

Interrogation of Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

Doc 4101

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**WASHINGTON**



**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.**

INTERROGATION OF

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

DATES:

22 January 1946

INTERROGATORS:

Col Gilbert S. Woolworth  
Capt J. J. Robinson  
Mr. Hugh B. Helm

Evid Doc. 4101

INTERROGATION OF

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

Date and Time: 22 January 1946, 9:45-12:00 hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO  
Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth, Interrogator  
Captain J. J. Robinson, Interrogator  
Mr. Hugh B. Helm  
1st Lt Shizuma Yamamoto, Interpreter  
Miss Edna Hickam, Stenographer

Questions by : Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth  
Captain J. J. Robinson  
Mr. Hugh B. Helm

Oath of Interpreter: Administered by Col. Woolworth:

COL. WOOLWORTH: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you, in this proceeding?

Lt. Yamamoto: I do.

Interrogation by Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth.

Q. Colonel, you said at the last hearing you were one of the founders of the Sakura Kai. Is that true?

A. Yes.

Q. Who were some of the other members of that society when it was formed?

A. The founder of this Sakura Kai is myself, but there are a few others that were with me at the time. One of them is CHO, Isame, and one TANAKA, Wataru. The sole founder of this society is myself, and the others were more or less in the capacity of assistants as secretaries, etc.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

- Q. Any other names that you recall as being members?  
A. No, the only ones are myself and the other two just previously mentioned.
- Q. Did more members come in later?  
A. This club is more or less in the nature of assistance in research of the other Young Officers' Club, etc., and there are no other members besides myself and the two just mentioned in this club at all.
- Q. Didn't you tell me the Sakura Kai had upwards of 20,000 members?  
A. The membership of 20,000 or upwards is another Club entirely apart from this one just mentioned. The Club that had 20,000 members is called the Dai Nihon Seki-Sei-Kai.
- Q. When was that club formed?  
A. October of the eleventh year of Showa -- 1936. Previous to that this club was the Dai Nihon Seinen-To.
- Q. Isn't that the same as "Nippon"?  
A. (By Interpreter) It is a matter of pronunciation. The Japanese call it "Nihon".
- Q. There were records kept of the meetings of the Sakura Kai, were there not?  
A. These meetings of the club were just impromptu meetings and there were no records of any such kept at all.
- Q. What society are you referring to now, the Sakura Kai, or the other society?  
A. I am referring to the Sakura Kai.
- Q. In regard to the latter society, the Dai Nihon Seinen-To, you stated, I believe, that one of the reasons for its founding was that politics were at that time corrupt?  
A. Yes, that is so.
- Q. Who particularly amongst the politicians were corrupt?  
A. There were no individual politicians, so to speak, but the Minsei and the Seiyu parties were more or less forming a clique. The Minsei party and the Seiyu party were making activities with the capitalistic party and trying to run the government, and this Nihon Club was formed.

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Q. Were those parties failing to make proper appropriations for the Army?

A. By parties do you mean to say Seiyu parties?

Q. I asked if they failed to support the Army?

A. There was no connection with the Army.

Q. Were their members connected with the Diet?

A. Most of the Diet members were of the Minsei and Seiyu parties.

Q. Who were the leaders of the Minsei party at that time when you formed this society?

A. I can't recall at the present moment.

Q. Do you recall who was the leader of the other society, the other political party? Who were leaders of the other one?

A. I may be mistaken, but I believe the leader of the Minsei party was MACHITA, and if I am mistaken and recall the correct name at a later date I will tell it.

The Seiyu party at that time was divided into two factions, one headed by NAKASHIMA and the other by KUKARA. I may be mistaken on these names, but if I do happen to recall the correct names at a later date I will gladly volunteer them.

Q. What corruption were they guilty of?

A. No individual was directly responsible for the corruption of the government at all. However, the government as a whole was more or less coordinating with the Zaibatsu, the capitalists, and in that way the government had gone into a stage of corruption. Consequently there was a great difference in the livelihood of the wealthier people and the lower class of people.

Q. How did this society aim to correct that condition?

A. I have been answering most of the questions believing they were in connection with the Club, Nihon Seinen-To.  
(Interpreter: I said that I had an understanding of that also.  
Remark by Col. Woolworth: That was right.)

I pleaded to the War Minister to formulate a committee in the revision of the government. This plea was neglected, and consequently this club was formulated to study the revision of the government. I had planned on formulating a plan and submitting it to the government. This was the purpose in forming the so-called Sakura Kai.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. He is talking about the Sakura Kai?

