

Def. Doc. # 1780

Exh. No.

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 (Translation)

Deponent: NOMURA, Naokuni

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.

I am a former Admiral of the Navy. On July 17, 1944, I replaced Navy Minister Admiral Shigetaro SHIMADA and assumed the portfolio of Navy Minister. At that time OKA, Takazumi was Director of Naval Affairs Bureau.

On July 16, 1944, before I entered the Cabinet, I had an interview with Prime Minister TOJO. He asked my opinion so I expressed the desire that someone from among the former Premiers, for instance such as Admiral YONAI should be requested to enter the Cabinet in order to strengthen the Cabinet.

On the 17th Premier TOJO sent a messenger to me and requested me to urge Admiral YONAI to enter the cabinet. I understood that the foregoing request of the Prime Minister was based on my interview had with Primer

Def. Doc. # 1780

TOJO on the 16th. I immediately dispatched OKA, on my behalf, to Admiral YONAI to convey the Prime Minister's message.

In about an hour OKA returned and stated that Admiral YONAI did not wish to enter the cabinet. OKA reported that Admiral YONAI desired to remain free from the Cabinet, but that he would be willing to resume active service and serve as a member of the Supreme War Council. Thereupon, I personally called on Admiral YONAI and discussed the foregoing matter.

In light of the foregoing it is clear that the idea of asking Admiral YONAI to enter the cabinet was solely my idea, and that OKA acted upon my orders.

With respect to such a matter the Director of Naval Affairs Bureau is subject to the orders of the Navy Minister, and can not act independently of his own free will.

On this 21st day of May, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT /s/ NOMURA, Naokuni (seal)

I, SOMIYA, Shinji, 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: /s/ SOMIYA, Shinji (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ NOMURA, Naokuni (seal)