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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR  
THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al )  
 vs )  
 ARAKI, Sadao, et al ) AFFIDAVIT

DEPONENT: ISHIWATA, Sotaro

I, ISHIWATA, Sotaro, make oath and say as follows:

My address is No. 455 Seijo-machi, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo.

From January until August 1939 and from February 1944 until February 1945, I was Minister of Finance; from January until July 1940 and from February until April 1945, I was Chief Secretary of the Cabinet; from April until October 1941, I was Chief of the General Affairs in the Imperial Rule Assistance Association; and from June 1945 until January 1946, I was Minister of the Imperial Household.

In July 1941 while I was Chief of the General Affairs in the Imperial Rule Assistance Association (my resignation of the office was effected by the appearance of the TOJO Cabinet) I was requested by the Kokumin Press people to have a table talk with a certain person who would be chosen by me as the most suitable of the several persons suggested by them.

I replied to them that General ARAKI was the best partner to talk with if he would accept it, because I knew him to have an intention of non-expansion of the China Incident and also I knew him not to agree to the Italo-German-Japanese Alliance, which intentions he expressed to me many times.

I understood that their idea was to make my talk a feature with General ARAKI's opinion inserted at several points.

About the end of July, I remember, we five, that is, General ARAKI and I, two from the Kokumin Press and a scribe (he did not take down in shorthand), met together at the Hakusui, a restaurant in Akasaka, sometime around six o'clock in the evening.

Most of the talk which lasted two hours was occupied by General ARAKI, I remember, who told his reminiscences at the time of the Siberian Expedition more than two decades before, when he was a field soldier. Most of it I heard for the first time and was much interested. The journalists, however, were much puzzled because it was not a conversation and could not be made an intended article.



Therefore they asked me later to agree to their making an article of their own composition out of the talk.

So I replied that it might be inevitable to alter the talk but that they must be very careful not to create a story from it lest it should cause any trouble.

But the article published in the paper was far different from the talk which we had that evening; my talk was increased much more than I did and General ARAKI's was omitted more than half.

Besides the dictation done at that evening was not very good and I remember that many parts of that article in the paper were not clear to me.

Especially on that evening General ARAKI compared the situation at the time of the Siberian Expedition with that of the current time (1941) and deplored the government for not having any definite policy of unifying the Army and the Navy, and then he worried deeply over the future of the nation.

So far as I remember, the gist of his opinion was that the government should act under principles based on the great cause of justice and make final decision in carrying out the schemes planned by the Army and the Navy without their interference.

But an article could not be permitted to appear in the newspapers stating ill of the Army and the Navy and the government under the circumstances of that time (1941) therefore any opinion conflicting with them was stuck out or shaded off by the editors. Consequently the article in the paper resulted in an incoherence.

General ARAKI after he resigned from the post of Minister of Education in the HIRANUMA Cabinet in 1939, I observed conspicuously refrained from facing the public and was noted as a recluse from current events of the time. At the same time, the Army authorities were opposed to him.

In the HIRANUMA Cabinet, Mr. ARAKI and I were Cabinet colleagues, I being Minister of Finance. At that time the Five Ministers Conference discussed current problems, chiefly foreign issues, and made decisions. Therefore, Minister of Education ARAKI did not participate in it at all. As to the NONOHAN Incident, even I was reported after its occurrence.

When the YONAI Cabinet was being formed, I made an earnest appeal to General ARAKI to take the office of the Minister of Home Affairs by order of Admiral YONAI, as the General was considered a man of self-respect, but he declined it on the grounds that he could not render any service as the currents of the time were against him.



As the situation at the time of the table talk was more critical than the time when the YONAI Cabinet was formed, General ARAKI's gravest anxiety with which he thought why the government did not establish a strong policy to suppress the Army and the Navy and work out a plan for the security of the nation, was manifested on the pretext of his old story of the Siberian Expedition, as far as I can recollect.

Under the various circumstances mentioned before, the article that appeared in the paper was much distorted and confusing and did not depict what General ARAKI's talk actually was.

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ISHIWATA, Sotaro

Subscribed and sworn to before the under-signed officer by ISHIWATA, Sotaro, at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo Japan, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August 1947.

