



Rewind almost 60 years and the government had a similar problem: how to persuade the public to support its ambition to become a nuclear nation only nine years after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

According to one Japanese university professor, that ambition was achieved with help from an unlikely source: the CIA.

Tetsuo Arima, a researcher at Waseda University in Tokyo, told JRT he discovered in the U.S. National Archives a trove of declassified CIA files that showed how one man, Matsutarō Shōriki, was instrumental in jumpstarting Japan's nascent nuclear industry.

Mr. Shōriki was many things: a Class A war criminal, the head of the Yomiuri Shimbun (Japan's biggest-selling and most influential newspaper) and the founder of both the country's first commercial broadcaster and the Tokyo Giants baseball team. Less well known, according to Mr. Arima, was that the media mogul worked with the CIA to promote nuclear power.

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