

March 25, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Committee

Case No. 153

Subject: ABE, Nobuyuki

By: G. C. Hardin

He was Prime Minister from August 30, 1939, to January 15, 1940, and was Foreign Minister part of this time. He received this appointment through the influence of KIDO, who was his son-in-law. He was advised to resign late in December because the younger element in the army did not support him.

In 1932 he was Commander of the Formosa Garrison, and a member of the Military Council from 1933 to 1936; he resigned after the February 26 Incident.

He became Special Ambassador to Nanking in 1942, was later appointed by the Emperor to the House of Peers, and became President of IRAPS and Governor General of Korea in 1944. He makes the significant statement that in his opinion proper consideration should be given to the Manchurian Incident. He thinks the Manchurian Incident brought about the Chinese War and later the war with the United States and Britain, i.e., he thinks the Manchurian Incident is, after all, the cause of the whole situation.

He discusses in detail the trouble between the Russians and the Japanese and the whole Russo-Japanese difficulty, in the background of the conditions which developed the war movement. He says that when he became Premier in 1939, and when the China War was raging, that there was division of opinion in Japan, some thinking that Japan should tie-in with Germany and Italy and others that Japan should stay out of the European situation; that those favoring that Germany and Italy tie-in prevailed, and the Tri-Partite Pact followed, and that he himself was opposed to that program; that he issued a proclamation that Japan should stay out of European affairs, for that was a war of aggression; that Japan should bring to an end the Chinese Incident and stay out of the European War; that this brought him to loggerheads with the army and navy and that he resigned in January of 1940 because of the complete difference of opinion between himself and the army and navy. That the army and navy were opposed to almost everything he said. The army and navy were making large demands for money, which he did not favor, and that he was also at odds with Parliament itself; that the opposition in Parliament was stirred up by the army and navy. He says now it is easy to see that his ideas were right, and that nobody then agreed with him.

Memorandum to Executive Committee, ABE, cont'd.

It is significant, it appears that he resigned from the Supreme War Council after the February 26 Incident in 1936, saying that he felt a personal responsibility because they had not properly organized, and prepared to prevent such an incident.

The interrogation of this subject and his statements appear to have been freely given. We do not find him prepared to be tied in with the conspirators. It does not appear that he, in view of our plan of limiting the number of defendants, should be included. It is a probability that he might be made a good witness.

G. C. HARDIN

Translated by: M. Abe
Checked by: M. Sadayasu.

AFFIDAVIT

ABE Nobuyuki: (62 years) General (Reserve) of the Imperial
Japanese Army.

Permanent Domicile: 5 Kami-Andocho, Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Pref.
Present Address: 361 Nishikubocho 1-chome, Yodobashi-ku,
Tokyo City.

The above-mentioned person made the following deposition to me on May 2, 1936, at his present address as witness of the movements, on the night of February 26th, this year, of Jinsaburo Masaki, a suspect in the February 26th Revolt Incident;

1. I affirm my permanent domicile, present address, status, full name and age, as mentioned above, to be true in every particular.

2. I will now tell you as far as I can remember how we, Supreme War Councillors, especially General Masaki, acted on the night of February 26th, this year.

At about 9 o'clock p.m., the same day, seven of us War Council-
lors - Hayashi, Terauchi, Ueda, Nishi, Araki, Masaki and I - arrived at
the Conference Room of the official residence of the War Minister from
the Imperial Court with Major-general Yamashita as our guide, and we,
seven people, stayed there together until the following morning. At
that time General Masaki was considerably enfeebled by his old com-
plaint, acid dyspepsia. Although I don't remember well, I think he was
using a "bosom-warmer", which he had borrowed from someone. Therefore,
he was specially made to rest, tucked up in a blanket, on the bedding which had
been laid on the carpet.

3. Mr. Masaki acted in concert with us all the time, except when he
went ^{to the} toilet. He did not act independently. However, for fear lest the
aroused officers should resort to some riotous speech or action toward
General Hayashi, General Masaki, presumably on his way to the toilet,
"ordered either Major-general Yamashita or Colonel Suzuki" - who it was I am
not sure - "to tell the aroused officers definitely not to act ^{in a} disorderly ^{fashion}."
This is the story given me by Masaki at the Army Club on the following day
or two days after.

Affidavit by Gen. Abe (cont'd).

4. I remember, we felt so hungry on the night of 26th, that we ordered wheat vermicelli or buckwheat vermicelli from a buckwheat shop presumably at about 1 o'clock a.m. on the 27th, but it was very late, about two o'clock or three, that the buckwheat dealer brought the wheat vermicelli or buckwheat vermicelli on order, which we all ate together.

5. As to the sleep I took on the night of the 26th, I dropped off into a doze for only an hour or so at about 4 o'clock or 5 on the following morning (on the morning of the 27th).

6. I think I had my supper at the Imperial Court on the evening of the 26th, or perhaps I ate nothing. Thus, my thought of time or my memory at that time is very unclear.

7. Such being the case, I believe that General Masaki had no spare time to do anything privately, as he acted with us from first to last.

Nobuyuki ABE

The above recorded statement was read to Nobuyuki ABE, who declared that the above was true in every particular. Therefore, I made him add his signature and seal to the same.

May 2, 1936.

Tokimatsu Kato,
Military Police Major,
Military Judicial Police Officer
of the Tokyo Military Police Hqs.

Translated by: M. Abe
Checked by: M. Sadayasu.

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