

INTERROGATION OF

Fumio Goto

Date and Time: 1 February 1946, 1400-1600 Hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : Fumio Goto
Valentine C. Hammack, Interrogator
D. Kildoyle, Interpreter
Ruth F. Anderson, Stenographer

Questions by : Mr. Hammack

BY MR. HAMMACK: Mr. Kildoyle, do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you, in this proceeding?

BY MR. KILDOYLE: I do.

Q. Now, Mr. Goto, upon adjournment on the 31st of January 1946 you made the statement that you had some explanation to give in connection with the newspaper article, at which time I advised you that upon my next visit to you you would be given an opportunity to do so? That is correct, is it not?

A. Yes. When you questioned me before in connection with a meeting or an announcement of a meeting and I said there was no such announcement, I wish now to say I understood at first that the question was whether I had made a speech before the meeting. I wish now to state that before a scheduled meeting of this kind, it is customary for newspaper reporters to request an interview, and I have no doubt that this was done and I gave an interview to the reporters.

Q. Now, Mr. Goto, referring again to the newspaper article which you have identified, what explanation have you for the following language contained therein: "I expect to see the close cooperation between the government officials and the civilians and the feeling to do things voluntarily rather than to do a thing because we civilians are being permitted to do so raised by this conference."

A. By this I meant that it was necessary for government officials and civilians to confer and cooperate, and the intentions of the government officials be well understood by the civilians as well as the intentions and wishes of the civilians be understood by the government officials and for the civilians to spontaneously perform and carry out what was required or expected of them without coercion from official sources. Government officials were expected to attend this conference as often as possible as well as the members.

Q. Is it not a fact, Mr. Goto, that upon the formation of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, political parties in Japan were abolished?

A. There was a voluntary dissolution of parties before the organization of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.

Q. And was not the effect, as well as the intent, in the formation of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association to develop the nationalistic spirit of Japan?

A. It was definitely not so. It was the intention of Prince Konoye, the founder, to establish another party and towards this end the voluntary dissolution of political parties was carried out. This was reported to me by Prince Konoye. This voluntary dissolution of various parties, and the formation of one big party was opposed from various quarters. Thereupon, Prince Konoye discarded the idea of forming this political party and it was decided to organize the Imperial Rule Assistance Association as an organization in which all persons of different ideas and views could join. The object of forming the Imperial Rule Association to enable people of various views and ideas to join required that the foundation of the organization be such as to be common to all Japanese. As a result the purpose of the Imperial Rule Association was determined as the help and support of Imperial rule, and this means the discharge of the people's obligation to their country. This is one result. There was another.

Q. What was the other result, Mr. Goto?

A. As this was an organization to be joined by all people, it was not deemed advisable to call it an association, and an institute resulted in English called the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, actually having no members, but in which all Japanese were members. All Japanese should be members of this association. It was composed of - (Mr. Goto completes answer in English) It was decided not to make a corporation or association. Instead of making a corporation or association which has many, many members, instead of that kind of corporation, it was decided to make only an organization which has only people who are connected in some official capacity in this organization. Imperial association, not a corporation or association. It was closely connected to the government.

Q. As a matter of fact, Mr. Goto, the purpose was to organize the entire nation behind the government, was that not correct? Whatever the purpose of the Imperial Rule Association, Mr. Goto, was it not a fact that the result thereof was to make of Japan a country of one political party?

A. No, because this was not a political party.

Q. But was it not political in the sense that the purpose and the intent of the same was to support the government?

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- A. This was the subject of great controversy at the time of its formation and the formation of this organization was strongly opposed in the Diet. Prince Konoye's Cabinet announced that this was not a political organization but a public organization and its nature is not political in the ordinary sense.
- Q. Regardless of what the purpose was, the actions of the Imperial Rule Association were political, were they not, Mr. Goto?
- A. As this organization resulted, after the dissolution of various political parties, I think that it had a slight political tinge at one time, but this was the slightest.
- Q. Mr. Goto, you surprise me. The answer is not responsive to the question and you know, do you not, that the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, after its formation was primarily political in nature?
- A. I do not deny that it had a political tinge or nature before the formation of the Imperial Rule Association, before or at the time of its formation, but when it was actually established, the political nature was practically lost and, as declared by the Konoye Cabinet, it became a public organization and there was great displeasure on the part of certain people who desired to make a political organization of this Imperial Rule Association.
- Q. Mr. Goto, regardless of what you call the purpose, the dissolution of political parties and the formation of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association resulted in but one party whose primary objective was to support the policies of the government at that time and thereafter, is that not a fact?
- A. This can be said to be true, but it did not become a party or an organization. It did not become even a corporation or association, and it did not become a strong organization.
- Q. Mr. Goto, was not the purpose of the Imperial Rule Association to weld and consolidate the people of Japan behind the government to support the government and the policies of the government? Was that not the purpose and the effect of the Imperial Rule Association?
- A. I believe the government had hoped for the consolidation of the people and their support.
- Q. Is it not a fact, Mr. Goto, that you as a member of the Imperial Rule Association did your utmost to weld the minds of the people in Japan in support of the government and its policies?

BY MR. KILDOYLE: I am getting nothing but proverbs and slogans in response to the question.

Q. Mr. Goto, I am disappointed in you. I had hoped that you would answer my questions frankly and not resort to generalities. I would like to say this to you, Mr. Goto, that your answers today are somewhat affronting to my intelligence, because you are not answering my questions but you are falling back on generalities which mean nothing. May the question be re-read, please.

(Question re-read by stenographer.)

