

Ex 2363

Def. Doc. 588

Translated by Defense
Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

United States of America, et al)

- vs -

AFFIDAVIT (Translation)

AFUKI, Sadao et al)

Affiant: ANDO, Kisaburo

I, ANDO, Kisaburo, after having duly made oath as per attached paper in accordance with the form prescribed in my own country, state as follows:

1. My name is ANDO, Kisaburo. I was born on 11 February 1879, and my permanent domicile is at 115 Kito-Shinmachi, Sasayama-machi, Taki-gun, Hyogo Prefecture.

2. On 30 April 1932 I was appointed Lieutenant-General and at the same time appointed Commander of Ryojun (Fort Arthur) Fortress. In September 1934 I was placed on the waiting list, and was subsequently placed on the reserve list. After a few years on the reservelist I was recalled for active service in September 1937 and became Commander of the 9th Depot Division (Kanazawa). In March 1939 I was demobilized, and in July of the same year, through the good offices of the Commander of Japanese Forces in North China and upon the invitation of the President of the HSI-MIN (New People's) Society, I became Vice-President of that organization. On 20 October 1941, while in Tokyo on official business in accordance with instructions from the aforesaid Commander, I was asked to become Vice-President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association by Hideki TOJO, President of this Association, and on 22 October was duly appointed to that post. In June 1942 I became Minister without Portfolio; in April 1943 I was appointed Home Minister; and in July 1944 with the fall of the Tojo Cabinet I resigned my position and since then have been living in retirement.

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3. As can be seen from the above, I was in Peking until October 1941, while before that I had been in Kanazawa, having been recalled to active service immediately after the outbreak of the China Incident, so that I have no knowledge whatsoever of the circumstances of the founding of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.

The following are the circumstances of my assuming the Vice-Presidency of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association. Around the middle of October 1941 I heard informally from Major-General ARISUE, Deputy Chief of Staff, that the Commander of the Japanese Forces in North China had said I was wanted by the Imperial Rule Assistance Association. Thereupon I let the Commander know through ARISUE that I would like him to refuse any request for my services from the aforesaid association for the reason that I did not know well what kind of organization it was. In spite of this Major General ARISUE told me again on a later occasion that he wanted to gratify the insistent desire of General TOJO, President of the IRAA, for my services; and he urged me to accept. I again had my desire to postpone any proposed trip to Tokyo, even for purposes of conferring on this matter, conveyed to the Commander, my reasons being that a general meeting of local heads of the Hsinmin Society was imminent, and therefore that any immediate trip to Tokyo would be most inconvenient in view of my official duties. Another reason for the expression of my desire was that the whole turn of events was so sudden, and that I knew nothing at all about the background of the IRAA. But on 19 October an urgent desire to see me in Tokyo immediately was conveyed to the Commander. Acceding to the Commander's request, I left Peking by air for Tokyo the next morning, 20 October, arriving there by train on the 21st, my plane having been delayed on the way. I immediately saw the President (TOJO) and thereupon for the first time received a formal invitation to become Vice-President of the IRAA and concurrently Minister without Portfolio. Since I had never had anything to do with politics either during my term of active service or after my retirement to the reserve list, I did not have a single friend among politicians. Therefore, I told the President that if this organization was connected with politics, I would like to refuse his request. The President told me, however, that it was not a political party; that it was a public organization coming under the provisions of the Japanese Security Police Law; and that this fact had been clearly stated by Home Minister HIRANUMA in the previous Diet.

He concluded by urging me to assume this post, since the IRAA was an organization of a people's movement. Thereupon, I replied that if this organization had no connection with politics, I saw no reason why I should become a Minister of State and that I would accept the President's offer only if he were content for me to assume the Vice-Presidency as a private citizen. Premier TOJO said that if that was the way I felt about it, he would accede to my wishes. Thus on the following day 22 October, I became Vice-President of the IRAA without assuming the post of Minister without Portfolio.

Immediately after my assumption, newspaper reporters came and asked me what thoughts I had on taking this new step, so I told them what I have related in the preceding paragraph, and added a clear cut statement saying that as a member of the Japanese nation in common with other members of our people I hoped to carry out whatever duties a Japanese subject should carry out in this China Incident, and that therefore I had no intention of sitting in a special seat and of giving orders to the people. This statement appeared in the newspapers of that day.

Since I had little knowledge of the situation within and without the IRAA at the time of my assumption, for a time I quietly observed what was going on inside the association, and I also exerted myself to read its past records from the time of its founding. In this way, my daily duties at the time did not include anything special or out of the way.

