

Translation Certificate

I, Ohtomo, Namio, of the Defense, hereby certify
that the attached translation of Sworn Deposition of Defendant
OKADA Tadahiko 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.

N. Ohtomo

Tokyo, Japan

Date 3/4, 1947

SHINJI

Political

Jap. Doc. No. 726

Subject. 岡田忠彦. 宣誓供出考

Defence Counsel. 清瀬 Phase I

Certification. is attached to this.
will be lately completed.

Priority *express*

(A) Copy only
(The official translation is attached to this.)

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(B) Translate and copy.
(Translation for reference is not attached to this.)

Date 10 Feb 1947

Sign J. Kijose

Note

International Military Tribunal for Far East.

The United States of America et al

vs

Defendants

ARAKI Sadao et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: OKADA Tadahiko

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

On the Working of Constitutional
Government in Japan.

1. As I have already stated in another affidavit,

I was a member of the House of Representatives from
the thirteenth year of Taisho (1924) to the twenty-first
year of Showa (1946) when the general election
took place. During this period, I was the vice-speaker
from February of the 11th year of Showa (1936) to
March of the following year, and speaker from
April of the 17th year (1942) to April of the 20th year
of Showa (1945).

I was appointed the Welfare Minister of the

Suzuki Cabinet in April of the same year and held the position till August 15th. of the same year.

2. The constitution of our Country established in the 22nd. year of Meiji (1889) provided that the laws and budgets shall be passed by the Diet, but it was not decided whether the Cabinet shall be constituted by Diet members or political party members as in the case in England, or whether the administrative and legislative policies shall absolutely be kept apart, so far as their respective functions were concerned as in the United States of America.

3. At first there was rather a strife between the administrative body and the Diet and the trend of Cabinet in general was towards super-party government. From about the 31st. year of Meiji (1898), the principle of political party Cabinet began to be advocated and was practiced in a certain form. It was not, however, until the 7th. year of Taisho (1918) with the advent of the HARA Seiyukai Cabinet that the principle of party Cabinet assumed somewhat a complete form and this political custom continued until May of the 7th. year of Showa (1932)

4. From the time of the SAITO Cabinet of 1932

until the beginning of the Pacific war, each ^{Cabinet}

was not a cabinet headed by a party man, but

during this time each cabinet approached the

political parties seeking their participation, and

the political parties agreed only on condition that ^{their}

policies would be made the basic policies of the

cabinet. Consequently, into such a cabinet they

sent their strong members as in the case of TAKAHASHI

Korekiyo (former President of the Seiyu Kai) to the SAITO

Cabinet and of MACHIDA Chuji (later President

of Minseito Party) to the OKADA Cabinet.

(6)

In such a way the successive Cabinets had been formed. It will be seen therefore, that during this period neither the parties nor the Diet remained powerless or disregarded the fact that the downfall of both the HAYASHI Cabinet and the ABE Cabinet was caused by the censure of the Diet will make this story conclusive.

The Cabinets that came into existence during this period of ten years were the following eleven:

SAITO	7th. year of SHOWA (1932)	HIRANUMA	14th. year of SHOWA (1939)
OKADA	9th. " " " (1934)	ABE	15th. " " " (1940)
HIROTA	11th. " " " (1936)	YONAI	15th. " " " (1940)
HAYASHI	12th. " " " (1937)	The Second KONOYE	15th. " " " (1940)
KONOYE	12th. " " " (1937)	The third KONOYE	16th. " " " (1941)
		TOJO	16th. " " " (1941)

Of these the only military officers besides TOJO who became Premier were HAYASHI and ABE, and even these two were not on the active list.

The assertion that military officers dominated politics during this period is at variance with actuality.

5. The term "feudal clan" (TN. "HANBATSU") was in use during Meiji era. This referred to the surviving influence of the stronger clans that overthrew the TOKUGAWA Shogunate. During the above mentioned period, from the 7th year of TAISHO (1918) until the 7th year of SHOWA (1932),

However, this influence disappeared owing to the continuation of party government. Although General TANAKA Giichi once became the Premier, he was not on the active list at that time, and took office as President of the SEIYUKAI and consequently carried out the policy of that political party. So it is a great error to consider him to have been a militaristic head.