A. (By Interpreter) Yes. You asked him why the Sakura Kai was formed.

Q. Was that plan later presented to the War Minister?

A. No it was never presented to the War Minister.

Q. Was it presented to anyone else?

A. No it was never presented to any ministry or any agency of the government.

Q. Have you a copy of that plan?

A. This plan was never put in writing. It was mostly discussion as to how to carry this out. It was never put in writing at all.

Q. As to the society of Dai Nihon Seinen-To, you stated that one of its purposes was to foster national defense by placing emphasis on the air. Why did you think it was necessary to place emphasis on the air?

A. There is a bound document on which the Nihon Seinen-To was organized. However, I do not think the primary purpose for the organization of this Seinen-To was emphasized for air defense.

Q. Have you a copy of that document?

A. I personally do not have a copy of this document, but there should be a copy elsewhere.

Q. Where?

A. There were many bound books printed on this reason for formulating the Seinen-To, and there should be some copies some place. My copy that was given to me was burned at the time of bombing my home.

Q. Did the Home Ministry have a copy of it.

A. I do not think there is a copy in the Home Ministry. -- On second thought, I think there may be a copy in the Home Ministry. Shall I write down the title of the book? (Given a sheet of paper to write the title.) It is a bound book about that thick. (The name written was "Hashimoto Kingoro Sengen".)

Q. Who prepared this pamphlet? Did you?

A. The contents of this book were all written by myself.

Q. You stated that among other purposes of this society was to distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan, did you not?

A. I am referring to this book again, and this book contains the object of the Dai Nihon Seinen-To Club. I wanted to let others know why this club was formulated.

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Q. That was one of the purposes that I have just stated?

A. Yes.

Q. How did your organization propose to accomplish that -- to distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan?

A. The object of this book was not to let the other countries know of the culture of Japan at all, and there was no intention of distributing this book to other countries.

Q. You don't answer my question. How did you plan to get to foreign countries the culture of Japan?

A. I had no connection with the culture of Japan and letting other countries know of the culture of Japan.

Q. You stated that one of the five purposes of this society was to distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan. Was that statement true?

A. I did not make any statement to that effect yesterday.

Q. (Colonel Woolworth showed the transcript of the previous interrogation and asked the interpreter to read the testimony and ask if the five purposes of the organization given therein were true.)

A. No. 4 -- "To foster national defense by placing emphasis on the air" should be "To foster national defense by placing emphasis on the air by increased production of airplanes and aircraft."

No. 5 -- "To distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan." The object of that was to raise the culture of Japan so they could distribute it to foreign countries, for instance, to China and the Southwest. The transcript of previous interrogation also says "that these were the five aims of the aforementioned society." These were not the aims of the society, but this was the plan that the society was intending to submit to the higher authorities so it could be carried out in the future.

Q. Do you say that you made that statement and it is correct?

A. (By Interpreter: Yes, that is correct. There is enough here to show that he said that.)

Q. How did you plan to distribute culture to China, for example?

A. As in the case of "water seeks its level," if the culture of Japan was raised above that of the other countries, it would naturally have a tendency then to filter down to the other countries. The object of the society was not to carry this out directly, but to formulate a plan whereby it could be carried out.



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Q. Done by the government, was that it?

A. The book that was made at the time the Club was formulated contains all the primary aims or objects the Club had, and if this book could be obtained it would reveal all the intentions.

(Remark by Mr. Helm: We will get the book.)

Q. Did you feel that by having more airplanes built that would tend to help to distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan?

A. There is no connection whatsoever in the broadening of the culture of Japan with the increased production of airplanes. The subject of more airplanes was brought about for the national defense only and not in the broadening of the culture of Japan and distributing it to other countries.

Q. From whom were you fearful that attack on Japan would come, that it was necessary to strengthen national defense?

A. I had the most fear of the Russians. The Army's apparent objective was, in my opinion, Russia, as the reason for the strengthening.

Q. After you were retired after the Panay-Ladybird incident you said that you made a number of speeches in Japan. What was the subject of your speeches on those occasions?

A. I resigned my post as Regimental Commander and returned to Japan approximately one and one-half years after the Panay incident and made numerous speeches after the return to Japan, which were more or less in the relation of the Panay incident to the people.

Q. What did you say at that time in regard to the Panay incident?

A. I take that back — my speeches did not relate to the incident of the Panay, but the "Repima" incident, which was the British Ladybird incident.

