AFFIDAVIT STATENG How Modificable and Records of Liaison Conferences and names of those who attended.

(3)

I, ROBERT K. McKNIGHT, upon being duly sworn on 15 September 1948, saith as follows;

During an interrogation of Ken TERASHIMA, former Minister of Communications and Railways in the TOJO Cabinet, at Sugamo Prison on 13 July 1948 at which time I was acting as Interpreter for Mr. Murray Gray, a question was put to Mr. TERASHIMA as to whether he had attended a Liaison Conference which took place shortly prior to the Imperial Conference of 1 December 1941. He was informed at this time that according to a statement of Hideki TOJO, he, Mr. TERASHIMA, should have attended the Liaison Conference in question.

Upon being asked in this regard, Mr. TERASHIMA denied attending the Liaison Conference and further denied attending any Liaison Conferences prior to 8 December 1941. He also mentioned verbally at that time that there should be a written record of the attendance at Liaison Conferences and that he was confident his name would not appear.

On or about 31 August 1948 at another interrogation of Ken TERASHIMA at Sugamo Prison, Mr. TERASHIMA informed Mr. Murray Gray and myself that he had received information by mail from his daughter to the effect that a document had been seen either by her or by her brother which gave the attendance at the Liaison Conferences in the years 1941 and 1942. He requested that we inquire of his daughter as to how this document was seen by her. Mr. TERASHIMA was unable to state at that time whether his daughter or son had possession of the document or not. He did state that this document did not list him as having attended any Liaison Conferences prior to 8 December 1941.

On or about 2 September 1948 I went to the residence of Mr. TERASHIMA at 224, 1 chome, Uehara, Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo. Here I was informed by the daughter of Mr. TERASHIMA that her brother Takeshi TERASHIMA had spent a great deal of time looking for some record of the attendance of Liaison Conferences and had finally located such a document at the Imperial Household Ministry (KUNAISHO) and that he had actually seen this document. She also stated that her father, Ken TERASHIMA was not mentioned as having attended any Liaison Conferences prior to 8 December 1941. Subsequently, I learned from Mr. TERASHIMA's daughter that this document was in the possession of the General Affairs Department (SOMUKA) of the Imperial Household Ministry, which department at that time was headed by a Mr. INUMARU.

On 11 September 1948 I contacted the son of Ken TERASHIMA, Takeshi TERASHIMA and requested that he accompany me to the Imperial Household Ministry in an effort to puruse the document containing the names of those attending the Liaison Conferences between the Supreme Command and the Government in the years 1941 and 1942. At this time I was informed by Mr. Takeshi TERASHIMA that he had requested Mr. Denjiro KATO, assistant defense attorney to former Foreign Minister TOGO to obtain this document for his sake upon being told by Mr. KATO of its existence. Mr. KATO had obtained this document, TERASHIMA informed me, from the Imperial Household Ministry and he, Mr. TERASHIMA, had seen the document and would be able to identify it at the Imperial Household Ministry.

Robert. Motinght.

At the appointed time on 13 September 1948 I was met by Takeshi TERASHIMA in Room 831 Meiji Building. Upon receiving proper authorization, Mr. Takeshi TERASHIMA and I, accompanied by Mr. T. INOUE of Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, proceeded to the Imperial Household Ministry within the grounds of the Imperial Palace. Mr. INOUE was to act as interpreter as he has excellent knowledge of the written Japanese language where as I am only able to converse freely. At approximately 10:30 a.m. on 13 September 1948, we arrived at the General Affairs Department of the Imperial Household Ministry. Here we were informed that Mr. INUMARU was no longer head of the General Affairs Department and that his place was filled by a Mr. SUZUKI (FNU).

We were unable to meet Mr. SUZUKI but were met instead by the second-in-charge of the Department whose name was Mr. ITARU. We asked Mr. ITARU to produce the books containing the record of attendance at the conferences held within the Imperial Grounds which Mr. Takeshi TERASHIMA described as the "SAN NAISHA MEIBO" or the "Record of the Names of Visiting Persons" for the period from July 1941 to December 1941 and the year 1942.

Mr. ITARU of the General Affairs Department brought the books to us in two volumes bound in white cardboard and carrying the year date and word "SAN NAI SHA MEIBO" on the cover. It appeared to be the record of persons attending conferences at a specific conference room within the Imperial Palace. According to the examination of Mr. T. INOUE the books contained primarily records of attendance of meetings of the Supreme Command, Liaison Conferences between the Supreme Command and the Government and Imperial Conferences.

Being principally interested in Liaison Conferences we remained long enough to examine and record the time, date and attendance of each such conference recorded from October 1941 to and including 8 December 1941. We also informed Mr. ITARU that a formal request would be forwarded through SCAP for the procurement of a true copy certified by the Department Head of these two volumes in their entirety. We instructed him to begin work at once on the copies of these books which he agreed to do and informed us that he would have the records requested typed for presentation.

One fact which Mr. ITARU could not explain was the lack of any record of an Imperial Conference on 5 November 1941 as such record was not found in the SAN NAI SHA MEIBO of the period from July to December 1941. He was instructed to conduct a search for records of this meeting within the Imperial Household Ministry and if such records were located, to present copies of them at the same time as the copies of the volumes mentioned above were turned over.

Having passed on these instructions, we left the Imperial Palace grounds at 1200 noon, 13 September 1948 and dismissed Takeshi TERASHIMA.

HOBERT K. MCKNIGHT

LEGAL SEC. GHQ, SCAP

INVESTIGATORY INTERPRETER

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 15 day of September, 1948.

Investigating Attorney

Legal Section, WCT, GHQ, SCAP

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SUBJECT: Request for documents from General Affairs Department of Imperial Household Ministry.

TO ! MAJOR WILLOUGHBY, CLCO.

PROM : Murray GRAY, Legal Section, GHQ.

Please place a demand through channels on the Japanese Government for the procurement of the records of attendance (SAN DAI SHAMEIBO) of conferences held in the HIGASHI-ICHINI-NO MA within the Imperial Palace Grounds. Request certified true copies of the two volumes of this record-one covering from July to December 1941, and the second covering the year 1942-be forwarded to this section.

As an aid in the location of these documents, it is known to this office that these volumes were in the possession of the General Affairs Department (SOMUKA) of the Imperial Household Ministry (KUNAISHO), as they were perused at that location by Robert K. McKNIGHT, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, and T. INOUE, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, on 13 September 1948. The head of the above mentioned General Affairs Department is named SUZUKI, and his immediate subordinate in that Department, who brought forth these records for perusal by the above mentioned, is Yoshi ITARU.

Further request procurement of all records on hand at the Imperial Household Ministry concerning any Privy Council Meeting or any Imperial Conferences held on the date 5 November 1941.

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