6. In 1940, the SEIYUKAI, the Minseitō and other political parties were dissolved for the time being with the intention of combining all new political powers by breaking the deadlock, which

(9)

had existed up to that time. Simultaneous

with this, the new structure movement first proposed by

Prince KONOYE was launched. The confluence of this

movement and the political power resulted in the

formation of the so-called Imperial Rule Assistance

Association. This association is no political

party. It made its aim that all citizens of

Japan should be its members, becoming itself rather

a supplementary instrument of administration. Thus

it met with opposition from the Diet members who

in 1942 created the Imperial Rule Assistance Political

Party (YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI) by recombining the former

of the Diet. The present deponent was a member of this political association. The members of the Diet used their right of voting according to their conscience on the laws and budgets proposed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution ^{through} this Imperial Rule Assistance Political Party, there being no instance when this right was suspended or limited by the power of others. The fall of the Tojo Cabinet in July, 1944 was the result of the opposition of the Diet. (End)

On this 9th day of February 1947.
at Tokyo

(Signed) OKADA Tadahiko (seal)

On the same date
and at the same place as above.

(Signed) YOSHIMITSU Yoshiaki

Oath.

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

(Signed) OKADA Tadahiko (seal)

Ref No # 152

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 岡田忠彦

自分儀我國ニ於テ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ
宣誓シタル上、次ノ如ク供述致シマス

日本憲政ノ運用ニ就テ

- 一 私ハ曾テ供述書ヨシ出シマシタ通リ大正十三年ヨリ昭和十一年ノ総選舉マテ衆議院議員ニ在職シ其ノ間昭和十一年二月ヨリ全十二年三月迄副議長ニ、昭和十七年四月ヨリ全二十年四月迄衆議院議長テアリマシタ 今年四月鈴木内閣ノ厚生大臣ニ就任シ今年八月十五日迄在職致シマシタ
- 二 明治三十二年（一八八九年）制定ノ我國ノ憲法ハ法律及豫算ノ成立ニハ議會ノ同意ヲ得ルコトヲ條件トシタカ内閣ハイキリス流ニ議會人乃至政黨員テ構成スルカ又ハ米國流ニ行政府ト立法府トハ其ノ職域ヲ全然區別スベキデアルカハ是メテイナカク

如クテアリマシタ

三、當初ハ寧ロ行政府ト議會トノ間ニ争カアリマシタ
カ内閣ノ形態ハ概ネ超然内閣主義ニアリマシタ
明治三十一年（一八九八年）頃カラ政党内閣主義
カ主張セラレ或ル形デユレカ行ハレルヤウニナリマ
シタガ政党内閣ガ稍完全ノ形態ヲトツタノハ
大正七年（一九一八年）ノ政友會ノ原内閣ノ時
カラテ此ノ政治慣習ハ昭和七年（一九三二年）五
月迄續キマシタ

四、一九三二年ノ齋藤内閣カラ太平洋戦争ノ初メ
マテノ各内閣ハ政黨内閣テハナカツタガ此間
各内閣ハ政黨ニ對シ其ノ黨員ノ参加ヲ求メ政



党ハ内閣ノ基本政策ニ同意シタル場合ニハ常
 ニ有力ナル黨員ヲ送ツタノテアリマス例ハ八齋
 藤内閣ヘノ高橋是清(前)政友會總裁(後)岡田内
 閣ヘノ町田忠治(後)民政黨總裁ノ如キテアリ
 マス此間議會ハ全然無視セラレ且ツ無力ナル
 ツタカトイフニ必スシモサウニハナク憲法ノ規
 定通り法律豫算ノ審議ヲ致シマシタ豫算不
 成立ノ場合ニハ前年度ノ豫算ヲ使ヒ得ルノ
 規定ハアルカ實際ニハソレテハ行政が出来マセ
 又、又此ノ道ヲ取ツタ例モアリマセ又豫算不成
 立ノ形勢アル場合ニハ議會ヲ解散スルカ内閣
 ハ総辭職スルカノ道ヲ取リマシタ、現ニ此間ニ



