

Def. <sup>Sato</sup> Doc. No. <sup>620-A-1</sup> ~~619-3-11~~

Exh. ~~3532~~ 3532

Extracts from Interrogation of  
SATO, Kenryo

27 April 1946 - p.2

x x x x x x x x

Q. How long have you known General TOJO?

x x x x x x x x

A. At one time I was not very close to him, this being the period when I was a professor at the War College, until I became spokesman, the reason being that Maj. Gen. OBATA, who was the head of the college, was not very close to TOJO, and, being a member of his staff, I also became the same way.

x x x x x x x x

27 April 1946 - pp. 3 & 4

Q. Did you use your influence to have Gen. TOJO made Premier?

A. No, that is a mistake, There was nothing like that.

Q. Did you ever talk with senior statesman ABE about his appointment, or with HAYASHI, Senjuro? (Q. by Interpreter: Is he also a senior statesman? A. by Interrogator: They are both senior statesman.)

A. No, however, there is something I would like to explain with regard to that.



- Q. Certainly, go ahead.
- A. The Japanese politicians believe that I influenced ABE and HAYASHI in the appointment of TOJO. However, that is not the truth. The explanation is this. In October of 1941 Premier KONOYE resigned just at the time when the United States and Japanese negotiations were critical. This left the Army in a difficult position. In order to stabilize the political situation, TOJO had thought that some person like Prince HIGASHIKUNI would be the logical successor. However, since the appointment of a Prince to that position is not the usual thing, TOJO felt that his appointment would create more difficulty than even the international situation. I was sent by TOJO to see ABE and HAYASHI to explain this problem. Following my visit, which the news reporters know of, there was a meeting of the senior statesmen and the next day the appointment of TOJO to the position of Premier was announced. It was in this way that the public believed that I had influenced TOJO's selection. Unfortunately ABE and HAYASHI are from the same Prefecture as myself.

Accepting the story as the truth, I would like to add the following: When the newspapermen came to me telling me of the Imperial Decree for TOJO to form a new Cabinet, I had not known of it nor did I believe it. I told the newsmen that they must be mistaken.

- Q. General, will you please take a sheet of paper and draw a graph showing the relation of the Military Affairs Bureau to the War Ministry and to the other Bureaus of the War Ministry - just a graph or a diagram?
- A. (General SATO drew a chart "Draft of Organization of War Ministry" which is attached as Exhibit 1.)
- Q. Have you shown on the chart the Prisoners of War Information Bureau and the Prisoners of War Management Bureau?
- A. (General SATO made additions to the chart.)
- Q. Did all of the other Bureaus here deal directly with the Vice-Minister of War, or did their matters go through your Bureau?



A. They were all able to go directly to the Vice Minister or Minister. However, when the matter concerned some other Bureau they maintained liaison with that Bureau concerned.

Q. That is, your Bureau was the policy making Bureau of the Ministry. Wasn't that true?

A. Generally speaking, our department handled the policies of the following: Organization, budget, system, regulations, national defense, military administration of occupied territories, and finally domestic and foreign affairs which concerned the Army.

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Q. Weren't you in on the conference at which that matter was decided?

A. No, I was not there.

Q. Were you consulted about the matter?

A. No.

Q. We have correspondence from the Commander of the China Expeditionary Force to the War Minister, asking for advice concerning the disposition of these fliers.

A. You have the correspondence?

Q. Yes, I have seen the correspondence and the direction came from the War Ministry.

A. I am not familiar with the directive. I do not know through what channels that directive had been presented. As far as I can remember, it did not come through me.

x x x x x



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Q. Were you aware of the Imperial Conference which was held on the 6th day of September 1941?

A. I do not recall if there was one on that date, inasmuch as I did not attend them, but there may have been.

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Q. Were you ever a member of the Supreme War Council?

A. I was not a member. However, I was something like a Staff Secretary.

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Q. You felt, did you not, during the fall of 1941 that war with the United States was inevitable?

A. No.

Q. Didn't you so advise General TOJO?

A. No, I have never told him that. I was always in opposition to becoming involved in any other war before settling the China affair. I was in earnest about finishing the China affair.

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Q. It is further stated that normally it was not the duty of the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau to order other



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Bureau Chiefs, but technically the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau was the superior officer to the Chiefs of Bureaus such as the Prisoners of War Information Bureau.

- a. No, the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau could never order any other Bureau.

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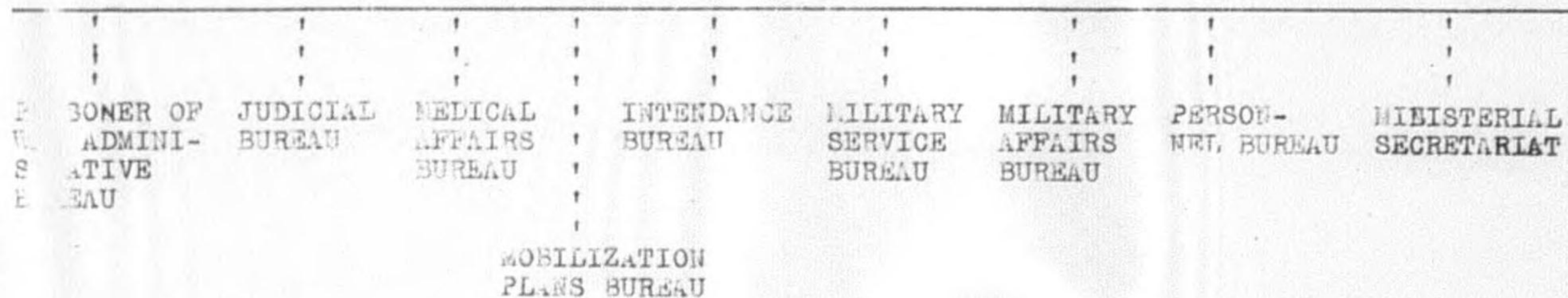
Def. Doc. No. <sup>620-A-1</sup>~~610-3-11~~

DRAFT OF ORGANIZATION OF WAR MINISTRY

(EXHIBIT 1)

MINISTER OF WAR

VICE MINISTER OF WAR



PRISONER OF )  
WAR INFOR- )  
MATION BUREAU )