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### **G. J. Ramstedt's wish for an assistant**

During the years in Japan as the Charge d'Affaires of Finland (1919–1929) Gustaf John Ramstedt became interested in the Korean language as he had recognized some similarities with the Altaistic languages. After returning to Finland, he wanted to concentrate on the research of Korean language and realized a need for a language specialist. The first try to have such a Korean specialist to Helsinki was at the beginning of the year 1936, but this did not succeed as suitable candidates were not found. Ramstedt did not give up and in 1938 with the help of international acquaintances an appropriate and willing candidate was found, Dr. Do Cyong-ho from Turkey. Dr. Do as fluent not only in Korean but also in Japanese. He could have taught both of the languages. The gentlemen seem to have agreed to start the arrangements, but the dream did not come true.

Dr. Do was born in Hamhung, in current North Korea, in 1905. He completed his doctoral studies in Vienna in 1935. After Korea was freed from the Japanese occupation Do returned to Korean Peninsula, naturally he chose the Northern part where he was originally from. Over the years he became highly appreciated professor on archeology and a member of the National People's Assembly.

In my paper I'm asking why in the late 1930's and early 1940's Professor G. J. Ramstedt's favorite Do Cyong-ho (都有浩) was not chosen to become an assistant for Ramstedt. Instead, a young Japanese, Dr. Kuwaki Tsutomu (桑木務) was chosen, which seem to have been a great disappointment for Ramstedt. My assumption is that the purpose for sending Dr. Kuwaki to Helsinki was after all a political. He had his own desk at the Legation of Japan, visited Germany frequently and after the WWII the Finnish secret police VALPO II was interested in him.