Q. Why did you talk about that incident?

A. The speeches made were mostly on the activities and movements of my period in China during the course of one year and seven months; and since the Ladybird incident occurred during this period I also mentioned the incident in my speeches.

Q. What did you say about the incident at that time?

A. The only thing mentioned was the fact that such an incident had occurred.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. Did you describe how it happened that your batteries fired upon the Ladybird?

A. The reason for firing on the Ladybird was because I was ordered to by the high officials.

Q. Is that what you said in your speeches?

A. Yes I did.

Q. Did you say at that time that the British and Americans should be driven out of China?

A. No I did not.

Q. When did you become convinced that the British and Americans should be driven out of China?

A. I had never given any thought in that respect about the Americans and the British having to be driven out.

Q. At the time you opened fire on the Ladybird you knew there had been no declaration of war by Japan against Great Britain, did you not?

A. There was no declaration of war by Japan against the British at the time the Ladybird was fired upon. However, when the Ladybird was hit the object was not the Ladybird, but the numerous merchant vessels close by.

Interrogation by Mr. Hugh B. Helm.

Q. Colonel, what exactly were your aspirations for Japan, beginning with 1931 on down to 1941?

(Interpreter: By aspirations, what do you mean?)

A. by Mr. Helm: What did he wish for Japan during that time?)

A. One of the aspirations, so to speak, was the alliance of Japan with Germany.

Q. Why?

A. One of the primary reasons for that is that the China-Japanese incident had taken place, and in this China-Japanese incident the English were offering assistance to China, and to cease this assistance of the British to China the alliance with Germany was sought.

Q. Who sought it?

A. I believe the Konoye Cabinet.

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- Q. And you supported this alliance with Germany and did all in your power to bring it about?
- A. I have made numerous speeches to the effect that the Japanese alliance with Germany must be taken.
- Q. Now this culminated in the Anti-Comintern Pact?
- A. When the Tri-Partite Treaty was reached, the relationship with Russia became neutral.
- Q. Yes, but that is not what I wanted. Your active efforts in furthering your belief that Japan should enter into an alliance with Germany finally culminated in a pact with Germany, did they not?
- A. I do not think that my efforts culminated in this Tri-Partite Treaty, but the Tri-Partite Treaty was reached.
- Q. During the time that you were urging an alliance with Germany, did you talk to any representatives of the German Government about this?
- A. There is no occasion where I had talked to any German representatives directly.
- Q. Did you talk to any of them indirectly?
- A. No.
- Q. In 1931 you were on duty with the Kwantung Army?
- A. No I was not. I was with the General Staff in Tokyo.
- Q. You stated the other day that you were a Special Service Officer under the jurisdiction of the Kwantung Army?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When was that?
- A. That was during the 12th and 13th year of the Taisho, that is approximately 1923 and 1924. During the period I was in Manchuria was from April the 7th year of Showa until the year end of the same -- that would be 1932.
- Q. Who was in command of the Kwantung Army at that time?
- A. General HISHIGARI.
- Q. Did you know him?
- A. Yes.

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Q. What were your relations with him?

A. There was no occasion where I spoke to him directly, but since all reports had to be submitted, I had known of him but did not contact him directly.

Q. Was this General HISHIGARI a member of the Cherry Blossom Society?

A. No he was not. There was no such person a member of the Cherry Blossom Society.

Q. Where were you in 1931 at the time of the Manchurian incident?

A. With the General Staff here in Tokyo.

Q. Did you regard the Manchurian incident as the beginning of a new era for Japan?

A. No I did not.

Q. Colonel, isn't it true that Japan was in what you regarded as a precarious position from 1931 on? They were weak in air power. You were afraid of Russia. You had corrupt politicians running things. The industrialists and the capitalists were in power. The population of Japan was increasing rapidly. In case of an attack Japan lacked war materials. So isn't it a fact that with all these factors, you favored acquisition of more territory, particularly in Manchuria where Japan had a special interest?

A. The Manchurian interest was not brought about with the prime purpose of acquisition for military use.

Q. Why was it brought about?

A. The Manchurian incident took place because fighting had taken place in Manchuria and the Japanese had to quell this.

Q. This incident was not brought about from Tokyo?

A. Definitely no.

Q. Did you ever at any time prior to the Manchurian incident tell anyone of your acquaintance that there was such a plot to settle the Manchurian controversy?

