

No. 3102

Exh. No. 3102

DEF. DOC. #1741

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al.

Sworn Deposition (Translation)

Deponent : -- MURATA, Shōzō

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.

1. The outline of my political career is generally as follows:

The Minister of Communications in the Second KONOYE Cabinet (1940) (For a while I was concurrently the Railway Minister but later exclusively Minister of Communications)

Concurrently Minister of Communications and Minister of Railways in the Third KONOYE Cabinet. (1941) I resigned along with the resignation of the KONOYE Cabinet on October 14, 1941.

I arrived at my post as Advisor to the Japanese Army in the Philippine Islands on February 11, 1942.

After the independence of the Philippines on October 14, 1943, I was the Japanese Ambassador Plenipotentiary

to the Philippines until August, 1944.

2. I will now make a statement on the political affairs of the Philippine Islands before and after her independence.

The Philippine Islands were under the military administration of the Japanese army when I arrived at my post there. At that time, the Army Commander was out in the field at the Corregidor and Bataan fronts and, as to political affairs, there was a military governor in Manila who was in charge of the military administration mainly bearing the responsibility of government. However, in so far as the domestic administration was concerned we entrusted it to the important persons of the Philippines who organized the Administrative Committee and were allowed to take charge of administration in accordance with the intention of the Japanese Army. The chairman of the Committee was Mr. Vargas. I recollect that the Administrative Committee was organized on January 23, 1942. The members of this Committee at first took an attitude of assisting the Japanese Army merely for the sake of maintaining peace in the Philippine Islands. But, Premier TŌJŌ's speech in the Japanese Diet on January 21, 1942, to the effect that Japan was willing to honor them with independence if the Philippines would henceforth understand the Japanese intention and act in concert with Japan, made a very favourable impression on the Filipinos and as they gradually grew to recognize the Japanese Army better, they

came to appreciate the true motives of Japan. And they (TN: the members of the Committee) gradually came to take a co-operative attitude towards the Japanese Army. Of course, since it was a period of military administration, things did not go as Filipinos desired completely. Moreover, not only were the Japanese troops fighting in Corregidor and Bataan but also former Filipino troops and troops of the U. S. army remained in various quarters. It was, accordingly, only natural that good government could not be expected, since the military administration was conducted on the field of battle. A little later, Bataan and Corregidor fell and the majority of the U. S. and Filipino troops there, both officers and men, were made prisoners of war. But some of them escaped and filtered into various quarters who, together with the various people who had heretofore been there, all changed to wage guerilla warfare. Things, therefore, came to such a pass as to compel us to make an effort in mopping up the guerillas in their various quarters. The administration in Manila on the part of the Filipinos, however, greatly improved, as Manila was the centre and was the pivot of everything. In January of the following year, the 18th year of SHŌWA (1943), Premier TŌJŌ issued a concrete statement in the Diet to the effect that Japan would grant independence to Philippines in the near future and as a result of which the Philippines

became independent on October 14 of the same year. The Philippines thus became independent, and they first began with the revision of the Constitution essential to independence. In revising the Constitution, the Army appointed as Chairman of the Constitution Revision Committee Mr. Laurel, who had the established reputation of trustworthiness as well as being conversant with the Constitution and an authority on the legal affairs of the Philippine Islands. The Revision Committee was created according to Mr. Laurel's opinion. The Constitution Revision Committee was hereupon formed with all of the members of the aforementioned Administrative Committee (Chairman Mr. Vargas) together with other civilians of excellent character. The Constitution was revised by these members and, on October 14 of the 18th year of SHŌWA (1943), the Philippines became independent and an independent government, was established. At this time, the National Assembly was called in accordance with the new Constitution. Owing to the pressing of time, however, the new Constitution provided for provisional regulations for electing the Assembly members, according to which the members assembled and, in that session, conducted the Presidential election and elected Mr. Laurel President. Then President Laurel personally selected the Cabinet members and put the administrative machinery into operation according to the constitution. Towards the revision of the

Constitution, Japan assumed a non-interference policy. That is, the republican form of government was adopted as before as the form of government for the Philippine Islands and both the national flag and territory were left just as before. Some of the Japanese people were said to be of the opinion regarding territory, "We hope Mindanao Island will be reserved for Japan in view of future military and other purposes." Premier TŌJŌ strongly maintained, this ~~his~~ must absolutely not be done. We should not lay our hands on it in the slightest." As a result, the entire territory became that of the Republic of the Philippines.

