

## Land Reform in Japan

Ricardo Lagos

Japanese authorities presented a mild land reform project to military officers in November 1945. It was rejected by SCAP (Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers). SCAP on December 9 1945 instructed the Japanese Government to present a new program on Land Reform before March 15, 1946.

Finally, a bill was approved on October 21, 1946 and only because the insistence of SCAP. The basic idea was that all absentee landlords will have to sell the land to the Government at the official 1938 prices. This according to all the authors that I have looked upon "was so low as to be almost confiscatory." Andrew Grad "Land Reform in Japan" Pacific Affairs vol. XXI No 2 June 1948 p. 123. See also:

Grant Goodman (compiler) The American Occupation in Japan: a retrospective view especially p. 16; Ronal Dore, Land Reform in Japan (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1959, p. 139); Yasno Kondo, The Land Reform in Japan (Tokyo: National Research Institute of Agriculture) All these authors point out that what the landlords received was ten times less that what was the market value.

I am enclosing some pages of Jerome B. Cohen Japan's Economy in War and Reconstruction (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 1949) . In connection was with the Land Reform see p. 444.

With reference to the industrial sector it is interesting to note what it is said in p. 427 ff, especially p. 428 on a new tax "designed to eliminate and recapture all profits, corporate and individual, made during, in connection with and as result of the war." Moreover what appears on p. 432 it seems to me that go against the principle that laws cannot be retroactive.

October 17, 1974

3802 03