A. No there was never an occasion when I made any speech that this Manchurian incident should be quelled, because I had no knowledge that the Manchurian incident was coming up.

Q. Didn't you feel that Japan had a greater right in the Orient than Great Britain?

A. Yes I did.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

- Q. You were willing, and actively urged an alliance with Germany, primarily against Great Britain, in the orient?
- A. The British were assisting China, and consequently to have Britain withdraw her assistance in China, Japan could not handle it alone -- consequently the reason for the treaty with Germany. As long as there was assistance from England to China, the China incident would never conclude.
- Q. You mean by that China would never be conquered?
- A. Because as long as there was assistance from England, China would offer resistance endlessly.
- Q. How did you feel about the United States commercial firms like the Standard Oil Company in China?
- A. I had no special feeling because of the existence of the American Standard Oil in China.
- Q. Did you think they ought to be there?
- A. There was no relation whatsoever with the Standard Oil being there in China.
- Q. You mean your feelings were directed only against the British interests in China and not against the United States interests in China?
- A. Yes, there was no ill feeling or tendencies at all. It was solely against the British.
- Q. Colonel, do you admit that you have always hated the British?
- A. The feeling for the British was not very good.
- Q. Answer my question. Don't you admit that you have always hated the British?
- A. I do not hate the English, but the assistance the English were offering to China did not meet my approval.
- Q. Why?
- A. Because England was assisting Chiang Kai-shek in war materials for China.
- Q. In other words, the British were, in your mind, the sole obstacle in the way of the Greater East Asia expansion?
- A. At that time I thought they were.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. It was during the China incident that the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity League was formed?

A. To my recollection, I do not think anything of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity League.

Q. Do you know anything about the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere?

A. Yes.

Q. Describe to what geographical regions this sphere extended.

A. The approximate geographical sphere would include India, the Philippines, China.

Q. Was Burma included?

A. Yes.

Q. You wanted to get the British out of this sphere?

A. Yes.

Q. How?

A. By helping the people in the sphere become independent.

Q. Suppose Great Britain was not willing to get out of the sphere, to what lengths were you willing to go to get them out?

A. My opinion was to coordinate with China after China had ceased resistance and then by coordinating movements with China have the English out of this so-called sphere.

Q. Were you willing to go to war with Britain to get them out of the Co-Prosperity Sphere?

A. Japan had no intention of war with England to get the English out of the sphere.

Q. You just wanted to force them out?

A. I wanted to bring the China incident to a close as soon as possible and then thereby grant India independence from England. I had hoped that the China incident would come to an early conclusion and that there would be no other frictions with any other countries of the world.

Q. You belong to the Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai?

A. I formulated that.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

- Q. Would you say that the fundamental goal was one world centered about the emperor?
- A. No. All the aims and objectives of Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai are related in the book -- that is impossible, what you just said.
- Q. How did you feel about Japan's aims to bring all Asia under one rule with the emperor over all?
- A. I did not believe in bringing all Asia under one roof; I just wanted to see each nation in Asia independent.
- Q. You just wanted to extend the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere?
- A. I thought at the time that the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere must be established.
- Q. Was that one of the goals of the Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai?
- A. It was not the primary aim, but we had hoped for such.
- Q. Did you urge this publicly?
- A. I have made numerous speeches to the effect.
- Q. Colonel, let me revert to the Ladybird incident for a moment. Is it true that when your regiment was so successful in the Nanking drive you resented the presence of the British and Americans in and about Nanking?
- A. In the drive to Nanking there was no occasion whatsoever when I wished that the Americans and the British be withdrawn from China territory.
- Q. Why did the Chinese call your regiment "The Regiment of Beasts"?
- A. As far as I can recall, my regiment was never so called, because we have never done anything beastly or anything like that.
- Q. It was a fierce regiment, wasn't it?
- A. It was noted for an outfit of "esprit de corps".
- Q. Very fierce fighters?
- A. It was a brave unit. That is my opinion.
- Q. Were they fierce in action?
- A. In action it was noted for its brave fighting.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. How about this word "fierce"?

A. It was brave.

Q. I want you to say "yes" or "no" your regiment was fierce or it was not fierce?

A. No.

Q. Did you at any time in your career have a race hatred of all white men?

A. No. I had never met any white people prior to that.

Q. About your political activities, Colonel, what do you know about the "God sent troops plot" of 1940? A plot to try to assist Premier YONAI.

