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NATIONAL DISASTER LAW (LAW NO. 118)

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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FH&W GH<sub>q</sub> SCAP AFO 500

JANUARY 1948

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1. Purpose

a. The purpose of Law No. 118 is to provide for the Japanese people, in time of disaster, immediate and adequate relief.

b. The plan projected by Japanese officials calls for a single governmental agency, at cabinet level, to include the Prime Minister; Ministers of Welfare, Home, Agriculture and Forestry, Transportation, Commerce and Industry, and Finance; and the President of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

c. The activities of the single overall national level agency will include:

(1) Planning at national level; relief plans to mitigate suffering caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, earthquakes, tidal waves and other calamities.

(2) Initiation and enforcement enabling legislation for the effectuation of disaster relief programs.

(3) Making available at prefectural levels, necessary supplies and services to enable the prefectures to take immediate action in time of disaster when the local supplies in prefectures are inadequate.

(4) Utilization of the prefectural governments, by national direction, to assume responsibility for relief in time of disaster by providing quick, efficient and adequate relief to sufferers.

(5) Action as the liaison agency to receive and pass on to interested sections of SCAP all information and problems bearing on actual operations.

(6) Provision of adequate warning systems.

(7) Provision of funds at national level to adequately meet the needs of disaster.

2. Central disaster Relief Planning Board

a. The Central Disaster Relief Planning Board is composed of the

Prime Minister and all of the ministers of the Cabinet. It is the Board's duty to study the effects of all past disasters, and their affect upon the people and the economy of the country, and to make plans for the alleviation of suffering caused by future disasters.

b. Their duties are listed in paragraph 1 c, above.

c. The Central Disaster Relief Board is composed of the following members:

- Prime Minister, Chairman
- Welfare Minister, Vice-Chairman
- Home Minister, Member
- Finance Minister, Member
- Agriculture & Forestry Minister, Member
- Commerce & Industry Minister, Member
- Transportation Minister, Member
- Communication Minister, Member
- Labor Minister, Member
- President of Economic and Stabilization Board
- President of War Calamity Rehabilitation Board
- President, Japanese Red Cross Society
- Civilian Members (counter-parts of the above ministries)  
chosen from outstanding citizens who will assist the government in time of disaster.

3. Working Committee of the Central Disaster Relief Board.

a. The Working Committee of the board is created for the purpose of facilitating the rapid movement of supplies and services. It is composed of bureau chiefs, and their assistants, of the various ministries. Prefectural officials may contact the Working Committee directly in time of disaster.

b. The Working Committee of the Central Disaster Relief Board is composed of the following:

List of Members of the Working Committee of the National Disaster Relief Planning Board

20th Nov., 1947

| Ministry or Board             | Occupation                             | Name            | Occupation                        | Name              |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| General Affairs Board         | Official of De-liberation Section      | TAGAMI, Tatsuo  | Official of Delib-eration Section | KONO, Shizuo      |
| Economic Stabiliza-tion Board | Vice-Director of Production Bureau     | ISHIHARA, Takeo | Chief of Supply Section           | IMAI, Yoshie      |
|                               | Director of Daily Life Supplies Bureau | SAKATA, Eiichi  | Chief of Welfare Section          | YASUDA Zeni-chiro |

|                                 |  |                    |                                   |                      |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Reconstruction Board            | Director of Construction Bureau        | Ito, Goro          | Chief of House Section            | TORII Stezo          |
|                                 | Director of Social Bureau              | KASAI, Yoshisuke   | Chief of Protection Section       | TAKADA, Masami       |
| Welfare                         |  |                    | Chief of Supplies Section         | HATAKENAKA, Jun-ichi |
| Ministry                        | Director of Medical Bureau             | AZUMA, Ryutaro     | Chief of Medicine Section         | KAMIYA, Hideo        |
|                                 | Director of Prevention Bureau          | HAMANO, KIKUO      | Chief of Prevention Section       | ISHIBASKI Ukichi     |
|                                 | Director of Police Bureau              | HISAYAMA, Hideo    | Chief of Public Safe Section 1st. | MURAI, Jun           |
| Home                            |  |                    | Chief of Fire Section             | NAGANO, Minoru       |
| Ministry                        | Director of Prefectural Affairs Bureau | HAYASHI, Koizo     | Chief of General Affairs Section  | SHIBATA, Tatsuo      |
|                                 | Director of Country Bureau             | IRASAWA, Tadatsune | Chief of River Section            | MISHIMA, Toshimi     |
| Finance                         | Director of Budgetary Bureau           | FUKUDA, Takeo      | Chief of Budgetary Section 4th    | YOSHIOKA Eiichi      |
| Ministry                        | Director of Tax Bureau                 | MAIO, Shimesaburo  | Chief of Budgetary Section 1st.   | WAKIZAKA Minoru      |
|                                 | Director of Bank Bureau                | AICHI Kiichi       | Chief of Bank Section             | NISHIHARA, Naoyasu   |
| Agriculture & Forestry Ministry | Director of General Affairs Bureau     | HIRAKAWA Mamoru    | Chief of General Affairs Section  | OKUHARA, Hideto      |
| Commerce & Industry Ministry    | Director of General Affairs Bureau     | MARSUDA, Taro      | Chief of Supply Section           | NAGAYAMA, Tokio      |

