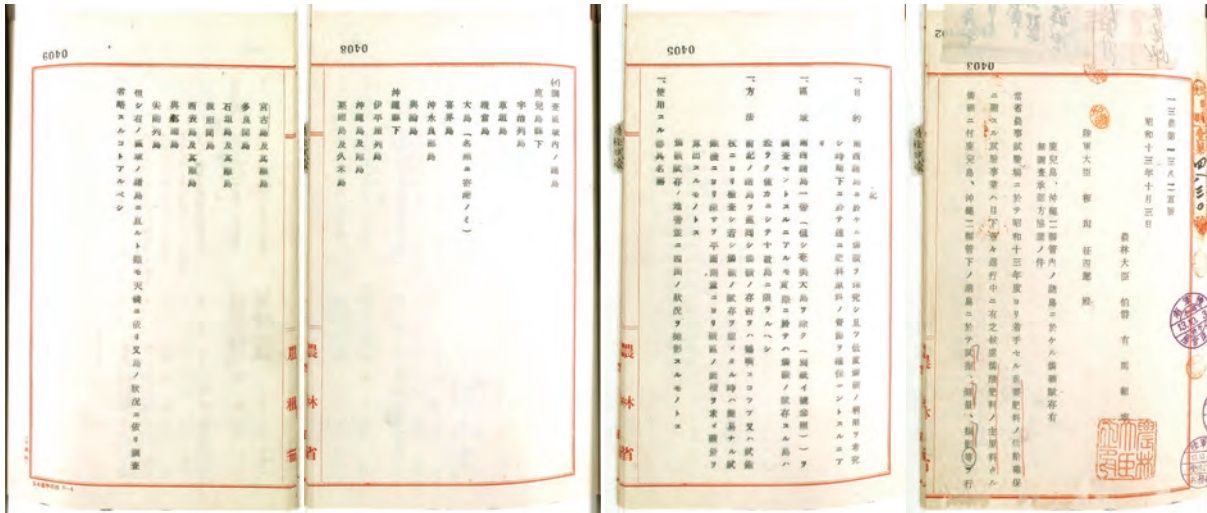


Period III (3) – i. Surveys by administrative agencies and administrative publications

Documents on the planning of the resource survey by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (the target region for the survey was the Senkaku Islands)
No.33 On the matter of consultation for approval to conduct a survey on the presence of phosphate reserves on the islands under the jurisdiction of Kagoshima and Okinawa Prefectures October 3, 1938

NEW



Repository: National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense

Overview

A consultation request from the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry to the Minister of the Army concerning a survey on phosphate reserves in Kagoshima and Okinawa Prefectures. A plan for conducting the survey on phosphate reserves, presumably prepared by the Agricultural Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, is appended to the document.

The plan specifies the objectives of the survey, target regions, methods, equipment, period, and vessels. The Senkaku Islands are included among the target regions for the survey.

* The resources survey by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on the Senkaku Islands was implemented by a total of 14 people, including assistant engineers from the Agricultural Research Institute, Jun KOBAYASHI, Naoyuki TAKAHASHI, and others, as well as Tsutomu MASAKI, a technician from the Ishigaki Island Meteorological Office. They departed from Ishigaki Port on May 23, 1939, landed on Uotsuri Island on the same day, and conducted the survey on the Senkaku Islands until their departure from Taisho Island on June 3. After the survey was concluded, MASAKI contributed a report titled "Exploring the Senkaku Islands" in the publication *Collecting and Breeding*. (Senkaku Islands Archives Portal: S1941040000103).

Excerpt [English translation]

On the matter of consultation for approval to conduct a survey on the presence of phosphate reserves on the islands under the jurisdiction of Kagoshima and Okinawa Prefectures

The experimental project on the supply and securing of important fertilizers, which was commenced in FY1938 at the Agricultural Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, has been progressing steadily. With regard to mineral phosphate, which is the main raw material for phosphate fertilizer, prospecting, measurement, and photography are planned to be carried out on the islands under the jurisdiction of Kagoshima and Okinawa prefectures [text omitted].

1. Purpose

To carry out prospecting for mineral phosphate on the Nansei Islands and study the low-degree use of mineral phosphate, as well as to promptly secure resources for fertilizer materials under the current severe circumstances.
(text omitted)

(b) Islands included within the survey region
(text omitted)

Under the jurisdiction of Okinawa Prefecture
(text omitted)
Senkaku Islands

Although the survey plans to cover the islands in the aforementioned region, the implementation of the survey may be foregone depending on the weather or conditions on the islands.

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