



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

39

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4 December 1945.

Case No. 215

RE: Kazuo AOIKI

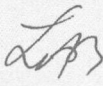
STATUS: PENDING

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE:

On 2 December 1945 a SCAP press release indicated that the apprehension of the following individual had been directed and furnished the following information:

AOKI, Kazuo. This member of the House of Peers rose through various posts in the Ministry of Finance and more lately held positions as Vice-President of the Manchuria Affairs Board in 1936 and 1937; President of the Cabinet Planning Board in 1939; financial advisor to the Nanking government, 1940 to 1942; and Vice-president of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.

No active investigation is being conducted in this matter.


LeRoy H. Barnard,
Major, Infantry.

Copies:
1 File.

4 Dec 45

CASE NO. 215

RE : AOKI, Kazuo

STATUS: Pending.

MEMO FOR THE FILE:

Source: Not stated.

From : NIPPON TIMES, #16780, 4 Dec 45

Information:

"AOKI, Kazuo. This member of the House of Peers rose through various posts in the Ministry of Finance and more lately held position as Vice-President of the Manchuria Affairs Board in 1936 and 1937; President of the Cabinet Planning Board in 1939; financial advisor to the Nanking government, 1940 to 1942; and Vice-president of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association."

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

Review Nippon Times "morque" for possible further information.

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

COPIES: 4 File

CASE NO.: 215

SERIAL NO.: 2

9 Dec 45

CASE NO. 215

RE : AOKI, Kazuo

STATUS: Pending.

MEMO FOR THE FILE:

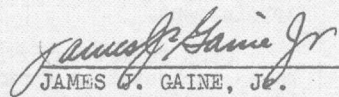
On 4 Dec 45, CIS files reflect the following information on personnel indicted as War Criminals and ordered apprehended 3 Dec 45:

Born 1889. Member of the House of Peers. Secretary of London Embassy, 1917-21. A career official in the Ministry of Finance who arose from minor posts in 1916 to Director of the Finance Bureau, 1934-36 and became Minister of Finance in the ABE Cabinet, 1939-40. Among other positions he has held are those of Vice-President of the Manchuria Affairs Board, 1936-37; President of the Cabinet Planning Board, ABE Cabinet, 1939; financial adviser to WANG Ching-Wei's puppet government in Nanking, 1940-42; Vice-President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and adviser to the Greater Japan Political Party, both dedicated to creating enthusiasm for the war.

AOKI used his position on the Manchuria Affairs Board to assist TOJO in perfecting his "gestapo" in Kwantung and to lay the foundation of TOJO's power. In the TOJO Cabinet AOKI was Minister of State without Portfolio and head of the Greater East Asia Ministry, 1942-44. For services rendered in the latter capacity, AOKI was decorated by the Emperor of Japan, 13 June 1944.

AOKI should be apprehended for his prominent part in assisting General TOJO and for contributing to the political and economic support of the Japanese war of totalitarianism and aggression.

He appears on the War Criminal list prepared by the State, War and Navy Departments.


JAMES G. GAINE, JR.
CAPT., INF.

COPIES : 3 File
1 Capt. Robinson

CASE NO. : 215

SERIAL NO. : 3

Enclosure No. 2 to Dispatch No. dated February 1944 from American Embassy at Buenos Aires.

Character Sketches of Greater East Asia Minister
Aoki and Vice Minister Yamaguchi.

Japan
DBF

Kazuo Aoki, first Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, was born in November, 1889, to a poor family in the province of Nagano, famous for agriculture. Nagano is also known for its cold winters and heavy snowfall. He attended a middle school, five miles away from his home, and on winter days, he had to walk the snow-covered country road daily.

He did very well in his studies, and in the higher school and the Tokyo Imperial University, he was always the first or second in his class. Graduating from the Law College of the Tokyo Imperial University in 1916, he passed the higher civil service examinations and entered the service of the Finance Ministry. After serving in the Finance Bureau of the Ministry he was sent to England and France by the Government to study. Returning from Europe in 1921, he was made a secretary of the Finance Ministry, later occupying the post of the chief of the Investigation Section of the Finance Bureau, concurrently holding the chair of the chief of the Treasury Section. He made rapid advance, and occupied such posts as the Director of the Foreign Exchange Control section, and the Director of the Finance Bureau.

