

Interr. To Jo (6 March 46)

DOC 4174

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.

CONTINUED INTERROGATION OF

General Hideki Tojo

Date and Time: 6 March 1946, 0930-1150 hours.

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan.

Present : General Hideki Tojo
Mr. John W. Fihelly, Interrogator
Commander Yale Maxon, USNR, Interpreter
Miss Myrtle B. Mills, Stenographer

Questions by : Mr. Fihelly

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Q Were not Formosa and Korea also administered by the Greater East Asia Ministry?

A No, they were not. They were Japan. They had been under the Home Ministry for some time past. They had no relation with the Greater East Asia Ministry.

Q Were they at any time directly or indirectly under the Greater East Asia Ministry?

A No. They had absolutely no relation with the Greater East Asia Ministry. They had an indirect relation; for example, if products from Formosa were to be sent to the Philippines, or if there was some other economic matter, then that would be arranged for by conferences between the Greater East Asia Ministry and the Formosan or Korean officials.

Q When was the name "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" first used, and who coined the name?

A By the government?

Q By the government or anyone else.

A After the Greater East Asia War began, I think, but I don't exactly recall just when.

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Q By the Greater East Asia War, you refer to the war with China, Great Britain, the United States, and the Netherlands?

A It referred to the war between Japan and England, America, China, and the Dutch.

I would like for the record to be clear as to the above question. The war was primarily against England and America, and declarations of war /sensen fukoku/ were issued against these countries. From the standpoint of actual fighting, the fighting against China was no different from the fighting against England and America. However, as I have explained before, that had been going on for a long time and there was no declaration of war issued against China. No proclamation of war was issued against the Netherlands at first. They came in after the war began with England and America.

Q Were not the Greater East Asia Ministry and the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere brought into existence by you when you were Premier?

A The Greater East Asia Ministry I set up while I was Premier, that is to say, I set it up with the permission of the Emperor. The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was a suggestion proposed by Japan. Japan took the initiative in working out this suggestion with the other countries involved.

Q Did you not, as Premier, assist in both the suggesting and in the working out of it?

A No, it was not a suggestion. I was more responsible than that.

Q Did you not, as Premier, advance the suggestion and cause it to be worked out?

A Japan advanced the plan and I was the chiefly responsible person. I was convinced that it was necessary in order to provide for the livelihood of the peoples of East Asia for the future.

Q You had had these same general views for some months prior to this, had you not?

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- A Japan had advanced the idea some months in advance to the various countries and they had assented. Hence, the Greater East Asia Convention was held.
- Q Was not the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere just a further development of the idea of the New Order in East Asia?
- A It was a development. The New Order in East Asia was primarily between Japan, Manchuria, and China, and this dated from the time of the China Incident. After the war with America and Britain began, the idea of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere came into being, but the spirit of each influenced the other. The texts of the Japan-Manchuria-China Joint Declaration of 30 November 1940, and the Greater East Asia Joint Declaration of 6 November 1943 are very explicit on this point. The former says, in part, that the three countries will endeavor to set up a New Order in East Asia founded on morality. The latter says that the countries of Greater East Asia, which are enumerated in the text of the Declaration (that is: Japan, China, Thai, Manchuria, the Philippines, Burma) will undertake to cooperate in the construction of a Greater East Asia.
- Q It was also your intention and that of the Japanese Government at this time, was it not, that other countries or regions might later join the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere?
- A If countries, such as Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies, were later to become independent, then they would also enter.
- Q Was not the Greater East Asia Convention sympathetic toward the movement for the independence of India?
- A Yes.
- Q Did not the Greater East Asia Convention give out press releases regarding the independence movement in India?
- A No. However, Japan was fighting England and I expressed my sympathy and hope many times to the Diet that the Indian people would be able to rid themselves of the British yoke. Also there was another point: Japan recognized the provisional government of BOSE.

Q What sort of government was that?

A BOSE was head of it and he set up this provisional government.

Q Where was the government set up?

A I think in Singapore.

Q Did BOSE at any time ever come to Japan?

A Yes, he did.

Q Was his government functioning here at any time?

A No, it functioned at Singapore.

Q Of course it functioned at Singapore after Japan had taken Singapore?

A Yes, of course.

Q Were there not, in both theory and practice, great differences between the New Order in East Asia and the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere on the one hand, and the "Open Door" policy and the provisions of the Nine-Power Treaty?

A The aims were different. A comparison, of course - - - do you mean that they were in conflict?

Q Yes.

A They were in conflict in some respects and not in conflict in other respects. For example, the New Order in East Asia or the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere were not in conflict with the "Open Door" policy. For example, the Greater East Asia Joint Declaration states that the countries of Greater East Asia will....work for.... the opening of resources throughout the world and contribute thereby to the progress of mankind, so that does not conflict with the "Open Door" policy. I think the two things should be compared as to both spirit and form. The spirit, that is to say, the purpose, of the Nine-Power Treaty was the stabilization of Asia. Hence, it was important for the treaty to be suited to the actual situation in Asia. The intention was to stabilize Asia. In order to do this, China and Japan were to help each other and to live together on a basis of friendly relations.

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Misunderstandings and biased views were to be swept out. That was the basic spirit. Japan and China, and especially Japan, signed in this spirit, but the spirit of the New Order in East Asia and the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was also a spirit of mutual helpfulness and mutual existence. The two spirits were interchangeable and I do not believe that there is a difference in this respect. However, the actual situation changed between the time of the Nine-Power Pact and the time of the New Order and the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. The actual situation at these two times was very different, and because of this, the form is different and, in the application of the various provisions, there were conflicts.

There are some other things I would like to say in relation to the matter of responsibility. The China Incident and the Nine-Power Treaty has the possibility of becoming a problem. I can't answer for that because at that time I was not the responsible person. At the time of the Greater East Asia War, the fighting with China had already been going on for four and one-half years. The China Incident was related to the Nine-Power Treaty, but the Greater East Asia War was not. The Nine-Power Treaty was an understanding regarding China. At the time of the Greater East Asia War, which had arisen because of other causes, this agreement was not applicable. When the Greater East Asia War started, China and Japan had been fighting for four and one-half years. This is a fact. The Nine-Power Treaty related to China. The causes of the Greater East Asia War were different and had no direct relation to the Nine-Power Pact. Another point: The construction of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was begun after the Greater East Asia War commenced. It was necessary, in order to win, to use every means allowed by international law. Therefore, at that time, since the war was in progress, it was not necessary to think about the Nine-Power Treaty. /head back to the witness who agreed as to its correctness./

Certificate of Interpreter

I, Yale Maxon, Cmdr., USNR, 11-35-72
(Name) (Serial Number)

being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of 5 pages, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Yale Maxon
Yale Maxon, Cmdr., USNR

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of August, 1946.

John W. Fihelly
John W. Fihelly

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer,
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

Certificate of Stenographer

I, Myrtle B. Mills, hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Myrtle B. Mills
Myrtle B. Mills

Certificate of Interrogator

I, John W. Fihelly, certify that on 6
day of March, 1946, personally appeared before me TOJO
Hideki, and according to Commander Yale Maxon, USNR,

Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

John W. Fihelly
John W. Fihelly

TOKYO
(Place)

12 August 46
(Date)

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