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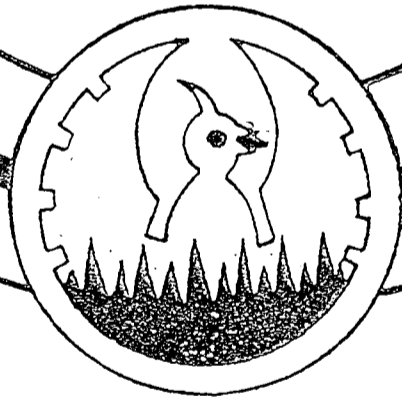
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PSYCHOLOGICAL  
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SOUTH - EAST ASIA TRANSLATION AND INTERROGATION CENTER

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Note.

'Identifications given in brackets by Translator in this Bulletin, e.g. YUMI 6823 (TN: 214 Inf Regt) are taken from "Detailed Order of Battle of the Japanese Armed Forces in Burma" prepared by GSI (a) ALFSEA. Where the identifications are marked with an asterisk, they are taken from documents or PW reports previously received by SEATIC or from 14 Army Intelligence Reports.'

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Source: Interrogation of PW by SEATIC under the direction of USOW:  
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(Ref SEATIC Bulletin No. 147, Item 1546, for Page 19  
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At the time, THAILAND had ample supplies of cheap leather goods. With the Japanese entry, in the course of a year stocks were almost exhausted and the prices were ridiculously high. The Thais stopped selling leather goods to the Japanese except in exchange for some necessities. As in BURMA, many among the middle and lower classes began to have a hard time, and as a result many of the Thai married women started being prostitutes. Whenever the Japanese speak about THAILAND, they never fail to mention Thai girls and the case of leather goods. There is a rumor to the effect that a Thai spy was arrested somewhere near the Isthmus of KRA spying on military installations, and he disclosed that THAILAND would declare war against JAPAN in 1945. The only support that the Japanese were getting from the Thais was through flattery or force.

#### Relations Between the People of MALAYA and the Japanese

The Japanese could have received strong financial and labour support from the Chinese residents of SINGAPORE if they had treated them carefully and won their favour. But the Japanese have made a mess of relations with the Malayan Chinese. The Japanese made the irrevocable mistake of treating the Chinese in MALAYA the same way they treated the people of CHINA. Most of the rich and prominent Chinese are Malay-born and have had good Western educations. Most of them are not as patriotic for CHINA as are the China-born, nor are they so strongly anti-Japanese. Soon after the occupation by the Japanese, all of the Chinese were concentrated (except for the women and children). I have heard that some of them were confined without food for two or three days. The concentration of Chinese was carried out to pick out the undesirable characters (communists and anti-Japanese), but the concentrations were so large that it was not always possible to do this properly. In some areas the officials were lenient and kind and released most of the Chinese, but some of the Japanese officials carried out their duties in disorderly and irresponsible ways. Some of the Chinese were classified as "undesirable" simply because they had bad features. It was said that some of the Japanese officials marked the concentrated Chinese either "O" or "X", the "X's" being considered undesirable. In this way hundreds were taken away as undesirable and have never returned. Rumour says that all of these "Undesirables" have been killed. I am certain that there were many innocent people among these Chinese.

The Japanese had wrong ideas about the Chinese in the beginning and they thought they could do as they pleased with the Chinese. They confiscated the properties of the Chinese, raped their girls, and frequently slapped or beat the Chinese for nothing. The Chinese had a very bad time, especially when they were away from their homes during concentration; this gave the Indian and Malayan looters a chance to devastate the homes of the Chinese. The nicest furniture and cars were confiscated without orders by some of the young Japanese officers and soldiers. By terrorising the Chinese, the Japanese deepened the animosity of the Chinese toward them and turned many of those who previously did not have anti-Japanese feelings into haters of the Japanese. The Japanese thought they had been successful in making the Chinese timid, not realising that they have merely increased the animosity which the Chinese feel toward them. Although the Chinese may cooperate with the Japanese out of fear or economic necessity they would never

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do so willingly. Even now there is absolutely no security for the Chinese. When the doorbell rings after dark, they have to fear Japanese MPs or drunken soldiers. I have seen with my own eyes Japanese young officers and soldiers raiding Chinese homes where they thought they could get some young Chinese girls.

In KUALA LUMPUR, a Chinese friend of mine received a 24 hour notice from the Military to remove from his house, and after he moved the house was turned into a restaurant for officers. Many Chinese say that they could be content if their houses were used for some useful purpose but regret very much when their houses are turned into restaurants or comfort houses.

Once I came across a young Chinese dancer in SINGAPORE who could speak English fluently. She told me how she took up dancing after her formerly wealthy father had been taken away by the Japanese authorities as undesirable, and never came back. Her father's property was confiscated by the Japanese and her mother died of a nervous breakdown. There are many such tragic stories concerning the Japanese which made even me hate them.

Relations of the Indians in MALAYA with the Japanese

It seemed that the Indians had very little trouble with the Japanese in the beginning. With good propaganda the Japanese worked carefully a program for organizing the Indian Independence League and the INA under the leadership of Chandra Bose. Indian PWs were released on parole and handed over to the INA. The Japanese propaganda worked out well and proved to be a success. The simple-minded Indians were flattered. They devoted much of their interests and energy to the IIL. Despite this, however, there were frequent disputes among the Indians and allegations regarding lack of support on the part of the Indians. It is interesting to quote Bose's address to the Indian mass meeting at SINGAPORE when he said that he regretted to find that there were still many Indians who believed that the British and Americans would come back and dominate the occupied territories.

When the League and INA were organized many Indian coolies joined the INA and the League with a certain amount of patriotic feeling, but mainly because of assurance of a sure living. This deprived the Japanese of Indian labour and was a blow to reconstruction work. The first real support and cooperation the Japanese got from the Indians was in the IMPHAL and KOHIMA operations. This great defeat together with knowledge of the fact that many of the INA went over to the British must have affected the morale of the Indians very much.

Relations of the Malays with the Japanese.

The Malaysians are lazy and always on the lookout for easy work. Mostly they had favorable feelings toward the Japanese. Actually they had little power, though, and the Japanese could not expect much help from them.

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