

EDITORIAL ROOMS

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THE SATURDAY
EVENING
POST
FOUNDED BY
Benjamin Franklin

THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5

Republic of France
Department of Seine
City of Paris
Embassy of the United
States of America

BEN HIBBS
EDITOR

ss:

Paris, France, May 13, 1947

I have known Mr. Mamoru Shigemitsu since 1928, first in Peiping, China, afterward in Tokyo when he was vice-minister of Foreign Affairs and in Shanghai when he was Minister to China; and later still when he was Ambassador to Russia (in 1936-7) and I last saw him after the war broke out in London, where he was ambassador to Great Britain.

During this period I had frequent talks with Mr. Shigemitsu in my work as a foreign correspondent for U.S. newspapers and magazines. He was very frank with me, and admitted on several occasions that he was much disturbed by the rise of the military party in Japan, and that his own position was made extremely difficult, as he was suspect among the militarists for his known friendliness toward the United States and Britain, and for his certainty that all-out war would prove disastrous to Japan. I recall that he was particularly distressed when the anti-Comintern pact was announced in 1936; I talked with him in Moscow immediately afterward, and he heartily agreed with me that this agreement, by putting Japan in the same camp with Nazi Germany, worsened relations with the United States. He explained that he had to move with great care to avoid being removed from a position where his influence would be of any value.

When I talked with him in London during the so-called "phony war" of 1939-40, before the western blitzkrieg, he told me that the agreement with Germany had not yet developed into an outright military alliance, and that he was doing what he could to prevent that. However, German successes encouraged the Japanese militarists and they overwhelmed such opposition as Mr. Shigemitsu's a few months later in September, 1940.

In my talks with Mr. Shigemitsu in Moscow, he frequently stressed his hope that war between Japan and Russia could be avoided. He had a better estimate of Russia's military strength at that time than some American and British observers. No other Japanese with whom I came in contact during the critical years from 1931 to 1941 showed in private conversations such an accurate appreciation as did Mr. Shigemitsu of the potential strength of the various powers, and of the extreme dangers into which the Japanese militarists were leading the country. He had the reputation among all the American and British journalists who knew him well of being opposed to all-out war with China,

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Statement of Demaree Bess, continued

Russia, or the western powers. To those of us who lived in Japan during the rise of the military party, it was obvious that he had only two alternatives: to move with great caution, and thereby retain his position; or to resign. If he had resigned, he would have abandoned any chance of exercising a moderating influence. From specific remarks which he made to me, I am satisfied that no Japanese is less surprised today by what has happened to his country.

(Signed)

Demaree Bess
Associate Editor
The Saturday Evening Post

I, Demaree Bess, a native-born American citizen, having been first duly sworn, make oath and say that the above statement is a true statement given by me for use in evidence in the trial of major war criminals before the International Military Tribunal of the Far East now sitting in Tokyo, Japan, and that this statement is in all respects true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Demaree Bess
Demaree Bess

scribed and sworn to before
this ~~10~~¹²th day of May, 1947, in Paris, France.

Melville E. Osborne
Notary Public

MELVILLE E. OSBORNE
VICE-CONSUL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AT PARIS, FRANCE

6466

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余ハ一九二八年以來重光葵氏ヲ知ツテ居ル、即チ最
 初ハ中國北平ニ於テ、後氏が外務次官ノ時東京ニ
 於テ、次イテ駐支公使ノ時上海ニ於テ、尙其後氏が
 駐ソ大使ノ時（一九三六―七年）デアツテ、最後ニ戰
 争勃発後氏が駐英大使デアツタ時、倫敦ニ於テ會
 見シタ。

余ハ右期間中半國新聞雜誌海外特派員トシテノ
 仕事ノ上テ屢々重光氏ト會談シタ。氏ハ余ニ對シ極
 メテ率直デアツテ、日本ニ於ケル軍閥ノ興隆ニヨリ大イ
 ニナヤマサレテ居ルコト、氏が親米英デアルコトが知レテ
 居テ軍國主義者ニ疑ハレテ居ルタメ自分ノ地位が
 極メテムツカレクナツテ居タコト及ビ氏ノ信ズル所テ

