pursued moderate course, when Germany concluded a nonaggression pact with Russia on 23 Aug 39, thus casting shadow on his Cabinet's pro-Axis policy, Hiranuma's strong sense of responsibility made him resign, even though his Cabinet had refused to conclude military alliance with Germany as desired by Japanese military extremists and rapprochement with democracies.

Re: HIRANUMA, Kiichiro

When Hiranuma joined second KONOYE Cabinet 7 Dec 40, he and the Premier were generally regarded as strongest possible combination obtainable of Japanese civilian political leadership. Believed to have been thoroughly in sympathy with Premier KONOYE's policies.

A bitter opponent of London Naval Treaty, he approved of Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations, abrogation of the Washington Naval Treaty, and conclusion of the AntiComintern Pact with Germany in 1936 and later with Italy. Gave support, nevertheless, to those groups desiring peace and opposing closer alliance with Axis. While Premier dispatched secret mission to Axis capitals to hold in check Ambassador OSHIMA in Berlin and Ambassador SHIRATORI in Rome, both very pro-Axis.

Former Ambassador GREW in Ten Years in Japan speaks of HIRANUMA as receptive to his ideas on improvement of Japanese-American relations and as endeavoring to restrain extremist hotheads, reportedly threatening to arrest prominent extremists in July 1941 but being obliged to desist by assassination warning. Other sources state he was wounded by an assassin a month later.

As member of Jushin (senior statesmen) is called in consultation occasionally by Government in power. Tokyo broadcast of 12 April 45, quoting Asahi SHIMBUN, stated that he is one of the four former Premiers who take the lead among the Jushin in nominating premiers, the others being KONOYE, OKADA, AND WAKATSUKI.

L(##)

1943..Present at dinner given by "Elder Statesmen, 12/26/43

1943..Present at TOJO dinner 8/29/43

1944..June 16, No further reference in Propanal Master Fiel. See July Leading Fascist

Home Univ. & U. Premier under KONOYE (140-41)

Wounded by assassin Aug 41

From: CIS Files..Japanese Government Officials 1937-45, MID, War Dep  
Japanese Personal Intelligence OWI, Jul 45

CASE 211, serial 9 has been removed from this file and returned to Diplomatic Section. It contained biographical material and was obtained through Mr. Fearey of the Diplomatic Section.



File name HIRANUMA (Best known name only) ☒ Nationality Japanese

## CONFIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA

Note.—Consult Diplomatic Serial 880 of August 7, 1936, and references therein. Forms are to be prepared on typewriter in triplicate, one copy for files and two for Department.  
Offices sending communications to the European Information Center should forward extra copy of this form to E. I. C.

Post Tokyo Date of preparation May 19, 1936 Prepared by WTT

Family name Hiranuma (Surname) Kiichiro (Given names) (Baron)

Highest rank or title Baron; 2nd class Junior Grade of Court Rank  
Doctor of Law.

Position Vice President of Privy Council.

Date appointed 1926 Party affiliations No political affiliation

Birthplace Okayama Prefecture Date of birth September, 1867

Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Education Graduate Law College of Tokyo Imperial University, 1889.

Reputation Good Personality See below

Influence Considerable, see below.

Previous career Judge of various courts; procurator of Tokyo Court of Appeals; Director of Bureau of Civil Affairs; in 1907 sent to Europe and America for study of judicial system; Vice Minister Department of Justice 1911; Minister of Justice in Yamamoto Cabinet 1923; subsequently Councillor of the Privy Council; in 1926 appointed Vice President of the Privy Council and created Baron for meritorious service.

Attitude toward the United States \_\_\_\_\_

Service in the United States None, except visit for study.

Attitude toward other nations \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal intelligence:

Marriage Has never married (unusual for Japanese) because of tubercular taint.

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Recreations \_\_\_\_\_

Clubs \_\_\_\_\_

Lineage Samurai

REMARKS (including any outstanding feature of record in international matters, significant utterances for or against the United States, and predilection, if any, for any particular country, etc. In case of a journalist, give particulars as to press represented, sources of information, official connections, if any, etc., and reputation for integrity, accuracy, and fairness. If more space is needed, use second sheet):

A scholar and bureaucrat of strong personality; very conservative; an old fashioned patriot; established a reactionary society, the Kokuhonsha, which has considerable influence; cooperates actively with the military through this society.