

No. 2715

EW 2715

Def. Doc. #1685

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

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

A F F I D A V I T

UGAKI, KAZUSHIGE

I, UGAKI, Kazushige, after having been duly sworn according to the Japanese formula, make the following statement of my own free will:

I am 79 years of age and reside at Nagaoka, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan.

I am a retired General in the Imperial Japanese Army. I became Foreign Minister in the First Konoye Cabinet in May 1938, succeeding to Hirota, Koki, and was Foreign Minister until I resigned in September 1938. During the time that I was Foreign Minister, General Itagaki was War Minister and Shigemitsu, Mamoru, was Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The policy of the Government of which I was a member was to remain at peace with the Soviet Union and to avoid war.

About the middle of July 1938, as Foreign Minister, I was informed by General Itagaki, that Soviet forces had entered the territory of Manchoukuo at a point near the border of Korea. I immediately sent telegraphic instructions to the Embassy in Moscow, giving instructions to protest and to demand withdrawal.

From then until the incident was finally settled I was in constant touch with the Embassy sending the Ambassador instructions by telegram almost daily and receiving about as many telegrams from him in reply. The objective from beginning to end of the Government, the Foreign Office and the Ambassador was to remain at peace and to prevent the incident from breaking into war. It was at first proposed by the Japanese Government that the troops withdraw and that after that was done, the question of the border be submitted to negotiation. After hostilities commenced, the Japanese Government proposed the cessation of hostilities and the settlement of the border by negotiation after that had been accomplished.

I was kept constantly informed by Shigemitsu's telegrams and knew that my instructions were being carried out. Through Mr. Shigemitsu's effort an agreement was reached in Moscow for ceasing hostilities.

Hostilities

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Hostilities ceased on the signing of the agreement, and within two or three days the troops were withdrawn. Since I was of the opinion that, through Mr. Shigemitsu's skilful and expert handling of negotiations, this border incident had been prevented from enlarging into general war, and causing great harm to both nations, I sent him a telegram of commendation and appreciation.

This part of the frontier was in dispute, is not clearly marked and the incident took place in the disputed area.

In order to avoid recurrence of such incidents, Mr. Shigemitsu recommended the appointment of a joint Soviet-Japanese Commission to settle and mark the border. I concurred in his suggestion and instructed him accordingly. However, since I retired shortly after that and Mr. Shigemitsu was transferred to London as Ambassador, I do not know what became of the recommendation.

During the incident I met with War Minister Itagaki many times, at Cabinet meetings and five Minister meetings. From all I could observe the War Minister was loyal to the policy of the Government to localize the incident and assisted in the efforts to settle it by peaceful means as soon as possible.

The appointment of Mr. Shigemitsu to the post of Ambassador to Great Britain was made shortly prior to my resignation as Foreign Minister. At that time relations between that country and Japan were very delicate and required expert handling. It was a promotion and did not indicate any dissatisfaction with his work in Moscow. Furthermore, I had heard from no one in Russia nor anywhere else that the Soviet Union did not desire him as Ambassador nor that that country was dissatisfied with his work. I knew that he had done his best to carry out the policy of the Government to remain at peace with the Soviet Union, that he had been successful and therefore recommended his promotion. More important I knew from his skilful handling of this incident of his great ability, and I believed that if this ability was transferred to London it would be beneficial to both Japan and Great Britain.

I have no copies of any of the telegrams or instructions referred to in this affidavit. They were official documents and for the most part in cipher

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and therefore I kept no copies for my private files. All originals, copies and drafts were filed in the section of the Foreign Office in charge of matters relating to the Soviet Union. From time to time during the incident Foreign Office communiques were issued based on the messages I received from Mr. Shigemitsu.

Tokyo, May 28th, 1947.

(Signed) Kazushige Ugaki

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 and at the same place

Witness:

(Signed) K. Miura (seal)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, MIURA, Kazuichi, hereby certify that I can read, write and speak the Japanese and the English languages, and that I have done the English translation of the

AFFIDAVIT OF UGAKI, KAZUSHIGE

accurately and faithfully.

K. Miura

Tokyo, May 22, 1947.