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not used

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國 其他

對

荒木貞夫 其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 石渡 莊太郎

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク  
供述致シマス



私は石渡莊太郎と申します。

住所は東京都世田谷區成城町四五番地であります

私は昭和十四年一月より八月迄及び十九年二月より二十年二月迄大藏大臣十五年一月より七月迄及び二十年二月より四月まで内閣書記官長十六年四月より十月迄大政翼賛會事務總長二十年六月より二十一年一月まで宮内大臣を勤めました

昭和十六年七月私が大政翼賛會事務總長（近衛内閣辭職と共に辭職）をして居た當時國民新聞社から人が来て二、三名を擧げて此等の人の中貴君の適當と思はれる方と對談會をして貰ひ度いと言ふ話がありました私は度々荒木大將と話をした事があり荒木大將は支那事變の擴大にも反對の意向だし口獨伊軍事同盟にも贊成でないことを承知して居たので私の對談會の相手には一番適當だと思つて同大將が承諾されるれば結構だと答へた新聞社の意嚮は私の話を主にして夫れに荒木大將の意見を處々にはさむ計畫でありました

七月下旬頃と記憶する赤坂の料理屋「白水」に六時頃から集つた荒木大將と私と國民新聞社の人と二人夫れに話を詳く人が一人（速記法ではなかつた）都合五人だつたと記憶する

私の覚えて居るのは結局二時間の大部分の時間は荒木大將の談話で終つてしまつた夫れも二十數年前のシベリヤ出兵當時荒木大將の佐官時代の懷舊談で



尙荒木大將は昭和十四年平沼内閣の文部大臣を辭職後際立つて世の中に出るの厭はれ時勢に背を向けられた又陸軍も同大將に背を向けた様に思はれる又平沼内閣當時私は大藏大臣として荒木氏と同僚であつたが當時日獨伊軍事同盟を中心とする對外問題は主として五相會議で討議せられたが荒木文相は同會議のメンバーでなかつた  
ノモンハン事件につき荒木文相が積極的の發言をされた事は全然記憶ない  
米内内閣成立の際同大將の自重論者なるを思ひ米内大將の命を受け私は荒木大將に内務大臣に就任方を懇請したが時運非にして自分が出て何の御奉公も出来ないこと云つて遂に受けられなかつた  
對談會當時は米内内閣成立當時より時勢は一層急潮を示し居たので同大將胸中の憂悶は非常に深く何故陸海軍を抑へて國家安全の政策を立てないのかこと云ふ考をシベリヤ出兵當時の物語に籍りて當夜表現されたものであります  
が以上述べた様な各種の事情より荒木大將の話の趣旨がゆがめられて結局何を話されたか譯が分らないものになつてしまつた



あつて私の知らない事が多かつたので興味深く話を伺つたが困つたのは新聞社で對談會にもならないければ新聞記事にもならないから新聞社で話の記事に勝手に手を入れるから承知して貰ひ度いさ云つて來た

私は手を入れるのは止むを得ないが飛んでもないことを書いては迷惑するか  
ら注意してくれさ云つて置いた私の話の記事は事實より餘程殖えて居た

荒木大將の話は半分以上削減されて居て實際新聞に出たものは當夜の對談とは凡々縁の遠いものとなつた又當夜の對談の筆記も上出來ではなく新聞を讀んで判らぬ個所がいくらかあつた様に覺えて居る殊に當夜荒木大將は二十數年前のシベリヤ出兵當時の事態と現在（昭和十六年當時）の事態を併せ考へ政府が陸海軍を統一したる一定の方針を缺くことを痛歎し國家の前途を憂慮して居られた

故に大將の話の骨子も政府は堂々たる大義名分に基づく策案の下に行動して陸軍や海軍が各々計畫を樹て、も之を實行するに當つては之等を勝手に動かさせないだけの最後の押へが必要ださ云ふ意味であつたさ覺えて居る

併し乍ら當時（昭和十六年）の情勢下に於て陸海軍や政府の悪口が新聞に掲載を許される筈がない

従て夫れ等の點は新聞社に於て皆削除し全篇をぼかしてしまつたから讀んで見て何の話であるか譯が分らないものとなつてしまつた



良心ニ從ヒ眞實ヲ述ベ又何事ヲモ黙秘セス又何事ヲモ附加セザルコト  
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昭和二十二年（一九四七年）八月二十三日 於

供述者

石

渡

莊

太

郎

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

同日 於

立會會人 蓮

岡

高

明