A. I have no knowledge of that.

Q. Did you ever publish a pamphlet entitled "Proclamation of Hashimoto, Kingoro"?

A. (By Interpreter: That is the publication he has just written down.)

Q. Did you ever publish a pamphlet entitled "Way of Re-establishing the World"?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever publicly advocate immediate seizure of the Dutch East Indies?

A. No.

Q. Will you state clearly once more the aims of the Cherry Blossom Society?

A. As I have stated previously, the aim of the Sakura Kai was more the research or formulating of a new government society because at the time the government was in a so-called corrupt stage where it was involved with the Minsei and Seiyu parties as well as the capitalists.

Q. You told Colonel Woolworth this organization was to do research for the Young Officers Club?

A. This club was formulated and had members who were young officers. It was a young officers association.



Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. Did you belong to the Young Officers Club?

A. Yes.

Q. What were the purposes of this Young Officers Club?

A. To study the new governmental problems.

Q. Did the Young Officers Club want the Army to gain control of the government?

A. No I would not say that.

Q. Well, they did want to increase the influence of the Army in the government, didn't they?

A. No I would not say that. We wanted to see as government heads someone with character.

Q. Was General MINAMI, Jiro a member of the Sakura Kai?

A. No.

Q. Was TOJO a member?

A. No.

Q. Was DOIHARA a member.

A. No.

Q. Was the Cherry Blossom Society responsible for the October affair?

A. I was responsible for the October incident. That is the reason why I was punished. I did not do anything directly, but I was responsible for the October incident.

Q. What was the Jimmu Kai?

A. The Jimmu Kai was formulated by OKAWA, Shumei.

Q. What was the purpose of it?

A. This was none of my affairs, so I do not know definitely. However, I believe this club also was interested in the revision of the government at the time.

Q. You said the other day you were not a member of Jimmu Kai.

Were you a military representative to this society?

A. No I was not. I had no relation whatsoever with the Jimmu Kai.

Q. How well did you know OKAWA, Shumei?

A. I had many meetings with him?

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. What were these meetings about?

A. By meeting I mean just personal contact and no business contacts whatsoever -- just social.

Q. Both of you were interested in a revision of the government?

A.

Q. And you knew each other well socially?

A. Yes.

Q. Had you never discussed politics with him.

A. Yes I have discussed politics with him.

Q. Did you collaborate in any way?

A. There was no collaboration at all.

Q. Did you have any part in the Tokyo revolt of 1936, however small?  
(Q. by Interpreter: By Tokyo revolt you mean the 2-26 incident?)

A. by Mr. Helm: Yes.)  
A. Yes I do know of the 2-26 incident.

Q. Were you in any way responsible?

A. No I was in no way connected with the uprising or the cause of it. I was one of the parties that tried to stop this 2-26.

Q. What were your relations with General MINAMI?

A. I have had no connection with General MINAMI until just recently.

Q. As President of the Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai, did you say in a speech on the 4th of December 1941 in Tokyo, "The youth of Japan and the youth of Germany and Italy must make a blood alliance with each other."

A. I have made no statement to that effect.

Q. Did you know a Chief of the Bureau of Administration in the War Ministry named TANAKA, Ryukichi?

A. Yes I do know of a TANAKA, Ryukichi. He was formerly the head of the Kempeitai which is head of the Gendarmie.

Q. What were your relations with him?

A. There was no relationship whatsoever with TANAKA.

Q. Did you know him socially?

A. No I did not.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. You just knew who he was.

A. Yes.

Q. What were your relations with ABE, Nobuyuki?

A. He was the head of the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society and I was a member of that society.

Q. That was the only way you knew him?

A. Yes.

Q. How about ENDO, Ryusaku?

A. Yes I do know him.

Q. How did you know him?

A. He was connected with ABE. He was more or less acting in the capacity of General Affairs for the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society.

Q. How about YOKOYAMA, Sukenai?

A. Yes I knew him.

Q. How do you know him?

A. He acted in the capacity of the aforementioned ABE.

Q. In the same organization?

A. Yes he was a member of the same organization.

Q. How about OASA, Tadao?

A. Yes I knew him. He was also considered one of the leaders of this society.

Q. How about MAEDO, Yonezo?

A. The aforementioned MAEDO was the assistant to the leader ABE.

Q. How about YAMAZAKI, Tatsunosuke?

A. Yes he was one of the leaders.

Q. How about MIYOSHI, Hideyuki?

A. He was also one of the leaders of the society.

Q. How about TSUKUMO, Kunitoshi?

A. He was one of the leaders of the society.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. Now all these men I have asked you about were military men or have been connected with the Army, were they not?