存在^ハ居リマシタ林内閣阿部内閣ハ議會ノ
反抗^ハ為メニ辭職スルノ止ムナキニ至ツテ居

奇蹟(昭和七年)

此^ノ間^ハ内閣^ハ岡田(昭和九年)廣田(昭和

十一年)林(昭和十二年)近衛(昭和十二

年)平沼(昭和十四年)阿部(昭和十五年)

米内(昭和十五年)近衛二次(昭和十五年)

近衛三次(昭和十六年)東條(昭和十六年)

ハ十一内閣^ヲアルガ此^ノ中^ニ陸軍將官^ヲ總理

大臣^ト成ツタ^ノハ東條^ヲ除テハ林阿部^ノ二人

ニ過キ^テ而モ此^ノ兩人^ハ現役將官^ヲアリマセ

ナシ^テ陸軍軍人^ガ此^ノ間^ノ政局^ヲ專ラ左右



五、藩閥トイフコトハ實際ト相違シテ居リマス
 シタトイフコトハ實際ト相違シテ居リマス
 五、藩閥トイフ言葉ハ明治時代ニハ使用サレマ
 シタコレハ徳川幕府ヲ倒シタ雄藩勢力ノ
 残存ヲアリマス前記大正七年ヨリ昭和七年
 ニ至ル政黨政治ノ繼續ノタメ之ハ解消シタ
 ノテアリマス田中義一大將ガ昭和二年總理
 大臣ニサツタコトガアルガ此ノ時ハ今大將ハ
 素ヨリ當時現役ヲハナク政友會總裁トシテ
 ノ資格ヲ首相ノ任ニ就キ政友會ノ政策ヲ行
 フタモノテコレヲ軍閥ノ頭目ト見ルノハ非常
 ナ間違ヲアリマス

六、昭和十五年（一九四〇年）政友、民政ノ兩黨初

×他ノ政黨ハ一旦解消スルニ付政黨側ノ意思ハ
從來ノ行掛リヲ捨テ新ナル政治力ヲ結集
スルタメデアリマシタ。此ノ時之ト時ヲ全シ
ウシテ近衛公首唱ノ新体制運動ナルモノカ
起リ之ト合流シタルカタメ大政翼賛會ナル
モノが出来マシタ。大政翼賛會ハ政黨テアリ
マセン日本全國民が其ノ會員タルヲ以テトシ
建前テアツテ寧ろ行政ノ補助機關ト云フ性
質ニ推移シマシタ。故議會側ニ於テハ之
ニ反對シ昭和十七年議會側ノ勢力ヲ再結集
シ大政翼賛政治會が創立セラル。此ノテアリマス
本供述者ハ此ノ大政翼賛政治會ノ會員ノ一人ナリ

アリマシタ議會人ハ翼賛政治會ヲ通シテ憲
法ニ規定シテアル法律案豫算案ニ對シ獨自
ノ見識ニ依リ議決權ヲ行使シタノテアリマ
シテ他ノ勢力ニ依リ此ノ權限ヲ停止シ又ハ
制限サレタヤウナ事實ハアリマセン昭和十
九年七月ニ東條內閣ノ倒レタノハ議會ノ反
對ニ依ツタノテアリマス

以上

昭和二十二年二月九日 於東京

岡田忠彦

右ハ自分ノ面ニ於テ署名捺印セラルモ

宣
誓
書

良心ニ從ヒ眞實ニ
モ附加セザルニトシテ
セス又何事ヲモ
何事ヲモ
必

宣
誓
書

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: OKADA, Tadahiko

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

ON THE WORKING OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN JAPAN

1. As I have already stated in another affidavit, I was a member of the House of Representatives from the thirteenth year of Taisho (1924) to the twenty-first year of Showa (1946) when the general election took place. During this period, I was the vice-speaker from February of the 11th year of Showa (1936) to March of the following year, and speaker from April of the 17th year (1942) to April of the 20th, year of Showa (1945).

I was appointed the Welfare Minister of the Suzuki Cabinet in April of the same year and held the position till August 15th of the same year.

