

July 18, 1957

Korean Mission in Japan, Report on Iron Smuggling

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Summary:

Report on the possible army or police connection to the smuggling of iron and metal scrap to Japan.

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I was given the information when I was in Seoul that our
no army officers were connected in the smuggling of iron and metal
scrap to Japan.

After my return to Tokyo, I entrusted the job of investigating
the matter to my Japanese contact, who in turn sent his own
trusted man to Izuhara, Tsushima to investigate it.

This morning I was informed that the man had returned. His report
was that all the men had in their possession certificates that they
were crew members. However, because police officers were involved
in it he could not investigate deep into the matter.

When Mr. Park called this afternoon he told me that the men
were being returned to Korea.

I have learned that such big smuggling cases cannot be carried out
with our army and police being directly involved. It is imperative
that our government enforce strong measures to prevent these prohibited
items from being smuggled out of Korea. Also in the issuance of
certificates for crew members, we should be careful.

The reason why I used a Jap to investigate the matter ^{was} because I felt
that in such matters a reliable Jap would be better than a Korean;
also a Jap would be better able to mix and gather the information.

*This certificate is
issued by an office
of Maritime Affairs. It
is inconclusive. It
This is a bad case
has to be investigated.*