A. As a member, I had the ideas and worked to that end.

Q. When you say "worked to that end," Mr. Goto, what do you mean?

A. To cause the people to carry out their obligations to the nation. To clarify the wishes of the government to the people and conversely to clarify the desires of the people to the government.

Q. At this time that same program, as far as you are concerned, Mr. Goto, was your objective at the time the Tri-Partite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy, and Japan, as well as the continuation of the war in China which was then going on, and also to unite the nation for war with other powers then contemplated as a possibility?

A. The Tri-Partite alliance was signed before the formation of the Imperial Rule Association.

Q. I differ with you. The Imperial Rule Association was formed and you, Mr. Goto, were a member of it in September 1940.

A. The Tri-Partite alliance was signed in September 1940 and the Imperial Rule Association was formed in October 1940.

Q. My records show that the Imperial Rule Association was formed and that you, Mr. Goto, were a member of the same in September 1940.

A. That is a mistake.

Q. Nevertheless, that was your objective, was it not, Mr. Goto, as heretofore stated?

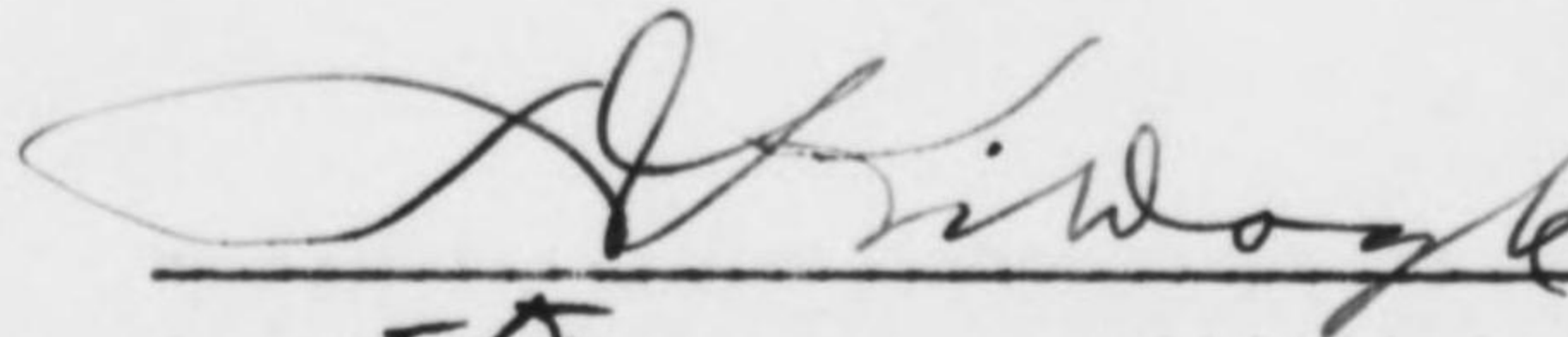
A. The China Incident had been going on for some time. Naturally one of my objectives would be to secure cooperation for the successful prosecution of the Chinese Incident.

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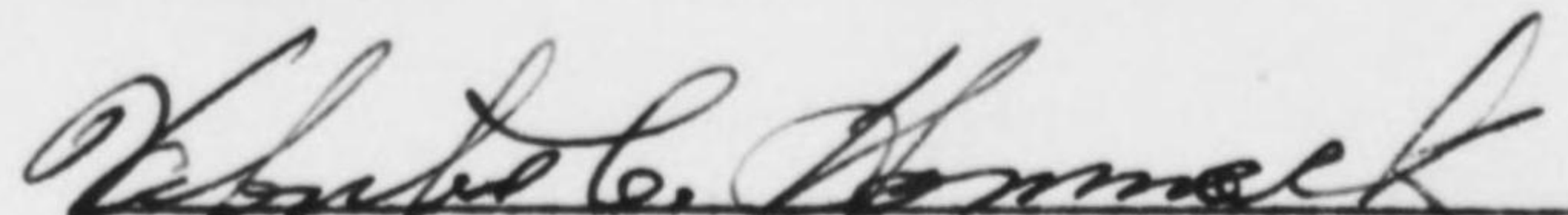
- Q. What about the last half of my question which pertained to the possibility of war in the near future with other powers?
- A. With reference to the possibility of war with other powers, I was always hoping for successful negotiations of differences. My principal objective was the settlement of the China Incident. I would like to add something. When I was made chairman of the Central Conference in 1941 by Prince Konoye, I understood that he was working fervently for peaceful settlement of all outstanding differences by negotiation with the Western Powers. This was also my hope and desire, and I continued to work with it as an objective.
- Q. Mr. Goto, regardless of your hopes and desires, nevertheless, as a member of the Imperial Rule Association and as a chairman of the Central Conference Committee, it was your intent and purpose, however, was it not, to support the government in all matters which may arise in the future, including war?
- A. I was under no obligation to support all measures of the government, even including war.
- Q. Then, Mr. Goto, from your actions following the war, it is obvious, is it not, that you approved the war with the United States and the other Western Powers?
- A. Yes, after the war had been declared.

Certificate of Interpreter

I, D. Kildoyle, a civilian, 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 five pages, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of February, 1946.



Valentine C. Hammack, Civilian
Duly Detailed Investigating Officer
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

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Certificate of Stenographer

I, Ruth F. Anderson, 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.

Ruth F. Anderson

Certificate of Interrogator

I, Valentine C. Hammack, a civilian, certify that on the 1st day of February, 1946, personally appeared before me Fumio Goto, and according to D. Kildoyle, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

Tokyo, Japan

2 Feb 1946

Valentine C. Hammack
Valentine C. Hammack, Civilian