

Ex 2445

Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent :- ISHIMARU, Shizuma

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet  
and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country  
I hereby depose as follows.

REMINISCENCES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MANCHOUKUC

OUTLINE OF THE WITNESS' CAREER:

I, the witness, was born at Ogimachi, Ogigun, Saga,  
on Aug 25, 1878;  
entered the Military Academy in December,  
1893;  
graduated from the Academy in November,  
1899;  
received my commission as 2nd lieutenant,  
Infantry in June, 1900;  
was appointed Regimental Commander of the 17th  
Infantry Regiment at Akita in March,

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1925;

Brigade Commander of the 14th Infantry  
Brigade at Asahigawa in March, 1928,  
attached to the Headquarters of the 8th  
Division at Hirosaki in April, 1928;  
placed on the reserve list on 1 April

1931;

appointed a Manchurian lieutenant-general and  
became,

Aide-de-Camp to the Chief Executive,  
on 12 June 1933;  
retired from office on 1 April 1935,  
which brings me up to the present.

1. In 1932, soon after the establishment of Manchoukuo and Mr. Pu-yi's inauguration as Chief Executive of the country, the persons concerned wanted some competent advisers to the Chief Executive, partly at the suggestion of the Chief Executive himself. And I received visits at my house from Mr. Hsu Ping, who later became Councillor of the Office of the Chief Executive, Mr. Tsai Fa-ping, the then Secretary of the Office of the Chief Executive, and Mr. KUDO Tadashi, the Chief of the Guard of the Office of the Chief Executive, who personally came one after another to ask me to serve as an attendant to the Chief Executive. And I received another earnest request to take the post from an old friend of mine, Lieutenant-General HASHII, who was an old acquaintance of the



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Chief Executive, as Mr. Pu Yi was living quietly in Tien tsin when he had been Commander of the North China Army. Meanwhile, when this came to be materialized, it turned out that I was allotted the post of senior aide-de-camp, and not as adviser to the Chief Executive, not nominal but real Chief Aide-de-Camp (the Manchurian Aide-de-Camp was away from Hsinking as Governor of Jehol Province, and commander of the garrison of the province). This caused me great embarrassment, because I was in doubt whether it was right for me, then a Japanese soldier, to serve the ruler of another country, in the light of the teaching of oriental morals, "A faithful retainer never serves two masters." At length, I happened to come across a passage in a book written by SAIGO, Nanshū, (a personality of the Meiji Restoration revered by the Japanese), "A man who is not loyal to the Emperor is not a dutiful and obedient son", and I reached the conclusion that to serve the ruler of Manchoukuo meant nothing but my serving our Father, His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, and, firm in that belief, I made up my mind to go over to Manchoukuo.

I stayed in Manchoukuo about two years--from June 1933 until April 1935--from the time of Mr. P'u-yi's day as Chief Executive, to those as Emperor of Manchoukuo conducting all state affairs; a brilliant period and I served as Aide-de-Camp in close attendance to the Emperor<sup>night</sup> and day discharging my duties faithfully for the sake of Manchoukuo and the Emperor.



2. Emperor Pu yi was very sagacious and amazingly quick of comprehension. In sanctioning all sorts of administrative and military matters, he was never long in grasping the main points mentioned in the papers submitted for his approval, and time and again amended them in person. He always gave a clear and prompt judgment on every matter. More than once, I remember, he made decisions of his own accord, without any assistance of the officials, on affairs of state. To give one or two examples. The draft of the Imperial Rescript to be given to the soldiers, which was submitted by Chang Ching-hui, the Minister of military Affairs on 22 February in the 3d year of Tatung, 1934, was amended in very important points by the Emperor himself. Again in January, 1935 he made his first trip to Port Arthur since his ascension to the throne. Port Arthur was really dear to the Emperor who had stayed there for some time on his first visit to Manchuria to take the post as Chief Executive. Port Arthur was then within the leased Territory of Japan, and was therefore legally outside the territory of Manchoukuo and its citizens foreigners. Nevertheless the Emperor, then the ruler of Manchoukuo, reflecting probably upon his days of the past deep emotion warmly gave an Imperial speech to the Japanese citizens who had gathered in front of the hotel to hail the Emperor. With a sense of responsibility as an attendant to the Emperor, I felt it necessary to know the contents of his speech and in what circumstances it was to be delivered; I therefore immediately inquired of Imperial Household Minister Shen how the delivery



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of the Imperial speech had been decided upon and whether the Minister had given any advice on its contents. The Minister told me that he did not know of it that he had not rendered any assistance whatsoever and added that the speech was drafted of the Emperor's own accord and that the entire text was written out by the Emperor himself. This Imperial Rescript was the first statement he had delivered at home or abroad as Emperor, and the spiritual foundation of the new state and his attitude as sovereign of the state shown in it were thought to bear profound significance and to be a record which is historically commemorative. Soon the same day I got a copy of the text written by the Emperor himself from the Chief of the General Affairs Board Hsu Pacheng and am keeping it even today as a precious family treasure.

