

EXHIBIT No. 3305

(11)

Def. Doc. #1979 (Corrected Copy)

Exh. No.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent : OKADA, Yoshimasa

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. I, OKADA, Yoshimasa, was a colonel in the Japanese army at the end of the war.

I am living in No. 190, 2-Chome, Mabashi, Suginami-ward.

2. I served on the staff of G. H. Q. of the China Expeditionary Force from October, 1939 to June, 1943, dealt with Intelligence.

3. Peace negotiation through Mr. Steward.

In January, 1941, we were informed by Chang Yen-Ching who was in Peking at that time that Dr. Steward, the President of Yenking University in Peking would like to have an interview with the Chief of Staff ITAGAI in China.

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The Chief of Staff ITAGAKI, being too occupied at the time with operations, ordered me to see Dr. Steward and enlighten him as to the Japanese anxiety for the prompt settlement of the Sino-Japanese Incident, and sound the views of Dr. Steward, who was an expert in Chinese affairs.

I remember that I went to Shanghai in the beginning of February and met Dr. Steward at the Park Hotel and talked with him through an interpreter, for about two hours, as a representative of the Chief of Staff, ITAGAKI.

I do not remember the details of the interview, but Dr. Steward indicated that he might suggest to the President of the U.S.A. that the U.S. act as mediator provided that Japan was eager for the settlement of the Sino-Japanese Incident.

I heard later on that Dr. Steward despatched a cable message to the U.S. State Department with regard to the said interview. The Chief of Staff ITAGAKI expressed his utmost eagerness at the aforementioned suggestion of American mediation, knowing from his former capacity as War Minister that it was in line with the policy of central quarters and he ordered me to go to Tokyo to report this matter.

I proceeded to Tokyo and submitted the report to the General Staff and the War Ministry, but because of the Japanese Government having started negotiations with

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America separately, this matter was shelved. No further communication was made with Dr. Steward.

4. Peace Negotiation through Yen Hsi-shan.

The reason why General ITAGAKI, while he was War Minister made efforts for peace with Wu Pei-hu was in order to bring about a Sino-Japanese peace as quickly as possible and he tried to persuade the Chinese people by establishing peace societies in many places in North and Central China. This found as response on that part of YEN Hsi-shan in Shanhsi Province, who in answer to the feeling of the general public began earnestly to express his desire for peace between Japan and China. He despatched liaison to Major-General TANAKA, Ryukichi, chief of Staff of the Japanese First Army stationed in Shanhsi Province at that time.

In 1940, Major-General TANAKA reported this situation to the General Headquarters accordingly. Chief of Staff ITAGAKI in China cordially supported the said negotiation and gave instruction to the Army in North frequently, despatching members of his staff so as to work over to a general peace from the localized peace.

The said negotiations bore fruit during the period of the following Chief of Staff, General USHIROKU, and the meeting between YEN Hsi-shan and the commander of the First Army was brought about at last but this was really due to nothing but the motive power applied during the period of

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General ITAGAKI.

5. Peace negotiations in Honkong toward Chungking.

This movement was going on from spring to summer of 1940. Lieutenant-Colonel SUZUKI, Takuji, military attache' at Hongkong, conducted negotiation for Sino-Japanese peace with SUNG Tzu-chieh (whom we trusted), who was said to be the youngest brother of SUNG Tzu-wen and also to be chiefly representing SUNG Tzu-wan of the Chungking faction. Not only the supreme Commander in China and the Imperial Headquarters recognized this fact, but the latter despatched to Hongkong Colonel USUI, Section Chief, who gave powerful assistance in the abovementioned negotiated negotiation. The first step of the HONGKONG negotiation progressed even as far as the discussion of fundamental problems (armistice, evacuation, the problems of Manchoukuo etc.) and the final decision was to be made between the proper delegates authorized by Japan and China respectively. CHANGSHA, being situated on the front line, was nominated as the meeting-spot for this purpose. Chief of Staff in China ITAGAKI was expected to be the delegate from our side, and plans were made concerning the arrangement of fighting lines on both sides, preparations the air port, and so forth, some of which were put into practice. The negotiation in question, however, was finally suspended by the Chinese proposal.

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On this 29 day of July, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT /S/ OKADA, Yoshimasa (seal)

I, Banno Junkichi, 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 the same place.

Witness: /S/ Banno, Junkichi (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ OKADA, Yoshimasa (seal)