

INTERROGATION OF
Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO
15 Feb. 46

DOC 4104

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DATE: 15 February 1946

INTERROGATORS:

Col G. S. Woolworth

Mr. Hugh B. Helm

EVID Doc # 4104

INTERROGATION OF

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

Date and Time: 15 February 1946, 1000-1200 hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO
Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth, Interrogator
Mr. Hugh B. Helm, Interrogator
Lt Comdr Frank B. Huggins, Interpreter
Miss Edna Hickam, Stenographer

Questions by: Mr. Hugh B. Helm
Col G. S. Woolworth

Oath of Interpreter: Administered by Col. Woolworth:

COL. WOOLWORTH: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you in this proceeding?

Lt Comdr Huggins: I do.

Interrogation by Mr. Helm:

- Q. Colonel, I would like to ask you some more questions this morning concerning Evidentiary Document No. 490, which is your book entitled "The Road to the Reconstruction of the World," published January 1941. This is the same book you identified yesterday. I hand you this same document and ask you if this is not your book?
- A. Yes that is correct.
- Q. On pages 3 and 4 I believe, or it must be about page 5 or 6, right in there -- do you not find the statement, "Japan must make herself the sun that shines over the world." Maybe it is on page 10.
- A. It might be more correct to say that my statement is as follows: "It is not a mistake to say that the Japanese national structure shines over the world."

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- Q. Then on page 10, do you not say, "Without fighting the national new order is meaningless. The establishment of the national new order without a fight will become something like the national spiritual mobilization movement. The national new order which is going to be established in Japan today has a tendency to be one recommended from above. We must ask for a fight!"
- A. To put it into other words, this means --
(Comment by Interrogator: I don't want what it means. Is this an essentially correct translation? Does he find that statement there? Did he make in essence that statement?)
That is essentially correct.
- Q. And directing your attention to page 24, do you not say: "The national new order which we speak of now must not merely be the order of Japan, but its final objective is the imperialization of the world."?
- A. Yes, that is so under the principles of the Eight-Corners-Under-One-Roof.
- Q. And on page 36, do you urge -- "Asia for the Asiatics in regard to the South Seas territories?"
- A. Yes. I urge the building of a South Seas Co-Prosperity Sphere.
- Q. Beginning on page 49, do you not state the leading principles of the Dai Nippon Seinento to be:
1. The unification of the world under the Emperor
 2. The principle that what we are and have is originally the Emperor's and should be returned to him. ?
- A. That is essentially correct and is in this book around page 38.
- Q. Now on page 57 did you not say in substance: "In Asia the Chiang Government has made itself a puppet of the white races and is unmistakably challenging Japan both by collaborating with Communist bandits and by her anti-Japanese economic policy."?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Around page 60, do you not state that the "world war is already begun. It is this time a fight between the haves and the have-nots."?
- A. I state it is a fight between the haves and the have-nots; that is to say, Japan faces the English-American-French-Russian Bloc, but the word used is more in the sense that the forces of opposition are already lined up, rather than that the fight has started.
- Q. Don't you further call for wartime organization of Japan economically and politically? In the latter respect, you call for a one-party system under the Emperor and for an invincible armament, especially

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Q. in the air, do you not?

A. That is correct.

Q. Directing your attention to page 90 of this same book, do you not denounce the Government's hesitating attitude towards the conclusion of a military alliance with Germany and Italy?

A. Yes.

Q. On page 93, don't you advocate a State Union of Manchukuo and China with Japan as its leader?

A. Yes.

Q. On page 100 in the chapter entitled "The Leadership in Reconstructing the World," don't you call for the overthrow of British supremacy and for the formation of an Asiatic Bloc based upon:

1. Establishment of the spirit of the Imperial Way, which shall penetrate all member nations.
2. Political collaboration.
3. Cooperation for the defense.
4. Establishment of autarchy for the rise of mutual culture and actual power?

