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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL

FOR THE FAR EAST

United States of America et al

versus:

ARAKI, Sadao et al.

AFFIDAVIT

I, TAKEBE, Rokuzo, former Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Manchukuo Government, born in 1893, testify under oath as follows:

In addition to my testimony which I myself, in my own hand, put down in the interrogation of March 26, 1946; I must make the following supplementary statements:

1. On page 11 of the Japanese text of my testimony there is some inaccuracy which was due to an error of my memory, and which I wish to correct. Speaking of the amount of subsidies disbursed by the Manchukuan Government to the Manchurian Heavy Industry Development Company, I wrote that beginning from 1937 the total amount of subsidies had been about 500 million yen; now I have recollected that this amount was 300 million yen or thereabouts.

2. On page 11 of the Japanese text I, speaking of the prefectural governors' conference at which I had heard ARAKI's and SUZUKI's addresses, did not express my thoughts quite correctly. As the result of this, there is some inaccuracy in my answer. To make the whole of my answer regarding this matter absolutely clear, I wish to make the following additional statement:

While I was the governor of Akita Prefecture from June, 1932 to January, 1935, I attended the Prefectural governors' Conferences several times. The conference was convened regularly every year in Tokyo. At one of these conferences which took place, as far as I remember, in 1933, at the Great Auditorium of the Toyama Military School in Tokyo, I heard the address made by the Japanese War Minister, ARAKI, Sadao.

The gist of ARAKI's address was that Japan had brought about the Manchurian Incident, established the state of Manchukuo, and her interests came to a clash with the interests of the states-members of the League of Nations. In this critical period it was necessary for Japan to strengthen her defense, her internal conditions and to secure military bases on the continent. Japan

was to inevitably clash with the Soviet Union in the course of the effectuation of her policies, therefore it was necessary for Japan to secure for herself through military methods the territories of the Maritime Province, Zabaikalye and Siberia. After ARAKI had finished, Lt. Colonel SUZUKI, Teiichi, a member of the War Affairs Section of the Military Affairs Bureau of the Japanese War Ministry, stated orally in ARAKI's presence, (using a map of Manchuria, China and the Soviet Union which had been hung), SUZUKI described the various problems on matters pertaining to the international situation.

The gist of SUZUKI's oral statement consisted in laying the ground for the necessity of Japan's war against the Soviet Union and for the necessity of capturing the Soviet Maritime Province, Zabaikalye and Siberia.

Naturally, at the present time I do not remember the exact wording of ARAKI's and SUZUKI's statements, as many years have elapsed since then.

3. To clarify the nature of my activities as Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Manchukuo Government in the period from 1940 to 1945 I must add the following:

The General Affairs Department guided by me was under the direct control of the Prime Minister of Manchukuo. All the ministries of the Manchukuan Government were under the control of the General Affairs Department. Thus, the ministries with the General Affairs Department formed the Government of Manchukuo. The responsibility for the administration throughout the whole country rested with me. The Vice-Chief of the General Affairs Department and all vice-ministers who in Manchuria were all Japanese were under me. All these persons met for conferences once a week, on Tuesdays. Drafts of decisions on some or other matters made at these conferences were submitted for deliberation to the cabinet meetings which would take place on Wednesdays.

As chief of the General Affairs Department of the Manchukuo /Government/ I was directly under the control of General UMEZU, Commander-in-chief of the Kwantung Army and from July, 1944 under General YAMADA.

The Commander-in-chief of the Kwantung Army carried out actual guidance of the Manchukuo Government. According to the established rule, chief of the General Affairs Department met the Commander-in-Chief on Saturday each week. On those days chief of the General Affairs Department reported to the Commander-in-Chief on various matters and received instructions

from the latter for future matters. In case of necessity, he met the Commander-in-Chief in the middle of the week to get instructions. All basic and important matters as well as measures undertaken by the Manchukuo Government had to be sanctioned by the Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army. Besides the Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army, the following persons were usually present at the conferences on Saturdays: Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, his deputy, chief of the 4th Section, and Lt. General MIYAKE, Chief of the Central Headquarters of the KYO-WA-KAI Society. Lt. General MIYAKE also reported to the Commander-in-Chief on the most important matters pertaining to the activities of the KYO-WA-KAI Society and received from him instructions concerning his work. Thus, the Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army directed not only /the activities of/ the Manchukuo Government but also /those of/ the KYO-WA-KAI Society.

4. On page 3 of the Japanese text of my testimony dated March 26, 1946, I enumerated principal measures which had been carried out by the Manchukuo Government for the purpose of creation of a military base for a war against the Soviet Union. To this I add that detailed instructions concerning the realization of the measures enumerated by me, i.e., concerning the construction of various military objectives, strategic railroads, airfields, border fortifications and others were given me by General UMEZU, the Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army.

5. I must add the following to my testimony concerning the Kan-Toku-En /plan/. In summer 1941, I went to Tokyo and visited Prime Minister TOJO. During our conversation he said to me that in connection with the military Kan-Toku-En plan it was necessary for the Manchukuo Government to take measures for supplying the Kwantung Army /with all that was necessary/.

I received all instructions concerning the realization of the measures for the Kan-Toku-En plan as regards the Kwantung Army from General UMEZU, Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army and from Chief of his Staff. It is also necessary to point out that 5th Section under Colonel IKEDA, Sumihisa was organized in the Headquarters of the Kwantung Army in 1941. This section was engaged in studying an occupational system for the territories of the Soviet Union, which was planned to occupy. The leading Japanese officials of the Manchukuo Government participated in this study.

6. Concerning the construction of military objects in Manchuria, it is necessary to point out that the construction had been carried out even prior to my appointment as chief of the General Affairs Department of the Manchukuo Government.

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My predecessor at this post up to 1940 was HOSHINO, Naoki who in his activities, and in particular to the activities pertaining to the construction of military objects in Manchuria as a military base against the U.S.S.R. acted in accordance with the instructions of the Kwantung Army Commander and the Chief of its Staff,

Chiefs of the Kwantung Army Staff TOJO, Hideki and ITAGAKI, Seishiro endeavored to carry out military measures directed against the Soviet Union and used Manchurian resources for that purpose. From 1935 through 1938 I stayed in Manchuria holding the offices of Chief of the Administrative Section and then of Chief of the Kwantung Territory Bureau.

s/ TAKEBE, Rokuzo

October 20, 1947.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Undersigned Officer by the above-named TAKEBE, Rokuzo at the Mitsubishi 21 Building, Tokyo, Japan, this 20th day of October, 1947.

s/ T. D. White

Captain,  
1st Summary Court Officer

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Steve S. Yamamoto, hereby certify that I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages, and that this day, the said TAKEBE, Rokuzo was duly sworn in my presence and signed said affidavit under oath in my presence; and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said Affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 20 day of October, 1947, at Tokyo, Japan.

s/ Steve S. Yamamoto  
O-888916, Capt., INF.