

On the Recruitment of Prostitutes for “comfort stations” of the North China Expeditionary Army, no. 2

Author: Governor of Miyagi Prefecture

Recipients: Nobumasa Suetsugu (Minister of Home Affairs); Prefectural Governors; and Chiefs of Prefectural Police Departments

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Annotation by Hye-in Han, Ph.D. Researcher, Sungkyunkwan University

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*Translated the original text with editing and added supplementary explanation.

Annotation:

Similarly to the abovementioned letter from the Governor of Kochi Prefecture to the Minister of the Home Affairs, this document is a letter from the Governor of Miyagi Prefecture to the Minister of Home Affairs and relevant local authorities, reporting on the potential illegal recruitment activities. What is notable in this letter is that the target age group changed from women aged 16 to 30 to 20 to 35. This indicates that the military acknowledged the illegality of the recruitment activities heretofore conducted, hence, revised the recruitment criteria to make it legal. In the letter, the Governor of Miyagi Prefecture requested that a rapid report be made in the event of an illegal recruitment activity.

The gist of the letter is as follows: Murakami, a broker in the district, received a request from another broker named Hasegawa in Fukushima Prefecture to recruit approximately 30 prostitutes aged between 20 and 35 with an advance payment of 600 yen. Hasegawa was told that Murakami was not willing to fulfill the request.

Sources:

WAM Collection (Police_010)

Collection of the Asian Women's Fund, Vol. 1, pp. 53-54.

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, p. 130.

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