

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)
vs)
ARAKI, Sadao, et al)

A F F I D A V I T

SUZUKI, Bunshiro

I, SUZUKI, Bunshiro, after having been duly sworn according to the Japanese formula, make the following ~~state-~~ment of my own free will:

I am ~~—~~ years of ^{lawful} age, and reside at No. 940, 3-chome, Kitazawa-cho, Setagaya Ward, Tokyo, Japan.

I was a journalist connected with the Asahi Shimbun from June, 16, to October, 1945, and at a later period I became a Director of that newspaper. At present I am the Managing Editor and Publisher of the Japanese Branch of the Reader's Digest.

1. Unfortunately when the Pacific War broke out, I thought that the war should be brought to an end as speedily as possible. At the same time, I knew that the greatest obstacle to taking the question of peace into consideration was the attitude of the Military Authorities. Hence it seemed to me that the best opportunity to take up the question of peace, as viewed from the internal and external situation of Japan, would be the time of the defeat of Germany, and that the best way would be to appeal to Great Britain through a neutral country, i.e. Sweden.

As I had always been friendly with Mr. Bagge, Swedish Minister to Japan, since February, 1938, I was on such terms with him as to be able to exchange opinions very frankly. I visited him in the summer of 1943 while he was staying at Karuizawa, and, stating to him my view on the termination of the war, as mentioned above, reminded him that he was in a position to achieve a great life-work as a diplomat. Mr. Bagge appeared to have been fairly deeply impressed, but replied: "I am afraid I shall be unable to do anything, if it is only your own personal opinion." Subsequently I had several occasions to talk with Mr. Bagge, and at last he told me that, if the Japanese Government desired it, he was willing to transmit its wishes to his home Government in order to find a beginning toward peace negotiations.

2. In March, 1944, I visited the Foreign Minister at his official residence, and expressed my opinion as mentioned above, together with the details of my talks with Mr. Bagge. Foreign Minister Shigemitsu listened earnestly the whole time. When I had finished, he said to me: "I have listened most attentively, and I am grateful to you," approving what I had done. He further said: "Fortunate enough Mr. Bagge is leaving Japan for home. I will talk with him fully." I was very much encouraged to see him ~~to~~ agree with me at once, as I received the impression that Mr. Shigemitsu had always a similar plan, and that my opinion coincided with his ideas. I thereupon made an engagement with him for Mr. Bagge, and informed him to that effect confidentially.

During the time Foreign Minister Shigemitsu had the interviewed with Mr. Bagge, I was waiting in the Swedish Legation at Tokyo, anxious to hear the result of the talk. Mr. Bagge returned in a very good humor, and told me: "Mr. Shigemitsu was very frank in what he said to me. He stated that he would leave the matter to my discretion, as the general situation surrounding Great Britain might be made clearer to us when I returned home. We have arranged that we shall consult, after my arrival in Sweden, by exchange of ciphered telegram through the Japanese Legation at Stockholm."

I met Mr. Bagge after that. I know that Mr. Bagge was firmly determined to carry out this mission entrusted to him by Foreign Minister Shigemitsu.

№ 2874 宣 告 文 書

自分儀我ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國

其他

對

荒不貞夫

其他

宣誓供述書

供述者

鈴木 友方 印
Suzuki

Shigemitsu

極東國際軍事裁判所

亜米利加合衆國 其他

對

荒木貞夫 其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 鈴木文史朗

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ヅ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ為シタル上次ノ

如ク供述致シマス。

ニ達シテ居リ。

私ハ法的年齢東市都世田ヶ谷区北沢町三丁目九四番地ニ住ンデ居リマ
ス。

私ハ一九一六年六月ヨリ一九四五年十月マデ朝日新聞社ノ記者、後ニ取締役デアリマシタ。現在ハ「リीडァーズ・ダイジェスト」日本支社編輯長兼発行人デアリマス。

一、不幸ニシテ大太平洋戦争ガ勃発スルヤ私ハ此ノ戦争ハ出来ルダケ早ク終熄ニ道ヲカネバナラナイト考ヘマシタ。同時ニ私ハ和平問題ヲ取り上ゲルニ最モ厄介ナノハ軍部ノ態度デアル。此ノ意味ニ於テ「ドイツ」ノ敗北ノ時ヨリ日本ノ内外ノ情勢上和平ノ問題ヲ取り上ゲル好機デアリソノ方法トシテハ中立國タル「スウェーデン」ヲ通シ英國ニ申出ルノカ最上デアルト考ヘマシタ。

