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Def. Doc. No. 2750  
Tōgō

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

- Defendants -

A F F I D A V I T

MATSUDAIRA YASUMASA

Having first duly sworn an oath as on the attached sheet, in accordance with the procedure prevailing in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

1. I had known Mr. Tōgō Shigenori before I became private secretary to the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, in which position I served from June 1936 till November 1945. My acquaintance with Mr. Tōgō became more intimate after he assumed the Foreign Ministership in the Tōjō Cabinet.
2. On 6 April 1945 Admiral Suzuki received an Imperial order to form a cabinet. As I was informed that the Admiral had asked Mr. Tōgō to accept the Foreign portfolio, but that Mr. Tōgō was hesitating to accept the offer, I called on him on 9 April at his residence in Azabu and expressed the desire that he should assume the post that was offered. On that occasion Mr. Tōgō told me that Admiral Suzuki was desirous of terminating the war and that he and the Admiral were in agreement in principle in that respect but that whereas he believed that it was extremely difficult to continue the war and that it must be terminated as soon as possible, the Admiral thought that it could, depending on circumstances, be continued two or three years more; and that so long as he and the Admiral entertained different opinions on this point, they could not agree on the high policy regarding the war; and that he could not accept the Foreign portfolio under such circumstances. I thereupon told him that the opinion of Admiral Suzuki on that point, as I had observed, was not necessarily a fixed one, and that it was desired that Mr. Tōgō should enter the new cabinet and enlighten the Admiral in that respect; that it was known that the Emperor was considering the termination of the war, so that he need not worry about the point too much; and that it was urgently desired that he should contribute his strength to the Emperor. The reason that I desired Mr. Tōgō to assume the ministership was that the war could not be terminated in the domestic circumstances then prevailing without a Foreign Minister who had unusual sincerity and the determination even to risk his life, as well as superior brilliance, and that I could not find any such candidate for the post other than Mr. Tōgō. As I reported the conversation with Mr. Tōgō to Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal Kido, the latter told me that it was his hope that Mr. Tōgō would accept the Foreign portfolio. Thereupon I called Mr. Tōgō on the telephone to convey this message and again to request him to accept the ministership.



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O A T H

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

Matsudaira Yasumasa (seal)

On this 18th day of February, 1947

At International Military Tribunal  
for the Far East

Deponent: Matsudaira Yasumasa (seal)

I, Katō Denjirō, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to 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: Katō Denjirō (seal)

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing translation is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko (seal)

Tokyo  
14 April 1947