The gist of the Imperial speech is as follows: "Now I deem the cooperation of Japan and Manchoukuo will make the greatest possible contribution to the peace of the Orient. Japan and Manchoukuo are to be mutually cooperative not by the mere consideration of international interests but by the cardinal consideration for the furtherance of the welfare of mankind along the lines of inherent Oriental ethical conceptions. And again what I consider very important for both Japanese and Manchurians is to uphold the principle of 'One Virtue, One Soul'. I am greatly delighted and looking forward to the trip to Japan this spring to pay a visit to the Emperor of Japan, to strengthen the ties of friendship of the two Imperial Houses. I intend to strive for and make further



efforts all the more towards the peace of the Orient and for the sake of friendly relations between Japan and Manchoukuo."

The Emperor after his return from Japan, issued the famous Imperial Rescript to the people which was founded on the concord of the five races (Manchurian, Chinese, Mongolians, Japanese and Koreans), pointing out the way they should follow. And in it both the Japanese and the Manchurians were deeply impressed with the four words, "One virtue One Soul", as every one knows. This guiding principle, which was of his own conception, I think he had in his bosom before he became the ruler of Manchuria.

3. The Emperor was a devout ancestor-worshipper, and warmly attached to his relatives. Well-mannered and sociable, at the same time I think he was very prudent and cautious, as he had experienced many storms and had to pass through threads of sinister conspiracies and malignant intrigues. Nevertheless, more than once I observed him placing his reliance upon the fair and magnanimous attitude of the Japanese Imperial Family and his envy of the loyalty of the Japanese people to their Emperor. Now, as an illustration of how truthful and affectionate he was to his old acquaintances, let me state how warmly Sir Reginald Johnston, the late professor at London University, England, who truly understood the Emperor's feelings and stated his unbiased observations frankly, was received by the Emperor at the Imperial Palace at Hsinking in September 1935.



Here will also be seen the environment with which he was surrounded and his mental condition during those early days of Manchoukuo. Sir Reginald had lived in China as a British official for about 30 years, during which he served as tutor for 13 long years to the former Emperor of China, P'u-yi and later Emperor of Manchoukuo. He played an active part in the eventful days at the end of the Ch'ing Dynasty. He was a widely-known authority on Oriental political and economic conditions, and wrote many books and articles for magazines such as the National Review, a periodical published in London. His observation of the Emperor's mental attitude and his story of the cordial reception he was given at the court appeared in the National Review for September 1936. At the time I translated it and distributed copies widely among my friends. And I, who served as an attendant to the Emperor, can say I can personally endorse it myself. The following is a part of Sir Reginald's article appearing in the National Review:

"It was in 1931--a few months prior to his departure from Tientsin--that he directed me to visit Manchoukuo. At the time he had great expectations of leading a splendid life as ruler in Manchuria, the cradle-land of his forefathers, quitting his secluded life at Tientsin. There was a recurrent rumor started by Chinese that he had been compelled by Japan to take the post; but considering from the fact that he, filled with hopes, had told me to go to Manchuria, I found the rumor was an inconsistent fiction.



In September 1935 I landed at Yokohama via Canada. I was received by members of the Manchurian Embassy staff, who had been given instructions by the Emperor, and many of the celebrities of Japan. Receptions were accorded by both the government and the public and sightseeing of famous spots was done. I reached Dairen by sea and then went up to Hsinking by rail. At 5 p.m. one day I arrived at Hsinking Station, where I was greeted by my old acquaintances from our days at Peking, but especially by Cheng Hsiao-hsu, an elder statesman of Manchoukuo respected in both Court and political circles, who conveyed to me the Emperor's message, 'His Majesty will grant an audience to you as soon as possible on your arrival at Hsinking.' So I proceeded immediately to the Palace. He had returned only one hour before from Harbin where he had inspected the yangtze River Fleet; I was ushered into the Emperor's private room where he, still in the naval uniform which he had been wearing at Harbin and who apparently had been waiting for me greeted me with warm and kindly words. I had so much to talk about with him that I did not know what to begin with. After chatting, he showed me into the dining room. Those present, seven in all, were all his relatives--princesses Ssu-ko and Wu-ko, both unmarried younger sisters of the Emperor, and Mr. Chuan-an, Mr. Chuan-hsu, sons of his uncle Tsai-tao, and others. The dinner then given to us was in Chinese style and produced a very congenial atmosphere. The Emperor was really in a merry mood. My daily meals in the Court were served in the Emperor's private room, where I was treated as a member