But the IRAA had already decided to hold a Cooperative Council Meeting (TN - General Meeting) around December, and already, before my assumption, notices had been sent to local councils throughout the country informing them of matters to be discussed in this forthcoming meeting. Being yet very new at the job, I had been hoping that the meeting would be held as late as possible. For one thing I was anxious at least to glance through the minutes of previous Cooperative Council meetings. Because of these reasons I gave my consent to have the meeting held on the 8th, which was the last of four proposed dates, namely the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th. These dates had been decided in the course of business around the beginning of December, I believe. In view of these circumstances it is utterly inconceivable that a great event such as the Greater East Asia War should have been foreseen as one of the subjects for discussion at that meeting I believe the records of those days are still in existence and will bear me out.

Later, on December 8th, I learnt for the first time by telephone that war had broken out early in the morning. But since the same telephone call told me not to announce this fact yet, I went to the Cooperative Council meeting without telling the news to anyone. At the meeting, President TOJO gave a lecture, and then left for the Palace in order to report to the throne in his capacity as Premier, so that the meeting recessed for that period. After the Premier's return from the Palace, the meeting was reopened, I believe around noon, and news of the proclamation of an Imperial Rescript declaring war was announced before the assembled members. This is all I have to say regarding the situation at and around the time of my assumption.

5. Next I wish to state the mission and organization of the IRAA. I knew that before my assumption several changes had been made in its organization and directors, and that several personnel shifts had also been carried out. At the time I took office, in my opinion the association was not yet functioning as a harmonious whole, the sense of unity was very weak, and systematic order had not yet been established.

The main work of the association consisted in conveying to the people, without error, matters that had been decided upon as policy and matters based on these policies which each ministry as part of its administrative functions, desired the people to practice. Furthermore the association's task was to gain the people's understanding concerning these matters, to systematize as far as possible detailed methods for carrying them out, and to urge the people to do them. Of course, since the association was only a private organization of a public nature the directors of the association were employed merely by contract, so that there were no strict rules of duty such as Government employees must obey. Also, it goes without saying that the association had no power to give orders to the people. Therefore all the association could do was to gain the people's understanding regarding matters that should be carried out as part of a subject's duties, and to urge the actual execution of these matters. Also, concerning the administration of the various ministries, since from the people's standpoint there were many matters which seemed contradictory or inconsistent, in order to eliminate hidden grumblings as much as possible the IRAA made it a practice to take up the people's hopes and criticisms, and after studying and digesting them would pass them on to the various governmental departments as material to be considered in connection with the administration of the various

ministries. The Cooperative Council was a special organization whose purpose was to serve as a medium for conveying governmental intentions to the people as well as the popular desires to the Government and thus effectuate a true spirit of cooperation. Furthermore the IRAA aimed at reaching out to all the people in a loose sort of way, without having any specialized system, so that if it had any special object of attention, one would have to say it was all the 100 million people of Japan.

Therefore as far as the people in general were concerned no distinction was made between members of the association and non-members. District associations, village associations, and local chapters of the IRAA in prefectures, towns and villages were nothing more than a kind of clerical organization

In the preceding paragraphs I have outlined the various functions of the IRAA at the time of my assumption and throughout my tenure of office. These functions, were expressed in a popular slogan of those days as fulfilling of our duties as subjects.

6. Regarding the Greater East Asia War, we never heard anything that would lead our association to believe such a war imminent, either at the time of my assumption of office, or after my assumption, in any guidance received from any ministry, in any instructions or demands from them, either outwardly or confidentially, until the issuance of the Imperial Rescript declaring war. As a concrete example, on December 8th, the first day of our scheduled Cooperative Council meeting, the planned program for this meeting was set completely awry by the Imperial Rescript declaring war, and there was much confusion, as we were kept busy until nightfall buying railway tickets, paying travel expenses, and attending to sundry other matters in order to suddenly send home delegates who had assembled from all parts of the country.

I have heard it said that many people believe the cooperative Council meeting had been called in anticipation of the outbreak of war because the first day of this meeting happened to be the first day of the war. But the actual circumstances are as I have related. As far as the association was concerned, it was a bolt from the blue; and it is a fact we were totally unprepared to take any steps in the case of war. Besides it is unthinkable that the Government should ever let the staff of a private organization who were not even public officials, know of a top war secret such as the date of opening the war, or even to let them know privately. A good example is myself. Although I was Vice-President, I heard of the outbreak of war from the President for the first time on the morning of the 8th of December.

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On this 20th day of December, 1940

At Sugamo Prison

Deponent: ANDO, Kisaburo

We certify that the above statement was sworn to by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto

On the same date

At the same place

Witness: SHIOBARA, Tokisaburo
(Seal)

Witness: KAWAMOTO, Yukio
U. S. War Dept. Civilian Employee

OATH

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

(Signature & seal)

ANDO, Kisaburo
(Written Seal)

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Translation Certificate

L. Charles D. Sheldon, Chief of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the attached certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Charles D. Sheldon

Tokyo, Japan
Date: 25 Feb. 1947

Affidavit of ANDO, Kisaburo