A. They were all civilians, except for Mr. ABE who was a military man.

Q. The rest of them had never been in the Army or been connected in any way with the War Ministry?

A. No.

Continuation of Interrogation of Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

Date and Time: 22 January 1946, 1330-1500 hours

Place : Same

Present : Same

Interrogation by Mr. Helm (Continued)

Q. Colonel let me ask you about another group of men. NAGATA, Tetsuzan?

A. I did know of him, but he has died?

Q. Was he an Army man?

A. A Major General in the Army.

Q. ISHIWARA, Konji?

A. Yes I know him.

Q. What were your relations with him?

A. I knew of him since my Military Academy days.

Q. UMEZU, Yoshijiro?

A. While I was in the General Staff he was one of the superior officers in the Staff.

Q. Did you know him well?

A. Not too well.

Q. Did you belong to any organizations with him?

A. No never.

Q. About these other two men, did you belong to any organizations with them -- ISHIWARA and NAGATA?

A. No.

Q. ANAMI, Korekigo.

A. Yes I know him.

Q. What were your relations with him?

A. I just know of him as he was War Minister at one time I remember.

Q. MUTO, Akira?

A. Yes I know him well.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. What were your relations with him?

A. He held the position in Military Affairs Section in the Ministry and consequently used to attend the meetings very often.

Q. Did he agree with you about politics?

A. Probably he was more on the side that had the same ideas as myself, but I will not say exactly the same.

Q. Did you belong to any organizations with him?

A. None whatever.

Q. KAWABE, Torashio?

A. I attended War College with KAWABE.

Q. Did he agree with you politically?

A. We did not participate in any political circles.

Q. Did he belong to any organizations with you?

A. No.

Q. IKEDA, Sumi?

A. I know him very well.

Q. What relations did you have with him?

A. We thought the same way.

Q. Did you belong to any organizations with him?

A. No.

Q. KATAKURA, Chu?

A. I knew him very well.

Q. He was an Army man wasn't he?

A. Yes he is an Army man.

Q. How about a man named TOTEHAWA, or it might be TATEKAWA?

A. I knew him very well.

Q. What were your relations with him?

A. He was one of my superiors in General Staff.

Q. Did any of this second group belong to the Cherry Blossom Society?

A. None at all.

Q. Were any of these men involved in either the March or October affairs?

A. Not any.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. I believe you admitted that you belonged to KOKOKU SEINEN SHOKO DOMEI?

A. No.

Q. You said you belonged to the Young Officers Club?

A. No.

Q. You said this morning that you belonged to the Young Officers Club.

A. I stated this morning that I belonged to the Sakuri Kai, but not to the Imperial League of Young Officers. The Cherry Blossom Society is composed of young officers, and I did not mean that it was the Young Officers Association.

Q. Now you deny belonging to it?

A. No I never have belonged to the Imperial Young Officers Association.

Q. Directing your attention to 1941, did you make a speech in Tokyo on the subject of "Stubborn Attitude Toward the Southern Areas and Immediate Action"?

A. No.

Q. Colonel, for your information, that speech is reported in Rodo Dan -- on pages 305 to 314 -- and we have that record.

(Q. by Interpreter: When was it made?)

A. by Mr. Helm: In 1941 at the 5th convention of the Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai.)

A. I can not recall.

Q. But you won't state definitely that you did not make it?

A. I do not recall a title exactly as it is printed there but I have made two or three speeches concerning the Southern move question and immediate action. I can not recall the exact titles of speeches made.

Q. What did you urge in these speeches about the southern move.

A. I can not recall the exact date I did make those speeches; however, I do recall on two or three occasions speeches to that effect. When the ABCD agreement was made, at that time I did make speeches to the effect that they should make a southern move.

Q. What do you mean by that -- make a southern move?

A. By that I mean there was no alternative than to begin operations in the southern area.

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. Do you mean take the Dutch Indies?

