

Doc. 3319 Evid

Folder 11

(3)

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 3319

29 October 1947

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Loose shorthand record, "Expunged Part of the Matter Spoken by Member TAKAHASHI during the Budget Committee Meeting." (AN: Expose of Admiral SUETSUGU's warmongering)

Date: 4 March 1938 Original (X) Copy () Language: Jap.

LOCATION: Has it been translated? Yes () No (X)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Diet

PERSONS IMPLICATED: SUETSUGU, Nobumasa

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Advocating Japanese-American War.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS:

This document shows how much Admiral SUETSUGU has been clamoring about war with the United States. Apparently, the Admiral did not like the American policies of "Freedom of the Seas" and the "Open Door in China". Statements made are as follows:

TAKAHASHI asked Home Minister Admiral SUETSUGU as follows:

"War between Japan and America has been discussed in Japan for a long time, especially in the years 1932, 1933 and 1934. As I understand it, Admiral SUETSUGU was at the top and in the center of such war talks.

"However, by this China Incident, the talk of war between America and Japan has subsided due to the nation's feeling that it is Britain and not America that Japan is facing in this Incident.

"I know that the Admiral, in his war talks, explained it in this way:

Doc. No. 3319

Page 1.

1. The American Navy is an organ for the execution of the American policy.
2. The duty of the American Navy is to execute the American policy, i.e., the freedom of the high seas, and the open door in China.
3. Accordingly, it is inevitable that Japan and America fight against each other.

Now I ask you Admiral SUETSUGU whether or not you have the same idea even now?"

Home Minister Admiral SUETSUGU explained as follows:

"Even among civilians it has been observed that 'one should be ready for war in peace'. As I am a soldier, it is natural for me as my official duty, to study the affairs of war in case of an emergency. If once a conflict of interests arises between two countries over the Pacific, no one can tell what will happen.

"But I have not urged war. I, as a soldier, only study how to deal with war if it actually breaks out.

"I myself have not said that war is inevitable, but I just introduced American opinions to that effect and gave warnings to the Japanese people.

"Notwithstanding the present smooth relationship between America and Japan, we must bear in mind that the emergency might break out at any time."

Then TAKAHASHI spoke as follows:

"This sort of explanation by the Admiral is not proper nor adequate.

"The influence of America is so great in world affairs today that if we lose her friendship it would mean grave consequence to Japan. It would mean the loss of Britain's friendship too.

"When the Admiral was the commander-in-chief of the combined fleet he let the ASAHI Press publish that he would knock out the American fleet.

"Furthermore, the Admiral wrote the same thing in the New Year's Issue of CHUOKOKON Magazine, and this was translated into European languages and published in the press and magazines abroad, of which the Admiral is aware.

"The Admiral's words and acts have caused excitement abroad as he is deemed as the second Admiral TOGO of Japan.

"The fact that you, SUETSUGU, are one of the KONOYE Cabinet members will have great influence on international affairs. So, your opinion of war against America spoken in public places will surely give bad feeling to America. You should be more prudent in speaking as a responsible high-ranking man. What do you think about this point?"

Admiral SUETSUGU replied:

"I acknowledge that it is imprudent for me to speak so in public places, but as I have replied to the question put to me, it is better to say nothing more here."