A. That is correct.

Q. Beginning with page 122, do you not say "The time to rise for the realization of the country's policy of unification of the world under the Emperor is now. The moment the resolution to go through with this single-handedly is made by Government and people our country will have the power to lead the world and will be able to have almost all other countries dance to our tune."

A. That is correct.

Q. Now, Colonel, do you not admit that the whole tenor of this book is inflammatory?

A. Could be. (With a smile.)

Q. Colonel, I believe you have attached in this book a brief history of the Dai Nippon Sekisei Kai. Have you not?

A. Yes.

Q. You state there that you were the founder of this ultra-loyalist association, don't you?

A. Yes.

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- Q. This book was published for the benefit of the hundred million followers of the IRAA of which you were a leader, was it not?
- A. It was for the Sekisei Kai.
- Q. At the time you published this book, you were leader of the IRAA which numbered in its membership every person in Japan?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Colonel, I will direct your attention to 1937 when you were called back into the army and went to China. During your absence, General TATEKAWA took over the leadership of the Dai Nippon Sekisei Kai, did he not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. He agreed with your ultra-nationalistic policies in this society then, did he not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you had been closely associated with him for a long time, beginning back in Manchuria, had you not?
- A. He was my superior officer in the General Staff. We were intimate.
- Q. Colonel, when you came back from the battlefield in China 25 March 1939, weren't you tendered a great reception in the Hibiya Municipal Hall, and wasn't that reception described as "an unprecedented demonstration for the national restoration"?
- A. The assembly was a good deal after my return. As for the rest of your question, that is essentially correct.
- Q. You state there in your book that you dissolved the Dai Nippon Seinento and instantly established the Dai Nippon Sekisei Kai and the following policies were approved at the Third General Assembly of the Association on 19 November 1939:
1. Restoration of the nation.
 2. Stronger armament for the defense and liberation of the Asiatic races.
 3. Asiatic autarchy.
 4. Attack Britain and her dominions.
 5. Imperialization of east Asia.
 6. Establishment of state union in Asia.
- A. Point one, that is correct. Point two I advocated a peerless air force. Point three is correct. Point four, whether I said it then or not I do not know, but I hold those feelings.
- Q. Aren't they set out in your book there?
- A. This book has only through the Second General Assembly. No, it is here! Point four is correct. I say that to attack England is to bring to a conclusion the China incident. Point five -- I do not

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know what you mean exactly -- I advocated independence of all Asiatic nations. Six is correct.

Q. Colonel, when you published this book in 1941 including these attached outlines and histories of your societies, you were a leader and an official and a permanent director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, weren't you?

A. That is correct.

Q. And the Premier KONOYE was the President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, wasn't he?

A. Yes.

Interrogation by Colonel Woolworth:

Q. Colonel, you stated in answer to some questions of mine on the 12th of February that in Taiyo Dai Nippon you did not say in an article entitled "Expel the British Influences from the Far East," that "under the present condition it is very easy to beat England." (Copy of the Taiyo Dai Nippon is shown to HASHIMOTO.)

A. Is that so?

Q. Was your answer true that you did not say any --

A. There is no mistake. I must have said it.

Q. And did you not say on the same day to me that you did not say in an article in this paper under date of May 11, 1939, "We have only to say decisively that we will occupy Hongkong and her concession in Shanghai. How can the British troops come to the Far East?" (Copy of the article is shown to HASHIMOTO.)

A. Yes I made such a statement. It is something I said a long time ago and therefore I did not remember it very well. But if you look at it here (pointing to the newspaper) you should find the correct statements.

Q. Then you want to correct the answer you made on the 12th of February in which you said that you did not make such a statement?

A. It is as written here.

Q. And it does say there in that article written by you, in substance, "that we have only to say decisively that we will occupy Hongkong and her concession in Shanghai. How can the British troops come to the Far East?"