ハ全面的戦争ハ日本ニトツテ破局的デアルコトヲ
認メタ。一九三六年防共協定ガ発表セラレタ時
(數回三頁リ)

氏ガ特ニカヲ落シテ居タコトヲ余ハ想出ス。余ハ
其ノ直後「モスコ」ニ於テ氏ト會談シタガ、コノ協定
ハ日本ヲ「ナチ」獨逸ト同ジ陳營ニ入レルデ、米國
トノ關係ヲ悪化スルトノ莫テ氏ハ余ト大イニ意見ガ
一致シタ。氏ハ氏ノ力ガサレテモ役立つヤウナ地位カラ
斥ケラレナイヤウニスル為ニハ、多大ノ注意ヲ以テ行動
セザルヲ得ナイト説明シタ。

乙
、時代余ガ倫敦ニ於テ氏ト會談シタ時氏ハ獨逸ト
一九三九―四〇年西部電撃戰ノ前、所謂「擬戰

1 右協定ハ未ダ純然タル軍事同盟ニ迄發展シ
 テハ居ラズ、之ヲ阻止スル為出來ルダケヤツテ居ル
 旨余ニ語ツタ。然レ獨逸ノ成功ハ日本ノ軍國
 主義者ヲ刺戟シ、ソノ數個月後、一九四〇年九月
 ニハ重光氏ノ如キ反対ヲ压倒シテシマツタ。
 モスコ⁷ニ於ケル重光氏トノ會談中氏ハ屢々日ソ
 間ノ戦争ハ避⁷ケ得ラレルトノ希望ヲ強調シテ居
 タ。當時氏ハ米英一部ノ觀察者ヨリモヨク露露西⁷
 ノ軍事的能力ヲ評價シテ居タ。一九三一年カラ
 一九四一年迄ノ危機ニ余が接觸シタ日本人テ重光氏
 ノ如ク各国ノ能力及ビ日本ノ軍國主義者が國家
 ヲ引キ入ヒツツアツタ多クノ危險が正確ニワカツテ

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居タコトヲ私的會談中ニ於テ示シタ人ハ他ニナカワタ。氏
 ヲヨク知ワテ居タ米英新聞記者一同ノ間ニ於テ氏
 ハ中華民國、露路西亞又ハ欧米諸國トノ全面的戰
 争ニ反対デアルト評判セラレテ居タ。我々同僚ノ中
 軍閥興隆時代日本ニ居住シタモノニハ、氏が大イニ行
 動ヲ慎重ニシテ自分ノ地位ヲ保ツカ又ハ辭職スルカノ
 二者イツレカヨリ外ナカワタコトハ明カデアツタ。若シ辭
 職ニテ居レバ緩和ス方ヲ働カセル機會ヲ全然棄テ
 ルコトニナツタデアラウ。氏が余ニ對シ特ニ言ツタ言葉
 カラ見テ、祖國今日ノ事態ニ付氏が如何ナル日本人
 ヲリモ驚カナイデアラウト思ツテ余ハウナヅクモノデア
 ル。

一九四七年五月十三日佛國巴里

「サタデー、イーヴニング、ポウスト」誌
共同主筆

「デマリ、ベス」 (署名)

余、米國出生市民「デマリ、ベス」ハ正式ニ宣誓ノ上
以上ノ陳述が目下日本東京ニ於テ續行中ナル極東
國際軍事裁判所ニ於ケル第一級戦争犯罪人ノ
審理ニ基リ證據トシテ用フルタメ余ノ作成シタ真
正ノ陳述書デアリ、右陳述書が余ノ知り且ツ信忍
限リスベテノ實ニ於テ眞實デアルコトヲ誓約陳述ス
ルモノデアル。

「デマリ、ベス」 (署名)

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一九四七年五月十二日佛國巴里
ニ於テ余ノ面前ニテ宣批言署名
セリ。

佛國巴里米國副領事

「マルヴィル、イー、オズボーン」(署名)

Paris, France, May 13, 1947.

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(Signed) Demaree Bess

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 12th day of May, 1947, in Paris, France.

(Signed) Melville P. Ossorne

Melville P. Ossorne
Vice-Consul of the United States of
America
At Paris, France