

2-235

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1941

- 0029 o VX for YAMAMOTO of /YSHI/. Then seems to have FUJITA instead. "The master (Y) is out." VX has something on his mind, but apparently decides not to tell FUJITA. He asks him to have Y. call him when he returns.
- 0034 i From (KAWA, HARA, ZAWAT) to VX who wants to see him for a minute. Y is busy, how about next week. /Long pause/. VX—"If /the round trip/ takes only about 20 minutes couldn't you come?" He finally will, but it has taken a great deal of persuasion, and he is obviously reluctant for he is alone, it being Saturday.
- 0035 o to SATO (SAITO) from VX who says he wants to have a conference about the recent delgoda ogikawa's recent request /don't get it. Do you?/
- 0045 o VX to OL VX has been talking to YAMAMOTO about there being practically no mail (or possibly yeast. Much confusion about this word. Might also mean orientation, display, a good thing, good news, a bait, a tempting offer) in town. (Y. brought up the question.) Discuss the problem of the difficulties of the J. here.
- 1026 i From ONODA of the Sumitomo Bank to VX inviting him to a meal or something tomorrow. VX is busy except for lunch (There are some others coming, XX and Harada, not many). Can VX come to his place about 1 pm. VX can and will. /Line very noisy/.

End

2-236

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1941

No activity

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1941

No activity

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1941

No activity

Discontinued

HEWITT INQUIRY EXHIBIT No. 39

69512—IC

(J) Hello, is this Mori?

(H) Hello, this is Mori.

(J) I am sorry to have troubled you. Thank you very much.

(H) Not at all.

(J) I received your telegram and was able to grasp the essential points. I would like to have your impressions on the conditions you are observing at present. Are airplanes flying daily?

[Handwritten in margin:] Prompted. Reluctant hesitation.

(H) Yes, lots of them fly around.

(J) Are they large planes?

(H) Yes, they are quite big.

(J) Are they flying from morning till night?

(H) Well, not to that extent, but last week they were quite active in the air.

(J) I hear there are many sailors there, is that right?

(H) There aren't so many now. There were more in the beginning part of this year and the ending part of last year.

(J) Is that so?

[2] (H) I do not know why this is so, but it appears that there are very few sailors here at present.

(J) Are any Japanese people there holding meeting to discuss US-Japanese negotiations being conducted presently?

(H) No, not particularly. The minds of the Japa- here appear calmer than expected. They are getting along harmoniously.

(J) Don't the American community look with suspicion on the Japanese?

(H) Well, we hardly notice any of them looking on us with suspicion. This fact is rather unexpected. We are not hated or despised. The soldiers here and we get along very well. All races are living in harmony. It appears that the people who come here change to feel like the rest of the people here. There are some who say odd things, but these are limited to newcomers from the mainland, and after staying here from three to six months, they too begin to think and feel like the rest of the people in the islands.

(J) That's fine.

(H) Yes, it's fine, but we feel a bit amazed.

(J) Has there been any increase in . . . ? . . . of late? That is, as a result of the current tense situation.

[3] (H) There is nothing which stands out, but the city is enjoying a war building boom.

(J) What do you mean by enjoying a war building boom?

(H) Well, a boom in many fields. Although there is no munitions industry here engaged in by the army, civilian workers are building houses for the army personnel. Most of the work here is directed towards building houses of various sorts. There are not enough carpenters, electricians and plumbers. Students at the High School and University have quit school and are working on these jobs, regardless of the fact that they are unskilled in this work.

(J) Are there many big factories there?

(H) No, there are no factories, but a lot of small buildings of various kinds are being constructed.

(J) Is that so?

[Handwritten in margin:] Great surprise at J. end?

(H) It is said that the population of Honolulu has doubled that of last year.

(J) How large is the population?

(H) The population increase is due to the present influx of Army and Navy personnel and workers from the mainland.

(J) What is the population?

