

Kawakita, War Criminal, In Tokyo as a Japanese

TOKYO, Friday, Dec. 13 (UPI)—Tomoya Kawakita, who served 16 years in a United States prison as a convicted war criminal, arrived in Japan today by plane from Seattle.

He was born in the United States, but the Government here has decided to allow him to obtain Japanese citizenship.

In one of his last official acts, the late President Kennedy ordered Kawakita released from McNeil Island Federal prison on the condition that he leave the United States and never return.

Kawakita, now 42 years old, was arrested in Los Angeles in 1947 when a former American prisoner of war in Japan recognized him as the "Meat Ball" of the Oyama Prison Camp. He was tried on charges of brutal treatment of American prisoners while serving as an interpreter, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.