In 1936, he was appointed Director of the Manchurian Affairs Bureau, and with the establishment of the Planning Board in October, 1937, he was made Vice-President of the new Board. In January, 1939 when the Hiranuma Cabinet was formed, he was appointed President of the Planning Board. Following the resignation of the Hiranuma Cabinet, he was made a member of the House of Peers by Imperial Appointment.

Upon formation of the Abe Cabinet in August, 1939, he was selected as Finance Minister, concurrently holding the Presidency of the Planning Board. Later, accompanying General Nobuyuki Abe on his visit to China, he was appointed supreme economic adviser to the puppet Government, while holding the title of adviser to the Foreign Office in Japan.

With the establishment of the Tojo Cabinet, he was made a State Minister without Portfolio, and when the Ministry of Greater East Asiatic Affairs was organized in November, 1942, he was appointed its first Minister.

As his record in the Government shows, he has served long in the Finance Ministry, and is especially a financial expert, particularly versed in foreign exchange and banking problems. [Kazuo Aoki, former Minister of Finance, and Okinori Kaya, present Finance Minister, were once called "Sambagari" or the "Big Three of the Finance Ministry", because Aoki and Kaya were an expert on taxation, Okinori on business, and Aoki on banking.]

With a clear brain, and aptitude for careful study, he made thorough studies of the finance, banking and economy of the Asiatic continent, while he held posts in the Manchurian Affairs Bureau. Particularly, when he entered the Planning Board, his eagerness for study was further manifested, and he devoted himself to the formulation of basic plans for material mobilization, as it is already known.

Then, becoming the supreme economic adviser to the Nanking Government, he further obtained profound and detailed knowledge of the administrative and economic problems of Greater East Asia. These accumulated experiences and knowledges have naturally led him to be selected as the first Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, upon the formation of the new Ministry.

Minister Aoki is a born conscientious man and does not speak unless absolutely necessary. He does not possess such affable buoyance as was shown by the former Finance Minister Ishiwata, nor has he statesmanlike characteristics as manifested by the present Finance Minister Kaya. Being steady and reserved, he has full confidence, and much tenacity, a known characteristic of the Shinano people. Thus, he is fully qualified for the post of the Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs.

The Ministry of Greater East Asiatic Affairs is an office handling political, economic, cultural and other affairs concerning the Greater East Asiatic Region, excepting Japan Proper, Chosen, Taiwan and Karafuto, and thus forms and executes singly and all-inclusively the ideas, plans and measures covering the Greater East Asiatic Region, that extends through the Tropical, Temperate and Frigid zones.

It may be no exaggeration therefore to say that Kazuo Aoki, Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, who shoulders the important mission of constructing Greater East Asia, is the "father bringing up Greater East Asiatic districts".

At the beginning of December, last year, soon after his appointment as the Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, he started to watch even his health by taking a cold shower and rubbing his body hard with a towel every morning, saying "for fulfilling the great responsibility as Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, it is of first importance to build up a strong body".

To have Mr. Aoki who has strong confidence in all financial, economic and banking problems of Greater East Asia, as the Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, just when the entire national strength is being devoted for the realization of the construction of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, makes us all feel at ease for the future.

To assist

FILE NO. 215

REPORT BY: L. H. BARNARD

RE: Kazuo AOKI

STATUS : Closed

DATE: 3 Jan 46

A review of the file in this matter does not indicate that further investigative action is necessary prior to the interview of subject. It is therefore being administratively closed.

C L O S E D

COPIES: 3 File 215

FILE:

REPORT BY: D. L. Waldorf

RE : AOKI, Kazuo

DATE: 17 January 1946

STATUS: PENDING

Born 1889. Member of the House of Peers. Secretary of London Embassy, 1917-21. A career official in the Ministry of Finance who arose from minor posts in 1916 to director of the Finance Bureau, 1934-36 and became Minister of Finance in the ABE Cabinet, 1939-40. Among other positions he has held are those of vice-president of the Manchuria Affairs Board, 1936-37; President of the Cabinet Planning Board, ABE Cabinet, 1939; financial adviser to WANG Ching-Wei's puppet government in Nanking, 1940-42; Vice-President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and adviser to the Greater Japan Political Party, both dedicated to creating enthusiasm for the war.

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AOKI should be apprehended for his prominent part in assisting General TOJO and for contributing to the political and economic support of the Japanese war of totalitarianism and aggression.