A. That is correct.

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- Q. And you did say in that same article that the "British fleet will not be able to enter Singapore for we have our peerless aviators in addition to the fleet."?
- A. Yes, in substance -- but what is actually stated here is that if we have these aforementioned things the British fleet will receive a crushing blow before being able to enter Singapore.
- Q. This quotation which you just read is from the publication Taiyo Dai Nippon dated May 11, 1939, which is part of Document No. 13, is it not? (Indicating copy of publication)
- A. Naturally.
- Q. And you were responsible for the publication of that newspaper?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And that was published bi-monthly, the 5th and 20th?
- A. Three times a month. It is not circulated outside of the Sekisei Kai.
- Q. How many members did that society have?
- A. I do not believe there were over 20,000.
- Q. And in this same article you said in substance: "Even though England is wealthy, she will suffer greatly if her warship which costs one hundred million yen will be sunk by our three hundred thousand yen airplane."?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Then you were mistaken when you stated on the 12th of February that you had made no such statement?
- A. That is so. I did not remember.
- Q. And in the issue of this same paper of June 1, 1939, did you say "Define England as the enemy"?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Then you were mistaken when you stated in the examination of 12 February that you did not make such a statement?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And did you state in the issue of June 1 of this paper, Document No. 13, "Our way is one -- expulsion of England."?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Then your denial of that statement was untrue.
- A. I had no remembrance. Your interpretation was not incorrect. My memory was in error.

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- Q. What is the title of that article there? (Indicating article in paper)
- A. It means on topics of the time, upon matters of the moment, or something like that.
- Q. It doesn't say "Solution of incident depends upon expulsion of England"?
- A. Yes. (Comment by Interpreter: He admitted that.)
- Q. Does it appear there that you said "if it hadn't been for support of England, the Chiang Government would have been already destroyed"?
- A. Those are essentially my ideas, but whether it is here or not I do not know. (Looking at article to see.) I do not see it here, but those were my ideas in any case.
- Q. Turning to the June 20, 1939 article, title, "Expulsion of England is the Solution to the China Incident," did you state in that article substantially as follows: "The foreign concessions in Tientsin are blockaded. This is an opportune moment to start the attack, because the whole nation has recognized it is necessary the Government should avail itself of this opportunity and attack instantly. The attack should not be stopped at Tientsin but extended to Shanghai and to Hongkong. This is the only possible solution of the China incident. We have no choice -- fight England."
- A. In substance that is correct.
- Q. Then you were mistaken when you made a statement on the 12th of February that you did not say that in this paper?
- A. That is so. My memory was bad.
- Q. When you denied that you published the statement "Don't hesitate to establish the Asiatic Bloc, this is not an infringement of the Nine Power Treaty; if others think it constitutes such an infringement, renounce the treaty," you were mistaken, were you not?
- A. There is nothing about the Nine Power Pact in this article. I made that statement in an article in the issue of this same paper dated December 5, 1939.
- Q. Then you were mistaken when you denied making that statement in your examination of February 12?
- A. Yes, I was mistaken.

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- Q. And in your examination of February 12 you denied having made the following statement which was included in the publication entitled "Sekai Saiken No Michi" (How to Rebuild the World) which was published 30 January 1941: "I would not say that is the only reason, but anyway thereafter the Manchurian incident, withdrawal from the League of Nations, denunciation of the Disarmament Agreement, the May 15 incident, Shimpei Tai, and the February 26 incident took place in succession." When you denied making that statement in your examination of February 12 you were mistaken on that point, were you not?
- A. It is in that book. I was mistaken the other day.

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I, Frank B. Huggins, being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English, respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of eight pages numbered 1 to 8 inclusive, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Frank B. Huggins

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of February 1946.

G. Woolworth

(Name and Rank)

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

I, Edna Hickam, hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Edna Hickam

We, Hugh B. Helm, and Gilbert S. Woolworth, certify that on the 15th day of February 1946 personally appeared before us Kingoro HASHIMOTO and, according to Lt Commander Frank B. Huggins, interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth herein.

Hugh B. Helm

G. Woolworth

Tokyo, Japan

1 Feb 1946