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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATE OF AMERICA et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: ARITA Hachiro

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.

A F F I D A B I T

ARITA, Hachiro.

1. My career:

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs to the SAITO Cabinet.

Minister of Foreign Affairs to the First KONOE Cabinet.

Minister of Foreign Affairs to the HIRANUMA Cabinet.

Minister of Foreign Affairs to the YONAI Cabinet.

2.- Relations to Mr. ARAKI:

During the time of The SAITO Cabinet when Mr. ARAKI was Minister of War, I was Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and at the time of both the First KONOE Cabinet and the HIRANUMA Cabinet I was a Cabinet Minister with Mr. ARAKI who took the office of the Minister of Education. During the YONAI Cabinet Mr. ARAKI was Cabinet Councillor, and I was Minister of Foreign Affairs. After that both of us did not take any public office, but we met often at private parties.

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3. Five Ministers' Conference and Mr. ARAKI:

It was in the later period of the Cabinet that I took the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs to the First KONOE Cabinet.

This Cabinet held Five Ministers' Conference, consisting of Prime, War, Naval, Foreign and Financial Ministers for the purpose of debating on the important affairs of the situation; for instance, the problem of an reenforcement of the Anti-Comintern Agreement Pact (or the so-called Tripartite Alliance) was discussed at one of these conferences. But Mr. ARAKI of course did not attend the Five Ministers' Conference, because he was Minister of Education.

4. Mr. ARAKI occupied the office of the Chairman of the Committee of the General Spiritual Mobilization, because his official position of Minister of Education was closely connected with the national spiritual field, and so far as I remember he was appointed in the same way as ex officio.

5. Mr. ARAKI and Japan-German Cultural Agreement:

Japan had entered into a cultural agreement with Germany and Italy, and this kind of agreement was intended to be concluded but with as many other countries as possible. Therefore Japan entered into a cultural agreement with Hungary, Brazil and Siam besides the above mentioned countries.

Although there was not an existing agreement, Japan carried out the various culture exchanges with Poland, Portugal, Argentine and Belgium.

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As for the United State of America, Japan held an old Japanese fine arts exhibition in the International Exhibition at San Francisco. As these agreements were cultural problems aiming at culture exchange in the world, as to the conclusion of an agreement and its enforcement the Foreign Office always conferred with the Ministry of Education. The business mainly consists of exhibition of fine arts and industrial arts and exchange of students and professors.

Mr. ARAKI, Minister of Education, insisted on an exchange of culture of the wide world, emphasizing that it should not be limited to Germany and Italy, alone and the Foreign Office had the same opinion with him.

6. Mr. ARAKI and the Tripartite Alliance:

I heard many times at several private meetings that Mr. ARAKI had disagreed to the Tripartite Alliance and various kinds of control.

At the resignation of the HIRANUMA Cabinet due to Tripartite Alliance issue, Mr. ARAKI was considered one of the most agreeable successors to the head of the following cabinet, together with General ABE, Nobuyuki and Mr. IKEDA, Seihin. One of the principal reasons that Mr. ARAKI was pointed out as prospective successor, was that he had such an opinion regarding the Tripartite Alliance as I stated above.

On this 22 day of March, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT ARITA Hachiro (seal)

I, SUGAHARA Kunitaka 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: (signed) SUGAHARA Kunitaka (seal)

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OATH

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

/s/ ARITA Hachiro (seal)