(H) About 200,000 to 240,000. Formerly there were about 150,000 people.

(J) What about night time?

(H) There seem to be precautionary measures taken.

(J) What about searchlights?

(H) Well, not much to talk about. Strikes attention.

[4] (J) Do they put searchlights on when planes fly about at night?

(H) No.

(J) What about the Honolulu newspapers?

(H) The comments by the papers are very bad. They are opposite to the atmosphere pervading the city. I don't know whether the newspaper is supposed to lead the community or not, but they carry headlines pertaining to Japan daily. The main articles concern the Japanese conferences.

[Handwritten in the margin:] Then they discuss the Southern advance [of Japanese into French Indo-China] every day.

(J) What kind of impression did Mr. Kurusu make in Hawaii?

(H) A very good one. Mr. Kurusu understands the American mind, and he was very adept at answering queries of the press.

(J) Are there any Japanese people there who are planning to evacuate Hawaii?

(H) There are almost none wishing to do that.

(J) What is the climate there now?

[Handwritten in the margin:] Seemed not to understand the question about climate.

(H) These last few days have been very cold with occasional rainfall, a phenomena very rare in Hawaii. Today, the wind is blowing very strongly, a very unusual climate recently.

[Handwritten in the margin:] Long delay.

(J) Is that so?

(H) Here is something interesting. Litvinoff, the Russian ambassador to the United States, arrived here yesterday. I believe he explained for the mainland today. He made no statements on any problems.

(J) Did he make any statements concerning the US-Japan question?

[5] (H) No. Not only did he not say anything regarding the US-Japan question, he also did not mention anything pertaining to the Russo-German war.

It appears he was ordered by his government not to make any statement.

(J) Well, that means he was very different from Mr. Kurusu.

(H) Yes.

(J) What kind of impression did Litvinoff make?

(H) A very good one here. He impressed the people as being very quiet and a gentleman.

(J) Did he stop at the same hotel as Mr. Kurusu?

(H) Yes, at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel overnight. He has already enplaned for the mainland.

(J) Do you know anything about the United States fleet?

[Handwritten in margin:] M[ori] tries never to hear about the fleet.

(H) No, I don't know anything about the fleet. Since we try to avoid talking about such matters, we do not know much about the fleet. At any rate, the fleet here seems small. I don't [know whether] all of the fleet has done this, but it seems that the fleet has left here.

(J) Is that so? What kind of flowers are in bloom in Hawaii at present?

(H) Presently, the flowers in bloom are fewest out of the whole year. However, the hibiscus and the poinsettia are in bloom now.

[Handwritten in margin:] Red Christmas flower with long stems [explanation of poinsettia omitted in translation].

* (J) Does not seem to know about poinsettias. He admits he doesn't know.

(J) Do you feel any inconvenience there due to the suspension of importation of Japanese goods?

[6] (H) Yes, we feel the inconvenience very much. There are no Japanese soy, and many other foodstuffs which come from Japan. Although there are enough foodstuffs (Japanese) left in stock to last until February of next year, at any rate it is a big inconvenience.

(J) What do you lack most?

(H) I believe the soy is what everyone is worried about most. Since the freeze order is in force, the merchants who have been dealing in Japanese goods are having a hard time.

[Handwritten in margin:] (J) has a hard time understanding sake (repeats 4 times).

(J) Thanks very much.

(H) By the way, here is something interesting about Hawaii. Liquor sells very fast due to the boom here. The United States, which twenty years ago went under prohibition, is today flooded by liquor. British and French liquors are also being sold. The Japanese merchants, whose business came to a standstill due to the suspension of importation of Japanese goods, engage in liquor manufacture. The rice from the United States is used in brewing Japanese sake here, and the sake is exported back to the mainland.

[Handwritten in margin:] (J) is surprised that British liquor came in.

[Handwritten in margin:] Taishō jijūsho Takagishi (understood as Takaguchi) repeated 5 or 6 times. Sake is in style here, but there is no kazu-no-ko. Last year there was everything.