He appears on the War Criminal list prepared by the State, War, and Navy Departments.

(Counter Intelligence Justification Files reflected the above indicated information concerning subject.)

PENDING

COPIES: 3 File.

JAN 29 REC'D
BH

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Research and Analysis Branch
Biographical Report, BR-J#30

SECRET

青木 一男

Name AOKI Kazuo

Address Tokyo, Shibuya-ku, Yoyogi, Oyama-cho, 1049 (in 1942) 1/

Major Positions Member of the Extraordinary Wartime Measures Law Committee, June 1945
Adviser to the Dai Nippon Seijikai, June 1945 6/
Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs, 1942-44 1/
Supreme Adviser to the Nanking Government, 1940-42 4/

Family History Born 28 November 1889, in Nagano-ken 1/; eldest son of AOKI Zenzo (or Yoshizo) 2/; married Chiyo, second daughter of KIKUCHI Takekasu 2/ (or Tokiwa) 3/ of Tokyo-fu

Career Graduated in German law from Tokyo Imperial University, 1916 2/
Passed Higher Civil Service Examination 2/
Entered Finance Ministry
Financial Secretary at the Embassy in England, 1917-21
According to another report he is also listed as serving in France 1/
Counselor of the Tobacco Monopoly Bureau, 1920 2/
Chief of the Research Section in the Finance Bureau of the Finance Ministry, 1924 1/
Chief of the Secretarial Section in the Minister's Secretariat, 1926 2/
Chief of the Treasury Section of the Finance Ministry, 1927
Chief of the Foreign Exchange Bureau of the Finance Ministry, 1933
Chief of the Finance Bureau of the Finance Ministry, 1934-36
Vice-President of the Manchurian Affairs Board, 1936-37
Vice-President of the Cabinet Planning Board, December 1937-1939
President of the Cabinet Planning Board, January 1939 1/
Finance Minister in the ABE Cabinet and concurrently President of the Cabinet Planning Board, August 1939 - January 1940
Supreme Adviser to the Nanking Government, 1940-42 4/
Minister without Portfolio in the TOJO Cabinet, September - November 1942 5/
Concurrently Vice-President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, September 1942 6/
Member of the House of Peers, September 1942, 10/
Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs in the TOJO Cabinet, November 1942- July 1944 4/
Adviser to the Greater East Asia Ministry, August 1944 6/
Adviser to the Finance Ministry, August 1944 4/
Adviser to the Dai Nippon Seijikai, 1 June 1945
Member of the Extraordinary Wartime Measures Law Committee, 29 June 1945 6/

SECRET

13

FEB 18 REC'D

(80438)

Comments AOKI joined the Finance Ministry after his graduation from Tokyo Imperial University in German Law.^{2/} Among his classmates entering the Finance Ministry at the same time were KAYA Okinori and ISHIWATA Sotaro, both later Finance Ministers, and HOSHINO Naoki who became President of the Cabinet Planning Board in 1940.^{7/}

After a career in various subordinate positions in the Finance Ministry he was appointed Vice-President of the Manchurian Affairs Board in 1936. It is at this time that he is reported to have worked closely with TOJO Hideki, then Chief of the Gendarmerie Headquarters, Chief of the Kwantung Police and Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army in Manchuria.^{8/}

In December 1937 AOKI was appointed Vice-President of the Cabinet Planning Board.^{1/} In this capacity he was sent, in October 1938, to Shanghai to evaluate the government investments in the Central China Reconstruction Company which was to be organized the following month.^{7/}

In February 1939 AOKI is reported in Chuo Koron as being the most important of the finance bureaucrats, but the article adds that there were indications that he was not one who would take orders and faithfully carry them out. It was for this reason, the article says, that AOKI was not appointed Finance Vice-Minister, even though he had the support of IKEDA, KAYA and ISHIWATA.^{9/} Nevertheless, with the formation of the HIRANUMA Cabinet, AOKI was appointed President of the Cabinet Planning Board ^{7/} succeeding TAKI Masao.^{8/}

In August 1939 AOKI was appointed Finance Minister in the new ABE Cabinet. In his first statement he declared that "because of the entangled international situation, the aim of the new government must be the augmentation of the national defense economic power."^{7/} During this period he still held the position of President of the Cabinet Planning Board,^{4/} and according to one source, was called "the strongest man in the ABE government." Although he cut the Army and Navy budget demands in December 1939, one source calls him a "semi-militarist and expansionist, and a Greater Japan enthusiast." The same source in 1939 says that AOKI "fundamentally agreed with the Japanese military" but that he "remembers his arithmetic and considers it impossible to grant their demands."^{11/}

From April to December 1940 General ABE Nobuyuki was special ambassador to the Nanking Government ^{1/} and AOKI was his economic adviser. According to the Osaka Mainichi AOKI "played an important role in the formulation of the financial and economic policies" of the puppet government and "his contribution to the establishment of the Central Chupei Bank was highly praised."