As for the national language of the Philippines, the TAGALOG language became the official language after the independence, whereas it was English and Spanish prior to independence. For instance, President Laurel made speeches in the TAGALOG language. And the Foreign Office which did not exist prior to independence was created thereafter, and a most influential man was appointed Foreign Minister. Moreover, American procedure was followed in the Philippine Assembly as to either the form of bills introduced by members or their method of introduction. And in these bills, it seemed to me that Japan did not interfere hardly at all. Afterwards, even when some of the bills were not particularly desirable, they did not seem to have

been interfered with so much.

Not only that, the Japanese advisors to the Philippine Government numbered three, each of whom was respectively in charge of finance, police, and scientific matters, respecting the wishes of President Laurel. In short, I think this course of action was not contrary to the central policy of Japan of having Filipino have their own way in government and having them independently administer the affairs of state from their own will. With such ideas as mentioned above, we did various things for the benefit of the Philippines towards their independence. Let me mention a few within my knowledge:

- A. The birth-place of RIZAL, who had advocated the independence of Philippines since the time of Spain's reign and whose statue was situated at the place of his execution, had been forgotten by the Filipino people. A house was built at his birth-place just as it was when he was born, to encourage the spirit of independence in the Filipino people;
- B. Aiming at cultivating men of ability necessary for an independent state, outstanding youths were selected twice a year and were sent to Japan to study, entering the schools of their own choice;
- C. At the first anniversary of Philippine Independence, the Japanese Government donated 500,000 pesos as the Ambassador's gift in honor of the occasion, suggesting that

it be spent for the purpose of educating the young people of the Philippines and that everything would be left to the Philippines as to its use. Both the President and the Minister of Education were over joyed.

D. Agricultural improvement in the Philippine Islands was of the first consideration for an agricultural nation like the Philippines and great effort was put forth in this field ever since the time of the military administration. We had the Director of the Agricultural Affairs Bureau of the Philippine Government inspect Formosa accompanied by 5 or 6 accomplished scientists of agriculture. The Government-General of Formosa gave them free rein and allowed them to inspect wherever they wished. And we had them compare the condition of the Philippines developed under U. S. control for 40 years, with the results of Japan's efforts in the administration of Formosa for 40 years since she got possession of it. On inspecting Formosa, they were greatly surprised at and lost in admiration with the results, uttering in the end even such words as, "I don't care even if someone thinks we received a bribe from Formosa;"

F. As Advisor to the Army, I also set up an inquiry committee on industry, economy, culture, education and the various matters for the sake of contributing to the independence of the Philippines. There were extensive findings made by the U. S. A. of course but they

were naturally made from an American point of view, and I maintained that we must draw up ones based upon an Oriental viewpoint. But Army Headquarters would not agree with me stating that it was not the proper time. So I went to Tokyo to consult with Premier TŌJŌ and he approved it. On the one hand a search was made for outstanding scholars from the general public and on the other, aid was solicited from the presidents of various universities. In the end, the scholars, RŌYAMA, TŌHATA, SUGIMURA, ŌSHIMA, SUEKAWA and ITŌ, all came over to the Philippines with their able assistants and took up the survey.

As originally Philippine Islands was entirely dependent on U. S. A. as her possession; it was indeed impossible speaking only from the industrial point of view for her to be independent without relations with America. For instance, the Filipinos are very fond of smoking cigarettes; but they produce only a lot of cigar leaves and no tobacco-leaf and import cigarettes from America. Rice was also insufficient and about 10 percent had to be imported annually. The Philippines was in such a condition and she hardly had qualifications for an independent state, until she was able to produce ^{herself} for ^{herself} anything, daily necessities as food first of all, clothing, and others necessities. Therefore, the

technical experts in various fields were sent there from Japan by the military administration to encourage the growing of cotton, yellow tobacco, Formosan rice, etc., looking beyond into the future since as early as the time of the military administration. As for cotton, though it had been grown to some extent since former times, there was some dispute about whether it would grow or not. So we engaged university professors who were experts in cotton to have them study the matter. As they reported that cotton-growing would be possible in some areas, we had them carry it out. Of course it had to ^{be carried out} with the understanding of being prepared to take losses for 3 or 5 years at least. We, accordingly, tried to have influential cotton spinning companies or colonization companies, having the capacity to bear the burden, grow excellent cotton after designating these areas for it. As a consequence, these various companies paid heavily but for which they were prepared from the outset. As for tobacco, some districts got very good yields of the yellow leaf variety used in cigarettes. It can be thought ^{that} up to now, although it was possible to have been grown, they didn't allow them to and had them depend rather upon import. The Formosan rice crop turned out well in the first year but not so well in the second year.

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It was because Japan agreed to protect the Philippines in accordance with the treaty of alliance that an army was not organized at the time of the independence. The constabulary in charge of maintaining internal peace was already established and was reorganized by the Japanese Army. The war situation in the South-Western Pacific area was unfavorable to Japan after the independence of the Philippines. The situation was where there was no knowing when the Philippines might be attacked.