|                                |  |                      |   |                       |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Transportation<br>Ministry     | Director of Business<br>Bureau                             | KAGAYAMA,<br>Yukio   | Chief of Gen-<br>eral Affairs<br>Section                | ISHII,<br>Akimasa     |
|                                | Director of Naviga-<br>tion Bureau                         | AKIYAMA,<br>Tatsushi | Chief of Sec-<br>retariat                               | TSUBOI,<br>Kurotake   |
|                                | Director of Land<br>Transportation Super-<br>vision Bureau | GONO,<br>Motohide    | Chief of Auto-<br>mobile Trans-<br>portation<br>Section | GONDA,<br>Yoshihiko   |
| Communica-<br>tion<br>Ministry | Director of Electri-<br>cal Affairs Bureau                 | NAKAYAMA,<br>Jiro    | Chief of Tele-<br>graph Section                         | YAMASHITA,<br>Takeshi |
|                                | Director of Techni-<br>cal Affairs Bureau                  | SHINOHARA,<br>Noboru | Chief of City<br>Section                                | SUZUKI,<br>Takeyoshi  |
|                                | Director of Elec-<br>tric Wave Bureau                      | AMIGIMA,<br>Takeshi  | Chief of Plan-<br>ning Section                          | NISHIZAKI,<br>Taro    |
| Labor<br>Ministry              | Director of Employ-<br>ment Bureau                         | UEYAMA,<br>Akira     | Chief of Engage<br>Section                              | ESHITA,<br>Takeshi    |
| Japan<br>Red Cross<br>Society  | Vice-Director  | HARA,<br>Taichi      | Chief of Busi-<br>ness Section                          | INOUE,<br>Seishiro    |
|                                |  |                      | Chief of Account-<br>ing Section                        | KAWASAKI,<br>Tojuro   |
|                                |  |                      | Chief of Medi-<br>cal Section                           | SATO,<br>Tadashi      |

#### 4. Region and Prefectural Planning Boards

a. Regional and Prefectural Planning Boards are created for the same purposes as the National Board for individual prefectures or regions.

b. In order that the National Government may be able to make available, immediately, supplies and services, it is necessary that the representation on the Prefectural Planning Board must contain counter-parts of the ministries represented on the National Board.

c. Composition of the Prefectural Boards will include the prefectural representatives of the following sections:

- Chief of Branch Office of Civil Engineering . . . . .
- Home Ministry
- Director of Regional Financial Bureau . . . . .
- Chief of Branch Office of Medical Affairs Bureau
- Welfare Ministry
- Chief of Foodstuff Office . . . . .
- Chief of Charcoal Office . . . . .
- Chief of Control Office of Materials
- Agriculture and Forestry Ministry
- Director of Commercial and Industrial Bureau
- Director of Railroad Bureau
- Chief of Motor Car Office . . . . .
- Director of Marine Transportation Bureau
- Director of Communication Bureau
- Director of Regional Economic Stabilization Board
- Chief of Branch Office of Construction, Board of Reconstruction.

d. The Regional and Prefectural Boards will contain civilian counter-parts as well as the local manager of the Japanese Red Cross Society on their local boards, and such other members as the governor shall determine.

e. As the planning boards are high level planning organizations, the bulk of those appointed will be from among those most familiar with government procedures and policies.

#### 5. Disaster Relief Operating Team

a. The Disaster Relief Operating Team is the field unit which carries out actual disaster relief measures. They secure their supplies and services from the Prefectural Planning Boards who in turn receive their supplies and services (not local) from the Working Committee at National Level.

b. Each Disaster Relief Operating team will have the following divisions:

- General Affairs Welfare Division
- Public Safety Division
- Fire Division
- Health Division
- Economics Division
- Engineering Division
- Coordination Division

c. Reports:

The prefectural Governor shall submit to the Minister of Welfare by the end of March each year, a complete plan (each fiscal year) for utilizing in time of disaster the Disaster Relief Operating Team contained in paragraph 5 b, above.

d. Mayors or headmen of cities, towns and villages are required to assist in time of disaster.

6. Calamity Relief Fund Law No. 38

a. The Calamity Relief Fund Law No. 38, and Imperial Ordinance No. 20 (1935) are repealed as of 20 October 1947, and such remaining funds are transferred to the Disaster Relief Fund under Law No. 118.

b. Loans previously made under the Calamity Relief Fund Law in accordance with Item 1, paragraph 1, Article 17, may be retained until maturity.

7. Prefectural Funds Held for Disaster

The minimum amount of the disaster relief fund in any prefecture shall be five million yen (Art. 38, Disaster Relief Law No. 118) however, for the current year it shall be one million yen.

8. National Subsidy Provided for Prefectures.

a. The subsidy from the National Treasury's Second Reserve Fund will be granted when the total amount of the expenses borne by the prefectures are in excess of 5% of the total amount of the land, house and business taxes of the previous fiscal year as have been calculated in accordance with the standard tax rates of the prefectures concerned and for the amount in excess according to the following classifications:

50% for the amounts in excess of 5% of the total of the three taxes.

80% for the amounts in excess of 5% of the total of the three taxes and below 10% of same.

90% for the amounts in excess of 10% of the three taxes.

9. As disaster is unpredictable as to amounts necessary to meet needs, the Diet has granted the Government the right to withdraw from the Second Reserve Funds such monies as are necessary to meet the conditions of paragraph 8, above.