幸ヒ「スウェーデン」公使「バゲ」氏トハ一九三八年二月以來親交ヲ續ケテ在リ、オ互ニ腹藏ナク意見ヲ交シ得ル間柄デアリマシタ。デ、一九四三年夏私ハ輕井沢滞在中「バゲ」公使ヲ訪ネテ前記戦争終結ニ関スル私ノ意

見ヲ述ベ、且ツ氏ガ外交官トシテ生涯ノ大事業ヲ成シ遂ゲ得ル地位ニアル事
ヲ説キマシタ。『バゲ』氏ハカナリ深い印象ヲ受ケタヤウニ見エマシタガ、『貴君
一個人ノ私見デハ何トモナラナイ』ト答ヘマシタ。『バゲ』氏トハ其ノ後モ屢ニ會談
シマシタ。『バゲ』氏ハ遂ニ日本政府ガ希望スルナラ和平交渉ノ端緒ヲ開ク爲
本國政府ニ日本政府ノ希望ヲ傳達シテモ良イト言明シマシタ。

二一九四四年三月私ハ外務大臣官邸ニ重光外務大臣ヲ訪問シ、前
記ノ私ノ意見及ビ『バゲ』氏トノ會談ノ經過ヲ述ベマシタ。重光外務大
臣ハ終始熱心ニ聽イテ居リマシタガ、私ノ言ガ終ルト『御意見謹聽シマ
シタ。誠ニアリガタウ』ト云フテ即座ニ賛成シ、『バゲ』氏ハ近ク歸國スルコト
ニナラテキルノハ非常ニ好都合デアアル。『バゲ』氏ニ會フテヨク話サウ』ト述ベ
マシタ。私ハ重光氏ガ私ノ話ヲキイテ言下ニ賛成シタノヲ見テ同氏が既

ニカウシタ腹案ヲ持ツテ居リソレト一致シク相違ナイトノ印象ヲ受ケテ
 大イニ元氣ヲ附ケラレマシタノデ、早速「バゲ」氏ニ代リ外相ト會見ノ約束
 ヲ取り附ケ、此ノ旨「バゲ」氏ニ内報致シマシタ。

重光外務大臣ガ「バゲ」氏ト會見シタ時、私ハ在京瑞典公使館ニ結
 果如何ト待ツテ居リマシタ。「バゲ」氏は頗ル上機嫌ニ歸リ来テ私ニ
 向ヒ「重光氏ハ實ニ卒直ニ話シテくれマシタ。私ガ本国ニ歸ヘレバ英國ヲ
 中心トシタ一般ノ事情モ分ラウカラ私ノ裁量ニ任セル。ソノ上デ電報ヲ打
 合セルコトニシヨウ。ソノ暗号電報ハ「ストックホルム」日本公使館ヲ通シテ
 ヤラウトソレマデキメテ来タト云ヒマシタ。私ハ「バゲ」氏ニ會ヒマシタガ、
 氏ハ「重光外務大臣カラ托サレタ使命ヲ何トカシテ果シタイト

去々決意ヲモツテイタコトヲ私ハ知ツテ居マス。

№ 2874

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニア宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

同日於同所

立會人

金谷 静 雄

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）十一月廿一日 於東京

供述者

鈴木 文 史
Suzuki

№ 1. 100 2874

良心ニ従ヒ眞實ヲ述ベ何事ヲモ祕秘セズ又何争ヲモ附加セザルコトヲ誓フ

宣

誓

書

署名捺印

鈴木文子
[印]
Suzuki