2. The constitution of our country established in the 22d year of Meiji (1889) provided that the laws and budgets shall be passed by the Diet, but it was not decided whether the Cabinet shall be constituted by Diet members or political party members as in the case in England, or whether the administrative and legislative bodies shall absolutely be kept apart,, so far as their respective functions were concerned as in the United States of America.

3. At first there was rather a strife between the administrative body and the Diet and the trend of Cabinet in general was towards super-party government. From about the 31st year of Meiji (1898), the principle of political party cabinet began to be advocated and was practiced in a certain form. It was not, however, until the 7th year of Taisho (1918) with the advent of the HARA, Seiyukai Cabinet that the principle of party cabinet assumed somewhat a complete form and this political custom continued until May of the 7th year of Showa (1932).

4. From the time of the SAITO Cabinet of 1932 until the beginning of the Pacific War, each cabinet was not a cabinet headed by a party man, but during this time each cabinet approached the political parties seeking their participation, and the political parties agreed only on condition that their policies would be made the basic policies of the cabinet.

Consequently, into such a cabinet they sent their strong members as in the case of T. KAWASHI, Korekiyo (former President of the SEIYUKAI) to the SAITO Cabinet and of MACHIDA, Chuji (later-President of Minseito Party) to the OKADA Cabinet. In such a way the successive Cabinets had been formed. It will be seen therefore, that during this period neither the parties nor the Diet remained powerless or disregarded the fact that the downfall of both the HAYASHI Cabinet and the ABE Cabinet was caused by the censure of the Diet will make this story conclusive.

The cabinets that came into existence during this period of ten years were the following eleven:

	SAITO	7th Year of Showa (1932)
	OKADA	9th Year of Showa (1934)
	HIROTA	11th Year of Showa (1936)
	HAYASHI	12th Year of Showa (1937)
	KONOYE	12th Year of Showa (1937)
	HIRANUMA	14th Year of Showa (1939)
	ABE	15th Year of Showa (1940)
	YONAI	15th Year of Showa (1940)
(Second)	KONOYE	15th Year of Showa (1940)
(Third)	KONOYE	16th Year of Showa (1941)
	TOJO	16th Year of Showa (1941)

Of these the only military officers besides TOJO who became Premier were HAYASHI and ABE, and even these

two were not on the active list. The assertion that military officers dominated politics during this period is at variance with actuality.

5. The term "feudal clan" (TW: "HAMBATSU") was in use during MEIJI Era. This referred to the surviving influence of the stronger clans that overthrew the TOKUGAWA, Shogunate. During the above mentioned period, from the 7th year of TAISEI (1918) until the 7th year of SHOWA (1932), however, this influence disappeared owing to the continuation of party government. Although General TANAKA, Giichi once became the Premier, he was not on the active list at that time, and took office as President of the SEIYUKAI and consequently carried out the policy of that political party. So it is a great error to consider him to have been a militaristic head.

6. In 1940, the SEIYUKAI, the Minseitō and other political parties were, dissolved for the time being with the intention of combining all new political powers by breaking the deadlock, which had existed up to that time. Simultaneous with this, the new structure movement first proposed by Prince KONOYE was launched. The confluence of this movement and the political power resulted in the formation of the so-called Imperial Rule Assistance Association. This Association is no political party. It made its aim that all citizens of Japan should be its members becoming itself rather a supplementary

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opposition from the Diet members who in 1942 created the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Party (YOKUSAI SEIJIKAI) by recombining the powers of the Diet. The present deponent was a member of this political association. The members of the Diet used their right of voting according to their conscience on the laws and budgets proposed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution through this Imperial Rule Assistance Political Party, there being no instance when this right was suspended or limited by the power of others. The fall of the TOJO Cabinet in July 1944 was the result of the opposition of the Diet. (End)

On this 9th day of February 1947 at Tokyo.

(Signed) /s/ OKADA, Tadahiko (Seal)

On the same date and
at the same place as above.

(Signed)/s/ YOSHIMITSU, Toshiaki

OATH

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

(Signed) OKADA, Tadahiko (Seal)