(H) explains that the Japanese sake brewed in Honolulu is called "Takara-Masamume"; that a person named Takagishi was the technical expert in charge of the brewing; that said Takagishi is a son-in-law of Grand Chamberlain Hyakutake, being married to the latter's daughter; and that said Takagishi returned recently to Japan on the Taiye Maru. He adds that Japanese here and the Americans also drink sake. He informs (J) that Japanese chrysanthemums are in full bloom here, and that there are no herring-roes for this year's New Year celebration.

[Handwritten in margin:] Who is this "he"—Ogawa? Presumably it is.

(J) How many first generation Japanese are there in Hawaii according to last surveys made?

[7] (H) About fifty thousand.

(J) How about the second generation Japanese?

(H) About 120,000 or 130,000.

(J) How many out of this number of second generation Japanese are in the United States Army?

(H) There aren't so many up to the present. About 1,500 have entered the army, and the majority of those who have been drafted into the army are Japanese.

(J) Any first generation Japanese in the army?

(H) No. They do not draft any first generation Japanese.

(J) Is that right, that there are 1,500 in the army?

(H) Yes, that is true up to the present, but may increase since more will be inducted in January.

(J) Thank you very much.

(H) Not at all. I'm sorry I couldn't be of much use.

(J) Oh no, that was fine. Best regards to your wife.

(H) Wait a moment please?

(J) Thank you.

(J) Off phone.

[Handwritten in margin:] Tried to raise Tōkyō again.

HEWITT INQUIRY EXHIBIT No. 40

TWO REPORTS, SUBJECT JAPANESE CONSULATE, HONOLULU—
ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES.

UNITED STATES NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Confidential

Subject: JAPANESE CONSULATE, HONOLULU—Espionage Activities

Report made at: Honolulu, T. H., 11th Naval District. Date: 9 Feb., 1942

Report made by: Lt. George P. Kiehall, USNR, and Lt. (jg) W. R. Stephenson, USNR

Period covered: 5 Dec., 1941—9 Feb., 1942. Status of Case: Pending in LIND.

Origin of Case: Receipt by DIO-LIND of various encrypted messages sent by Japanese Consul General, Honolulu, to Foreign Office, Tokyo, and Japanese Ambassador, Washington.

Character of Investigation: Espionage.

Enclosures: (See first page of details)

References:

Copy to: ONI (5) LIND (3)
CINCPac (1)
Com14 (1)
PRT-Hon (2)
MID-HD (2)

Source File No.: LIND #644. ONI File No.:

Synopsis.—On 3 December, 1941, the Japanese Consul General, Honolulu, transmitted by encrypted despatch to Tokyo a system of signalling by lights, cloths, fire, and radio (presumably to communicate with Japanese ships at sea, near the Hawaiian Islands), which signals would be used to announce the departure of U. S. Naval units from Pearl Harbor. The system was conceived, and submitted to the Consulate, by Otto KUEHN, a German subject and ex-officer of the Germany Navy. Evidence indicates all observation and reporting of ship dispositions and movements at Pearl Harbor was done by Consulate attaché or contacts (including, in at least one instance, KUEHN).

Other than suspicious lights (not conforming to the signal system) seen at night on the island of Maui, subsequent to 7 December, 1941, no evidence has been found that KUEHN's signal system ever was employed.

The decoded body of the despatch of 3 December gave the sender's name as FUJII and the addressee as Chief of Third Section, Naval General Staff. Efforts to identify FUJII have so far been unavailing.

KUEHN, who has been in custodial detention since 8 December, 1941, will be charged with espionage and be tried by the Military Commission.

Deductions: Japanese naval espionage in Honolulu prior to 7 December, 1941, was carried on by Consulate attaché and contacts, among whom was Otto KUEHN, a German subject.

Approved.

I. H. MATFIELD
Captain, U. S. Navy
District Intelligence Officer.