Subsequently he was appointed Supreme Economic Adviser to the Nanking Government. In assuming this post he was to "assist HONDA Kumataro, Ambassador to Nanking, in promoting economic cooperation between Japan

Comments continued

and China, and the economic reconstruction of the latter."7/

When, in September 1942, TOJO reshuffled his cabinet and appointed TANI Masayuki to replace TOGO Shigenori as Foreign Minister, he appointed AOKI Kazuo as Minister of State without Portfolio.8/ The Tokyo radio at that time said that AOKI was expected to take charge of the projected Greater East Asia Ministry. His first statement to the press emphasized the need to "harmonize his work with the military administration."6/

Then, in the following November, he was duly appointed the first Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs. Again his first press conference stressed the "necessity for close cooperation between the government and the chief commander of the Japanese forces" saying that this was one of the reasons for the formation of the new ministry. "The building up of Greater East Asia is absolutely inseparable from continuance of the war," he said. His first act was to create a Greater East Asia Liaison Committee which he headed and which was composed of representatives of the Army, Navy, the various cabinet ministries and the Legislative bureau.8/ In addition he held numerous other posts in the Greater East Asia Ministry, including the chairmanship of the Asia Technical Development Commission.12/

AOKI took several trips as Greater East Asia Minister. In early 1943 he took an extensive trip through China and the Southern Regions; in July 1943 he visited Manchuria, inspecting the Chungsientao mining district, accompanied by LI Shao-keng and HANAWA Yoshiyuke, both diplomats in Manchuria; from 19 August 1943 to 5 September 1943 he travelled through Nanking, Shanghai, Peking, Kalgan, Dairen and Hsinking. As Minister of Greater East Asia Affairs on 28 March 1944 he called on WANG Ching-wei, who at that time was convalescing in a Tokyo hospital. In May 1944, with SHIGEMITSU Mamoru, he was scheduled to attend a meeting of the Great Japan Buddhists Association.

The 'first Order of Merit and the Order of the Sacred Treasure were awarded to AOKI by the Emperor on 14 June 1944.6/

When the TOJO Cabinet fell in July 1944 AOKI resigned along with the other ministers.

The following month AOKI was appointed an adviser to the Greater East Asia Ministry and to the Finance Ministry.4/

On 1 June 1945 AOKI was named adviser to the recently formed Dai Nippon Seijikai.

On 29 June 1945 he was appointed to the new Extraordinary Wartime Measures Law Committee.6/

One source believed, in 1942, that AOKI was "liberal and possibly even friendly towards the United States;" source felt that at the time "many

Comments continued

Japanese who oppose the present war as a suicidal policy nevertheless feel that they now have no other choice but to support the war effort."^{13/} But according to another source AOKI is regarded as a TOJO 'yes-man'."^{8/} A third source terms him "a favourite of the Kwantung Army Clique."

AOKI is reported to be a foreign exchange expert, and while he was a finance official, he modelled his exchange control on the Nazi system."^{14/}

According to the Osaka Mainichi AOKI is known for his tenacity. "This quality has enabled him to accomplish anything he has decided to do. In this sense, he is trusted by persons knowing him," the paper says."^{7/}

Summary AOKI Kazuo is a career Finance Ministry official who has played an important part in Japan's domestic, economic and financial affairs as well as in similar aspects of Japan's program of continental expansion. He joined the TOJO Cabinet in 1942 as the first Greater East Asia Minister, a position which he held until the fall of the cabinet in 1944. Since that time his activities have been confined to an advisory rather than an administrative capacity.

