

Def. Doc. #2079

PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE
THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
FOR THE FAR EAST, TOKYO

Exhibit # 3546
STATEMENT OF
JOSEPH E. DAVIES
IN RE:
MAMORU SHIGEMITSU

At the request of George A. Furness, Esq., counsel for Mamoru Shigemitsu before the International Tribunal for the Far East, Tokyo, I hereby attest to a statement in regard to Ambassador Shigemitsu to be used in evidence before that Tribunal, as follows:

I, JOSEPH E. DAVIES, was the Ambassador of the United States to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from November 16, 1936 to June 9, 1938. During that period, I came into contact with Ambassador Shigemitsu as a diplomatic colleague, the accredited Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.S.R. I came to know him well. I also came to know his reputation among the members of the diplomatic corps in Moscow and in the Foreign Office of the U.S.S.R. His reputation was, first of all, that he was a diplomat who would observe strictly the professional loyalties which his duty required, but that in spite of his official "correctness", he was nevertheless definitely a liberal, progressive, and altruistic humanitarian in his approach to problems of international relations. In his private conversations with me he spoke of his desire to compose peace in China and to end a war which he personally deplored and which he believed was ill-advised. He

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also expressed eagerness to prevent that war from spreading into conflict between his country and mine. While disagreeing with some of his interpretations as to who was responsible for the Chinese situation, and while officially I always maintained a reserved judgment for the possible protection of my country, I nevertheless knew, and was impressed by the fact that his reputation was that he was not of the militaristic clique in Japan, but was a man of altruistic and humanitarian mind, who would not himself be a party to either initiating or projecting a policy of militaristic aggression, or to using armed force as an instrument of international policy. From my conversations with him and my observations of his acts as a diplomatic colleague, I gained a distinct impression that he was sincere in such statements and that his reputation was well deserved.

On a specific occasion, the border incident along the Amur River in June and July of 1937, which had reached a pass where ultimatums had been laid down, I went to see both Shigemitsu and Litvinov, informally, to explore the situation, and to urge that the situation be not permitted to develop into war. Shigemitsu received me immediately. He was frank. He assured me that he, personally, would do what he could to localize the issue and prevent the possibility of war. I believed he was sincere. Shortly thereafter, at a reception given by the Soviet Government, I had opportunity to talk with Foreign Minister Litvinov and Ambassador Shigemitsu together. At that time

it was clear to me that each, while sustaining the positions of their respective governments, was personally trying to avoid the breakdown of negotiations in the interest of peace. The controversy was adjusted. The settlement was unquestionably due to the decisions of the respective foreign offices. It nevertheless afforded me an opportunity to assess the personal attitude of Ambassador Shigemitsu.

I followed Shigemitsu's subsequent diplomatic activities in London as the Japanese Ambassador to England. His reputation in the diplomatic circles in Moscow, which I have here reported was corroborated by reports, received by me from different members of our own diplomatic corps in London, including Ambassador Kennedy, and others, who had the opportunity to talk with him and to observe his actions and to assess his general reputation in London.

To summarize, his reputation in the diplomatic world was not that of a militarist or of an aggressor in the provocation of the war, but that of fundamentally a liberal-minded and altruistic type of man who was hostile to fascist ideas, and opposed to the aggressive use of armed force, and would not be a party to the initiation of the projection of an aggressive war, or to use in war of any methods condemned by the Laws and Customs of War and the generally accepted standards of the Hague Convention, and international law. From my own observation, this reputation was well deserved.

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(signed) JOSEPH E. DAVIES
Washington, D.C.
1947

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF Nassau) ss.

Personally appeared before me, JOSEPH E. DAVIES, who being first duly sworn, makes oath and states that the foregoing statement, signed by him in my presence, is true and correct and that the same is being given to Major George A. Furness of the United States Army as counsel in the war trials before the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, now sitting in Tokyo, for such use as may in his opinion be in the interest of justice.

(signed) E. FLOYD GRIFFIN
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Residing in Nassau County
Nassau County Clerk's No. 1398
Commission Expires March 30, 1947