

# FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T  
REPORT/CONTINUED CONTROL

COUNTRY Japan/USSR  
 A/NIC Comments on the Deaths of Prince  
 KENKE Fumitaka and KARASAMA in the  
 USSR  
 REPORT NO. 31 January 1957  
 DATE OF REPORT  
 NO. OF PAGES 4  
 REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. Prior to October 1956  
 DATE OF INFO. ACC.  
 DATE OF INFO. ACC.  
 COMMENTS

- KARASAMA (Gm),<sup>1</sup> a Japanese military surgeon and bacteriologist who was captured by the Soviets at the end of World War II, was head of the USSR Detachment, a medical unit specializing in field bacteriology which was attached to the Kwantung Army of Japan in Manchuria toward the close of World War II. KARASAMA supervised the bacteriological research conducted by this unit.<sup>2</sup> KARASAMA, early during his internment by the Soviets, was tried and convicted of having engaged in bacteriological warfare in Manchuria. He was sentenced to twenty years' confinement and was serving his term at Ivanovo.<sup>3</sup> After his trial, KARASAMA became noticeably dispirited and beginning in the spring of 1954 began to complain of failing health. Being a physician, he diagnosed himself, concluding that his disease was cancer of the stomach. Shortly thereafter, the Soviets reopened his case for investigation and called him out for reinterrogation regularly once or twice a month. On 16 October 1956, KARASAMA was absent from the roll call of the Japanese prisoners at Ivanovo. Shortly thereafter, Prince KENKE Fumitaka, also interned at Ivanovo, had the opportunity to see the body of KARASAMA, who
- After witnessing KARASAMA's body, KENKE was unable to sleep for two or three days, and soon began to complain of aches in the shoulders and neck. The only person attending KENKE at this time was YOSHIDA Takeji,<sup>4</sup> his cellmate. No one other than YOSHIDA came near KENKE during this period, not even Soviet personnel.<sup>5</sup> On 26 October 1956, KENKE's condition became more serious; he had high blood pressure and was suffering from a kidney inflammation. On the morning of 29 October 1956, KENKE's illness suddenly became more serious, and he died shortly thereafter.
- NOHARA Shimizu,<sup>6</sup> a Japanese former army major and military surgeon who was repatriated from the USSR in December 1956, attended the autopsy performed on Prince KENKE's remains by Soviet surgeons. NOHARA agreed with the findings of the Soviet autopsy, which established that death had been caused by a carcinoma of the stomach.
- Many of the repatriates who returned to Japan on 26 December 1956 doubt the

S-E-C-R-E-T  
REPORT/CONTINUED CONTROL

DISTRIBUTION

FOR

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
 (2)(A) Privacy ☐  
 (2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
 (2)(G) Foreign Relations ☒

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

classified  
 by the Central Intelligence Agency  
 Date: 2001