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of his family--except one occasion when an official banquet was held in my honor in the audience room (17 high officials and officers attended it).

Prior to my arrival in Manchuria, I was told by certain people, who were said to be well-informed on the actual state of things there, that I would be shadowed and watched by Japanese secret agents, and that I would find the Emperor to be a mere puppet in the hands of Japanese advisers. But as I had kept in touch by letter with Court officials since the Emperor's advent in Manchuria, I was skeptical of the reliability of such talk. It was therefore no wonder to me that it proved to be all fiction.

Europeans often overlook the fact that the Emperor is not a Chinese, but a Manchurian. It is natural that he feels under no obligation to China, a foreign country, if he thinks of the fact that the Chinese Revolutionary Government, which banished him from the throne, condemned Manchoukuo as a spurious country when it was founded under the Dynasty of the same line as the Ch'ing Dynasty which had reigned over China about three hundred years, and went further to abrogate the Abdication Agreement, depriving him of all his property and the only privileges accorded to him.

It is true that he owes chiefly to Japan the position he holds today. And it is a matter of course that he is pro-Japanese, entertaining deep respect for Japan. Needless to say he needs advisers and ministers, since he is no despot. By no means, however, are his actions instigated by those Japanese



Some say he is a puppet in the hands of Japan and that when Japan has come to need him no longer, he will be deserted. But I suggest the advisability of waiting to see whether Japan will really do so--which, I assume, is most improbable--instead of our attacking or laughing at the Emperor trusting Japan."

When the Empire of Manchoukuo was dismembered on 20 August 1946, ministers and high officials of Manchurian and Chinese origin, all looking to their own safety, immediately left the Emperor at Talitzu, without even paying any regard to safeguarding him. Even at this time high officials of Japanese origin wanted to share the lot of the Emperor, and finally these officials as well as the Emperor were made prisoner by the Soviet army at Mukden. Just looking at this fact, I feel, one can understand the feelings of the Japanese.

4. The Emperor, as new Manchurian ruler, in spite of the ill treatment formerly given to him as Emperor Hsuan Tung (TN: Pu yi's Chinese Emperor designation) by the Chinese Revolutionary Government, wished peace and happiness for the people of China Proper and made repeated donations from his slender Privy Purse for charitable works and aiding sufferers from disasters in Chinese Proper.

Among the officials and officers of the Imperial Household and the government there were not a few who, still longing for the comfortable life at Peking, wanted to return there; but the sole concern of the Emperor seemed to be how to make the lives of the people of the five races easy and peaceful, and he appeared to harbor no least political design of



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extending his sovereign power or of returning to the old capital. I noticed that not only was this so in my conversations with him, but I remember it was also seen at his interview with Mr. NOMURA, Hideo, the political editor of the Tokyo Asahi, in December 1932:

"Question: I should like to hear what you think and feel about China Proper?"

"Answer : In the Revolution of 1911, the reins of government were transferred peacefully so that the people might be spared of the evils which would have been caused by disorders. But to our bitter regret the Revolutionary Government, unworthy of the confidence we had reposed in it, is still unable to give relief to the people after twenty long years of its administration.

"Question: What do you want China to become in the future?"

"Answer : All mankind ought to be equal in securing happiness and welfare. I am keenly desirous that the people of China Proper shall come to enjoy a better life."

As in the above manner, the answers of the then Chief Executive were indeed magnificent and I had nothing but admiration for him. I desired with all my heart that this astute monarch develop in his character even more and reach perfection in his kingly attributes.



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On this 4 day of Jan., 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT ISHIMARU, Shizuma (seal)

I, KONDO, Giichi, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: (signed) KONDO, Giichi (Seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/S/ ISHIMARU, Shizuma (seal)

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Yukio Kawamoto, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate, is to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/S/ Yukio Kawamoto

Tokyo, Japan  
Date 4 April 1947