

ber, Dec. #2960

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

AFFIDAVIT OF  
KOSAKA, Yasumasa

Q. Will you state your career as a prefectural governor?

A. I became the Governor of FUKUSHIMA Prefecture in 1923, and then governors of EHIME, OKAYAMA, and AICHI Prefectures, after which I became the Governor of TOKYO Prefecture in 1932 and stayed in that position until 1935.

Q. Did you attend the Prefectural Governors' Conference in 1933?

A. Yes I did.

Q. How many prefectural Governors' Conferences were there in 1933, and where were they held and when?

A. There was only one in 1933, as was the usual practice, and it was held in April in Tokyo.

Q. What was the ordinary procedure of the Conference when you were the prefectural governor?

A. The Conference was always held at the Official Residence of the Prime Minister. The conference was usually initiated by an address of the Prime Minister to be followed by the addresses of the State Ministers who had under their jurisdiction matters related to the Prefectural Governors.

- Q. Did the War Minister make any address?
- A. The War Minister usually made a brief address about the matters under his jurisdiction such as conscription, especially about the health of adults for conscription.
- Q. At the occasion of the Prefectural Governors' Conference in April, 1933, was there any address, either by the Prime Minister or by other State Ministers, concerning the government policies, especially concerning the Soviet Union and Manchoukuo?
- A. There were speeches by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister concerning the official recognition of Manchoukuo and withdrawal from the League of Nations.
- Q. Did the War Minister make any address?
- A. The War Minister made a speech concerning aid of the families of soldiers, especially of bereaved soldiers as well as, as was usual, the health of adults for conscription. He also said that at the recent combats in Manchuria and unexpected number of soldiers had suffered from frost-bite and that the soldiers at the interior of Manchuria were experiencing hardship on account of shortage of supply.
- Q. Was there any occasion in 1933 when a Prefectural Governors' Conference was held at the TOYAMA Army School?
- A. Absolutely not.
- Q. Well, if it were not the formal Prefectural Governors' Conference, perhaps some other meeting where the Prefectural Governors met?
- A. Yes. There was an occasion when the Prefectural Governors, during the recess of the Prefectural Governors' Conference, were invited by the War Minister to a lunch at TOYAMA Army School.

- Q. What was the purport of the invitation?
- A. It was to express the War Minister's thanks to the activities of the Soldiers' Relief Association.
- Q. What was the Soldiers' Relief Association?
- A. It was an association organized with civilians to take care of the poor and needy families of the soldiers, and the prefectural-governors invariably held the position of being advisers to the Association.
- Q. Was there any speech made by War Minister ARAKI on the occasion of that lunch party?
- A. While we were at the lunch table, the War Minister expressed his thanks to the activities of the prefectural Governors in connection with the Soldiers Relief Association. It was more of the nature of a greeting than a speech.
- Q. Was Mr. Rokuzo TAKEBE present at that party?
- A. Yes, he was.
- Q. I will now show you Exhibit No. 670 and Exhibit No. 3371. Will you please state if such matter as is contained in those documents was spoken by the War Minister?
- A. No. There was no reference to such matter as this. Only I recollect that there was hanging in the waiting room a map of Manchoukuo, on which was marked the disposition of bandits.
- Q. On that occasion of the lunch party, either before or after the lunch, did the War Minister tell the prefectural governors secretly anything about the Soviet Union or Manchoukuo.
- A. No. Immediately after we were given lunch, we were shown a new style gymnastic performed by the students of the TOYAMA Army School and then the party was broken up, and we had no such chance.

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Q. Was defendant SUZUKI present at the lunch party?

A. I do not recall whether he was there or not I only remember about a dozen of Army officers were there.

Q. Did anyone, besides the War Minister, give lecture?

A. There was no lecture by anyone except a greeting by the War Minister at the lunch.

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On this 14th day  
of November, 1947.

At the International Military  
Tribunal for the Far East

DEPONENT /s/KOSAKA, Masayasu  
(Seal)

I, HASUOKA, Takaaki, 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 the same place.

WITNESS /s/ HASUOKA, Takaaki  
(Seal)

OATH

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

/s/KOSAKA, Masayasu  
(Seal)