A. That we had come upon a period when hostilities with the Americans and English were inevitable.

Q. And should begin?

A. Yes.

Q. So you urged on the people of Japan war with the United States before Pearl Harbor?

A. Yes.

Q. Let me ask you this question. Did you ever make the statement, "Watch me, HASHIMOTO, I am not one to sit and talk." ?

A. No.

Q. Colonel, you were known throughout Japan as a man of action, though, weren't you?

A. I don't think so.

Interrogation by Captain J. J. Robinson:

Q. About a year ago you resigned from the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society?

A. Yes.

Q. Why did you resign?

A. I resigned from the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society because this society was composed of members of the Seiyu and Minsei parties, and in the Diet sessions the representatives of the societies, which names were just read off by Mr. Helm, would agree to any and all issues brought before the Diet, without any reasons or controversies. On problems brought before the Diet, they would just agree without hearing the stories brought up about the issues. Consequently I did not agree with the principles.

Q. That doesn't make a lot of sense. I don't know just what it is all about.

A. Whatever the government had said in any issues, without hearing the stories of the issues brought forth, they would agree to.  
(A by Interpreter: What he is trying to put across is that on any problems brought before the government the leaders of this group would just agree without hearing the story about any issue brought before them.)



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- Q. Did you then want to make speeches in the Diet to discuss these points?
- A. Being a civilian I could not make such speeches to the Diet or anybody else.
- Q. When did your term in the Diet end?
- A. I have not retired from the Diet as yet.
- Q. When did your term begin? A year ago? You were elected 30 April 1942, were you not? (He was a member of the Diet; why does he talk about being a civilian?)
- A. Yes I did enter the Diet then.
- Q. And you have been in ever since?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why did you answer my question then by speaking about being a civilian when you were a member of the Diet?
- A. I was in the Diet. However, this Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society was a group in the Diet, composed of all political representatives, and I withdrew from the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society, but not from the Diet. I just withdrew from the Political Society and not from the Diet organization. I was in the Diet.
- Q. My question was -- did you object because this policy in the Diet did not permit you to discuss political affairs as much as you wanted to?
- A. Any and all bills presented to the Diet from the Government were always agreed upon by this Imperial Rule Political Assistance Society. Consequently, even if the members in the society were opposed to the bill proposed before the Diet, they could not voice any disapproval.
- Q. You could not discuss in the Diet bills presented?
- A. Yes that is so.
- Q. Now you had resigned the preceding month as Chief of General Headquarters, Imperial Rule Assistance Association Youth Corps, had you not?
- A. Yes I had.
- Q. And you had been one of the four Vice Presidents of that Corps?
- A. Yes.

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Q. And Chief of the General Headquarters of the Corps?

A. Yes.

Q. You had tried to build up in Japan a body similar to the "Hitler Youth"?

A. This Youth Corps of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association was in existence from long ago, and the government would select the members for this Youth Corps. And two years ago I was selected to become Chief of General Staff of the Youth Corps, and I resigned early last year, 1945. This Youth Corps was in existence from long ago. It was established since the days of the Konoye Cabinet.

Q. Your idea was to build it up so it would be like the Hitler Youth Corps?

A. No it was not my intention to build this into a corps similar to Hitler's Youth Association.

Q. Why not?

A. I was elected as Chief of General Staff to this Youth Corps, as this organization was long before I came into it.

Q. Ask the question again.

A. No, my intentions were not to make this Youth Corps into an organization similar to Hitler's.

Q. And my question was -- why not?

A. The intention or aim of this Youth Corps was to act in the capacity of a committee for the people of Japan as a whole -- to organize the people of Japan to co-operate in the production of food, war materials, etc.

Q. You did think that Hitler's policies called Fascist policies were good policies, did you not?

A. In my opinion I did not think that this Fascist plan would fit the Japanese people. And the members of the Youth Corps were all taught to be obedient to the emperor.

Q. That's just the way it was with Hitler's, isn't it -- they were taught to be obedient to the Fuehrer?

A. I think there is a difference between Hitler's Youth Corps and the Youth Corps in previous existence. The youths in the Youth Corps were taught to do their utmost in the production of war materials, or farm labors if they were engaged in farm labors, and all other work they were assigned to do.

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Q. Why did you resign from it?

A. I resigned because TATEKAWA, who was head of the Youth Corps at that time, elected me to be Chief of the General Staff.

Q. That's what I am asking about. Why did you resign as Chief of the General Staff? I am talking about just a year ago.

A. I resigned my post because TATEKAWA, who elected me as Chief of General Staff to this Corps, resigned his post because of his sickness.

Q. You were not withdrawing from these government positions then because you thought the government was considering surrendering?

A. No.

Q. You were opposed to surrender, though, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. You had been opposed to the government's foreign policy ever since 1931, had you not?

