

STATEMENT

I, Joseph C. Grew, state that during my service of ten years as Ambassador of the United States to Japan, from 1932 to 1941, I was from time to time in close official and personal contact with three of the Japanese persons indicted as war criminals, namely, HIRANUMA, Kiichiro, HIROTA, Koki, and SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru. From my knowledge of these persons based on the aforesaid official and personal contacts and based also on such of their attitudes and actions as I was in a position to evaluate, it is my strong belief that these persons were fundamentally opposed to many of the policies and actions of other Japanese, especially the policies and actions of the military and naval extremists, which ultimately led to war with the United States and other members of the United Nations. On the contrary, I observed from time to time actions by these three persons tending to arrest the expansionist movement of Japan through military aggression.

Passages in many of my official reports to the Department of State during the period under consideration would bear out the foregoing opinion as well as passages in my diary kept from day to day during that period as published in my book TEN YEARS IN JAPAN. A letter to me of December 30, 1941, published anonymously on pages 508 and 509 of my book, was written me by Mr. Shigemitsu after Pearl Harbor and smuggled in to me at the American Embassy in Tokyo during our internment, in spite of the efforts of the Japanese military police to prevent such missives reaching me.

Mr. Shigemitsu thereby ran considerable risk of serious embarrassment in writing such a letter at that time to one who was already technically an enemy of his country.

It is my opinion that the three Japanese mentioned above were wholly opposed to war and that they exerted their efforts to avoid war. It is of course to be understood that the evidence may indicate that any of these three persons may from time to time have taken steps which might seem to be at variance with the foregoing opinion of their innocence. If such evidence should emerge, it would be my judgment that such steps were taken by them under the necessity of conserving their respective positions and authorities in order to be better able to carry through the fundamentally peaceful policies which they supported.

/s/ Joseph C. Grew  
Joseph C. Grew

Washington; D. C.  
October 30, 1946