

EXHIBIT No. 2991

(9)



INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: HAYASHI, Hisao

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. My name is HAYASHI, Hisao. From August of 1933 to September of 1936 I was Chief of the South Sea Board, which was the administrative organ of the South Sea Mandated Islands, with its main office in PALAO.
2. I state positively that there were no military installations in the South Sea Islands while I held my post there. It is true that there were some harbor constructions and some aeronautic installations. However, they had no military purpose, their only objective being the economic and cultural development of the South Sea Islands.
3. As soon as I assumed my post, it occurred to me that



Def. Doc. # 1742.

aeronautic installations were necessary for transportation between Japan proper and the Islands, for discovering schools of fish and for the rescue of the wrecked ships. Just before I went to PALAO to take up my post, I talked with Admiral OSUMI, Mineo, then Minister of Navy, about the construction of airfields. He told me that the construction of airfields would better be given up for the present, because it could cause difficulties in the League of Nations. However, since I believed that it was absolutely necessary for the development of the South Seas Area, and as it was for no military purpose, I made up my mind that it should by all means be carried out.

The South Sea Board first constructed a seaplane ramp in PALAO, and then one in SAIPAN. The Board also planned to construct seaplane ramps in other islands. At first we had only two seaplanes which we borrowed from the Navy and operated on a test basis. The construction work on the airfield for land planes was commenced in SAIPAN in 1934. However it was not completed during my tour of duty.

4. My idea of the development of the South Seas Area could not easily be fully carried out owing to the small budget of the South Sea Board. So I tried to attain my object by setting up a ten-year plan for the development of the South Sea Islands. This plan was carried out by a



Cabinet decision which adopted the report of the Investigation Committee for the Development of the South Sea Islands. This plan had in view a wide range of projects concerning the development of the South Sea Islands and included the following items:

- (1) The development of agriculture, forestry, mining and aquatic products industries is to be encouraged and promoted.
- (2) The transportation facilities are to be organized well. Especially, navigation routes between Japan proper and the South Sea Islands, and those from the South Sea Islands to Australia through outer South Seas Area are to be established. Harbors in SAIPAN, PALAO, PONAPE, TINIAN, ROTA, YAP and other islands are to be constructed or repaired.

Air-routes are to be established between the Islands themselves, and between Japan proper and the Islands.

- (3) The education system is to be improved. Education of the natives adjusted to the real conditions of life should be carried out thoroughly.
5. During my time at this work, I never took measures to prohibit or to restrict foreign travellers from visiting the South Sea Islands. It is true that I had been told by the



Def. Doc. # 1742

NIPPON Yusen Kaisha that as far as possible the same company was trying not to accept foreign passengers. I heard that it was on account of the difficulties in supply of food and other accommodations, and of the lack of hotel facilities. However, the South Sea Board never ordered the same company to refuse to accept foreign passengers, and it was never requested to make such order by the Foreign Ministry or by the Navy Ministry.

I recall many instances of foreign visitor's calling on me at PALAO during my stay there.

On this 28 day of May, 1947:

At Tokyo.

Deponent /s/ HAYASHI, Hisao (seal)

I, ONO, Seichiro, 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 Tokyo.

Witness: /s/ ONO, Seichiro (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ HAYASHI, Hisao, (seal)