A. Yes I had. There was one exception. The one exception being that I wanted Japan to quit hostilities with China. During the period of Prince HIGASHI-NO-MIYA, I told Prince HIGASHI-NO-MIYA that I wanted a message conveyed to the government by sending TOYAMA to talk treaty with Chiang Kai-shek.

Q. Why TOYAMA?

A. Because TOYAMA understood Chiang Kai-shek very well, and vice versa. TOYAMA was Chiang Kai-shek's very good friend.

Q. Did you talk to TOYAMA about that?

A. No I have never talked to him personally.

Q. You had talked to him about the foreign policy of Japan, had you not?

A. No I have never met Mr. TOYAMA.

Q. You did consider him a great man?

A. Yes.

Q. And you favored his strong policy?

A. I did not think TOYAMA himself had a strong policy, as the foreigners believe.

Q. Wasn't he head of the Black Dragon Society?

A. No.

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Q. How do you know he wasn't?

A. Because the head of the Black Dragon Society is a man by the name of KUZU.

Q. He was just a figurehead, wasn't he? A mere puppet?

A. TOYAMA being an old man of approximately 90 years wasn't too active, and in my opinion not a man that could be active in such societies.

Q. We are going back to 1931, over that whole period?

A. He was an old man at that time already in 1931, and in my opinion not a man to take active part in such a society.

Q. Do you say that TOYAMA had no influence on national or international policies of Japan between 1931 and the time of his death?

A. He was at that time already known as a figurehead. However, he himself did not discuss any foreign policy or international policy at all. He was just noted as a figurehead and did not take active part in any organizations.

Q. How do you know that KUZU was head of the Black Dragon Society?

A. There is no question but that KUZU is head of the Black Dragon Society, because it is known among all that he is head of the society.

Q. That's a secret society -- it can't be known?

A. He is the head of the society because he is actually the head and no one else.

Q. That society has been active in influencing Japan international and national policy, has it not?

A. No I do not think so.

Q. You are not a member of it?

A. No.

Q. And you don't know the members of it?

A. No I do not.

Q. But you know the President of it?

A. Yes I do.

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- Q. Was it a terroristic society? Was it a society that tried to influence by terror, murder?
- A. No I do not think it was a terroristic society because I have not heard of any facts in that respect.
- Q. You have never heard of any assassinations in Japan?
- A. I have heard of assassinations.
- Q. What organizations do you think have been behind them?
- A. These assassinations, like in the 2-26 incident or the 5-15 incident, were not responsible by a society or a group, but by individuals.
- Q. Do you know the individuals?
- (Remark by Interpreter: I have misunderstood him. He states the 2-26 incident and the 5-15 incident assassinations were brought about by a group of people and not individuals.)
- Q. Do you know the members of the group?
- A. No I do not.
- Q. How do you know then they were committed by groups?
- A. Because there were more than just a mere two or three persons involved.
- Q. In regard to the foreign policy of Japan since 1931, you were opposed to the 5-5-3 treaty, were you not?
- A. I was very much opposed to the 5-5-3.
- Q. And you approved Japan's withdrawing from the League of Nations?
- A. I did not approve of Japan's withdrawing from the League of Nations.
- Q. I understood you to say two or three minutes ago that the only part of Japan's foreign policy of which you had disapproved was the action in China, the China incident?

Interrogation by Mr. Hugh B. Helm:

- Q. Colonel, you admit that you urged war on the Japanese people before Pearl Harbor and that you did everything in your power after Pearl Harbor to keep the Japanese people in the fight to the bitter end, even to a last ditch stand?
- A. Yes I did.

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Q. Is there any statement you would like to make to us? We will be back later.

A. I sincerely think that the statements I have made heretofore are, in my judgment true. As far as I know the statements made are true. However, there may be a few months mistake in the dates mentioned, but the general information as a whole is true.

Q. We will give you a rest and will be back later on.

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

I, Shizuma Yamamoto, 1st Lt, Serial Number 0-888916, being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English, respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of pages 31 to 57, inclusive, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Shizuma Yamamoto, 1st Lt.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of February 1946.

G. Woolworth  
(Name and Rank)

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer  
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

I, Edna M. Hickam, hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Edna M Hickam

We, Gilbert S. Woolworth, Colonel

J. J. Robinson, Captain USNR, Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Hugh B. Helm

certify that on the 22nd day of January 1946 personally appeared before us Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO and according to Lt Yamamoto, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

G. Woolworth  
J. J. Robinson  
Hugh B. Helm

Tokyo, Japan  
4 February 1946