Consequently, we are not able to say that the affairs of state were conducted entirely according to the intention of the independent Philippine Government. Moreover,

DEF. DOC. #1741 there was the agreement between the Philippines and Japan

as mentioned above, to the effect that Japan would

assume the defense of the Philippine Islands. At that

time, since the Japanese Army was in the position where

it had to discharge its own primary military duty on the

one hand and to protect the Philippine Islands on the

other, the independence of Philippines could not be

considered a complete one immediately. The President

was well aware of this fact. That the Army would be

withdrawn when the war was over was declared by the

Commander of the Army and the fact that Premier TOJO

was of the same opinion was not only known very well

by the President but also by myself. to the intention

of the independent Phil- 10 - ippine Government. Moreover,

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G. Premier TŌJŌ's statement on the independence of the Philippines created such a sensation in the Philippine Islands that the Filipino people were greatly concerned at the time of the resignation of the TŌJŌ Cabinet. I therefore, invited the reporters of the Filipino and Japanese newspapers and told them." Even with resignation of the TŌJŌ Cabinet Japan's policy will not change. Philippine independence shall be recognized as in the past. The declaration at the Greater East Asia Conference is a permanent and immutable one." They were greatly relieved. They thought that well of TŌJŌ in connection with her independence.

Let me give an example which indicates how Premier TŌJŌ was adored by the Filipino people. It happened when he visited the Philippine Islands. Premier TŌJŌ, on alighting from the airplane, directly went to the Ministers, assembled to meet him, and shook hands with them all. As this was completely different from the attitude of the Army Commanders etc, they were very pleased. On the next day, after he spoke to a large audience numbering hundreds of thousand, he returned on foot without taking a waiting automobile to the hotel near by through a crowd of people greeting them as he went along. This was an expression of his attitude to show he was for the Filipino people, without a thought

of personal danger, and they were delighted. Premier TŌJŌ's speech on this occasion gained great popularity. His speech was made at LUNETA Park in the city of Manila. When the Mayor of Manila expressed his desire, on one occasion, to name it TŌJŌ Park in token of the Philippine people's gratitude, Mr. TŌJŌ refused, saying, "Please don't.

H. As the Commander of the Japanese Army, HOMMA, TANAKA, KURODA and finally YAMASHITA were appointed successively due to various reasons, but Chief of Staff WACHI arrived at his post one or two weeks after my arrival and was in office until YAMASHITA's arrival. He won great popularity as Chief of Staff and as military administrator of the time. He was so zealous in making the Philippines worthy of an independent state by all means that such songs as 'WACHI March' appeared among the people.

3. Now I will make a statement on the "Death March."

I don't think it is clear whether "Death March" is a term to apply to the Filipino war prisoners or to the American war prisoners. I witnessed the American war prisoners on the "March", landing from Corregidor and marching toward the internment camp from the street but there didn't seem to be any deaths in the procession. It was, however, true that there were some deaths among the Filipino war prisoners who marched separately.

I will now relate the state of affairs when I visited the headquarters of the Japanese Army on Bataan soon after the surrender of the U.S. army there. I witnessed then war prisoners lying on the wayside who, after surrendering at Bataan, had fallen out of the march on their way to camp. When I had a talk with the Commander of the Army, I asked him about this. He answered, saying, "Little did I expect that there were so many. Contrary to my expectations that those who offered to surrender would number 30 or 40 thousand, there were as many as 70 or 80 thousand and I had great difficulty in transporting them. First of all, we had no trucks which, accordingly, compelled us to have them walk. Neither had we so much in the way of rations. Moreover, they were suffering from malaria or other diseases, so we had a very hard time escorting them to the camp." This was the actual state of things. Although it may appear to have been done deliberately to be called the "Death March," I think its results were unavoidable.

This is something I heard from a Filipino of some war prisoners who were deeply moved by the fact that Japanese soldiers on duty in prisoner of war camp, for instance, lived under the same roof and ate the same meals with the war prisoners.

Various kinds of leaflets were said to have been distributed from airplanes during the Philippine offensive

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of Commander HCMMA. Among these leaflets, was printed, "The Filipino people who will swear allegiance to us shall not be looked upon as our enemy." I think General HCMMA entertained this idea to the last, because he released war prisoners one after another in spite of the continuation of the war. This greatly pleased the Filipino people. There are other cases as having helped in getting employment for them, assisting them in their education, etc, but as they would come under hearsay I shall refrain.

On this 6th day of June, 1947

At I.M.T.F.P.

DEPONENT Murata, Shozo (seal)

I, KIYOSE, Ichirō, 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 same place

Witness: (signed) Ichiro Kiyose (seal)

OATH

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

- 14 - Murata Shozo (seal)