Sources

- 1/ Who's Whos (English Language)
- 2/ Shokugyo-betsu Chosa-roku, 1939
- 3/ Jinji Koshin-roku, 1938
- 4/ OSS Source X
- 5/ OSS Source S
- 6/ Enemy broadcasts
- 7/ Osaka Mainichi
- 8/ Washington Post, 2 November 1942
- 9/ Chuo Koron, February 1939
- 10/ Domei Year Book, September 1942
- 11/ China Weekly Review, 23 December 1939
- 12/ OSS Source K
- 13/ OSS Source T, 1942
- 14/ OSS BR-W

THIS RECORD IS A SUMMARY OF SUCH INTELLIGENCE (FROM ONE OR MORE SOURCES AS INDICATED) AS WAS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PREPARATION. IT MAY CONSEQUENTLY BE SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT BY ADDITIONAL OR MORE RECENT INTELLIGENCE. INDEX NUMBERS AND LETTERS ARE SOLELY FOR INDEXING STATEMENTS IN THE REPORT.

SECRET

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 506

15 February 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

Title and Nature: Letter from Admiral OKADA to Prince KONOYE.

Date: Aug. 13, 1943 Original ☒ Copy ☐ Language: Jap.
Has it been translated? Yes ☒ NO ☐
Has it been photostated? Yes ☐ No ☒

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of
Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Prince KONOYE's residence

PERSONS IMPLICATED: KONOYE, OKADA, TOJO, SUZUKI, AOKI,
HIRANUMA, YONAI, OKADA, KAYA, SHIGEMITSU,
HIROTA, ABE, HARA, WAKATSUKI

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

Illegal Warfare

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page reference):

Due to the fact that "the present situation is truly grave and the future of our country greatly concerns us all" and since he believes "that it is the duty of the Elder Statesman to intinately talk to the Prime Minister and other Ministers concerned, OKADA proposes to KONOYE that the elder statesmen have a luncheon for the Prime Minister, SUZUKI, KAYA, AOKI and SHIGEMITSU on Aug. 30, 1943 at the Peers Club.

According to USHIBA, KONOYE's secretary such a meeting was held.

Doc. No. 506

INTERROGATION OF

Kasuo Aoki

Date and Time: 14 February 1946, 1000-1130 Hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : Kasuo Aoki
Valentine C. Hammack, Interrogator
Tatsuo Fujii, Interpreter
Ruth F. Anderson, Stenographer

Questions by : Mr. Hammack

BY MR. HAMMACK: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you in this proceeding?

BY MR. FUJII: I do.

Q. What is your name?

A. AOKI, Kasuo.

Q. When were you born, Mr. Aoki?

A. 28th of November 1889.

Q. What university did you attend?

A. I graduated from the Imperial University of Tokyo, Law Division, in 1916.

Q. And did you study any other subjects besides law?

A. Only law.

Q. And are you a lawyer, Mr. Aoki, by profession?

A. No, I never did become a lawyer. Immediately upon graduation I became a Minister of Finance.

Q. Then you were connected with the Japanese Embassy in England, were you not, Mr. Aoki?

A. September 1917, I became secretary to the Finance Commissioner to London. A secretary to the Finance Commissioner and also Attache of Finance, - Finance Attache to the Japanese Embassy in London.

14 Feb 1946

Q. How long did you hold that position, Mr. Aoki?

A. I held that position until the end of 1920 and returned to Japan in January 1921.

Q. What position did you hold upon your return to Japan?

A. I was attached to the Finance Ministry as one of the secretaries.

(Interpreter: The Japanese word is "Jimukan." That is one of the offices in the Finance Ministry.)

Q. What does that Japanese word mean?

A. It is the fifth one down the line. You have your financial men and then your various other officers.

(By Mr. Aoki in English: I will explain in English. Head Minister, Vice Minister, Chief of Bureau, Chief of Section -)

Q. And you were the fifth one down the line at that time?

A. Chief of Secretarial Section.

Q. Then in 1926 you were Chief of the Secretarial Section of the Finance Ministers Office, were you not?

A. In 1926 I became the Chief of the Personnel Bureau Section.

Q. And what was your position in 1927?

A. In 1927 I also held in conjunction with the previous position, the position Chief of the Investment Section for the government Postal Savings Fund.

Q. And in 1934 and 1936 you were director of the Finance Bureau, is that not correct, Mr. Aoki?

A. Yes.

Q. And then in 1936 and 1937 you were vice president of the Manchurian Affairs Board, is that correct, Mr. Aoki?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. What were the duties of the Manchurian Affairs Board, Mr. Aoki?