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INTERROGATION OF

ARAKI, SADAQ

Date and Time: 14 February 1946, 1000-1210.
Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan.
Present : ARAKI, Sadao
Col. Thomas Morrow, Interrogator
Commander Yale Maxon, Interpreter
Ingeberg Nyden, Stenographer

Oath of Interpreter: Administered by Col. Morrow:

COL. MORROW: 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?

Commander Maxon : I do.

Q. On February 11 you stated in regard to a question regarding the relation of the Planning Board to Japan's aggressive attitude during the Chinese incident that many of the members of the Planning Board in 1940 you considered to be dangerous persons. Would you give us the names of these persons?

A. I don't know their names but there were a great number of them arrested from the Planning Board by the government. I wasn't in the cabinet so I don't know the names.

Q. When did these arrests take place?

A. In 1940--no 1941 I think. In the summer I believe. I don't remember the month.

Q. Why were they arrested?

A. I don't know but perhaps they were either Communistic or Extremists, with Fascist leanings. The facts didn't get out. However it is just my supposition that there were a number of things going on in the Planning Board and perhaps some dangerous people there.

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- Q. Who caused them to be arrested?
- A. The Government.
- Q. Who was the premier at that time?
- A. KONOYE. It was the second KONOYE cabinet.
- Q. By Government, do you mean the premier or the whole cabinet?
- A. I don't know since I wasn't a member of the Cabinet. I would just say that it was the government. Prince KONOYE at that time was President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association but people even from the IRAA were arrested. Members of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and members of the Planning Board were arrested so I think that KONOYE must have been very worried about the situation, hence the second KONOYE cabinet was dissolved and the third one formed.
- Q. What became of these men that were arrested? Did they stay in jail or were they later released?
- A. I wouldn't be too surprised if some of them stayed in jail up until the end of the war. However, I don't know. My opinion was always different from that of Prince KONOYE and his cabinet so I didn't have very much direct relation with those affairs.
- Q. Did you know Isamu YOKOYAMA who was a member of the Planning Board?
- A. I know Isamu YOKOYAMA but I don't recall whether or not he was a member of the Planning Board. Wasn't Feichi SUZUKI, the President of the Planning Board, questioned?
- Q. Do you consider Feichi SUZUKI to be one of the dangerous people previously referred to?
- A. No, I don't really think so.
- Q. Do you consider Isamu YOKOYAMA, whom our records show to be a member of that Planning Board, a dangerous character?
- A. I don't think so. He is not a very capable person and I don't think he is very dangerous.
- Q. Do you consider any of the following men as dangerous persons? NAKANURA, Keinoshin, HARAGUCHI, Takeo, AZUME, Eiji, HARA, Kiyoshi, KURODA, Kogo, NUMATA, Takaso, ABE, Kasuke, NAKAJIMA, Seiji, TAKNUCHI, Tokuji, SHIRATA, Yaichiro, NIURA, Kasuo, FUJISAWA, Takeo, AKINAGA, Tsukiso, KASHIWABARA, Hyotaro, KAMEYAMA, Koichi, SUDO, Hideo, MATSUDA, Reisuke, MORIKAWA, Kakuso?
- A. I don't know most of them. Takaso NUMATA I know and I believe he is

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an honest man. However he has ideas about a controlled economy. He is a Lieutenant-General I believe in the army. I think his idea was to combine the concepts of both the Nazis and the Communists in regard to controlled economic system and evolve a system for Japan. That was probably what he was doing in the Planning Board, I imagine. However, I don't know whether his ideas were more Nazi or more Communist in content. It is my idea that if such a combination had been carried out it would have caused a great deal of trouble here. I rather think Kazuo MIURA was vice minister of something or other, perhaps of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. I remember the name but I cannot exactly place him. Takeo FUJISAWA has written books and magazine articles and I wonder if he isn't a man with Nazi leanings. I remember FUJISAWA's name because he criticized me saying that I was weak in spirit and he started a lot of slander about me. At that time I had a son studying engineering in England and he criticized me for that too. This is the way I remember it. It is not directly applicable here. I don't even know for sure whether he said the things or not because they came to me third hand. Tsukizo AKINAGA I know. He is a Lieutenant-General I think and all the things that I said about NUMATA are applicable to him too. He is in that controlled economy group. Hyotaro KASHIWABARA is also generally believed, in industrial and economic circles and by the public, to be a member of this controlled economy group. I can't say for sure that he is but he has that reputation. I do not know any of the others so I can't make any statement about them.

Q. Do you know a man named Kogoro UEMURA?

A. No.

Q. Do you consider any of the following people dangerous? TAKI, Masao, AOKI, Kazuo, TAKEBE, Hokuzo, TAKEUCHI, Kakichi, OBATA, Churo, MIYAMOTO, Takenosuke.

A. TAKE, Masao is all right. I don't think AOKI, Kazuo is dangerous either but I don't know too much about it. TAKEBE, Hokuzo: I know the name but I don't know the man well enough to be able to say anything about him. TAKEUCHI, Kakichi is all right. OBATA, Churyo came up from the people via Sumitomo to become a government official. Some people think because he came from the official class that he is not a member of the controlled economy group. However other people think that after he became a government official he may have become interested in these ideas. I am not in a position to decide which view is correct. MIYAMOTO, Takenosuke: I know the name but I don't know the man.

Q. Were any of these people arrested?

A. I don't know about the people that I don't know. The others were not arrested.

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- Q. Did FUJISAWA criticize you on account of your personal conduct or official conduct?
- A. I wonder if it wasn't for both reasons. I heard about it through a dinner table conversation and never made any protest or thought too much about it but only I remember the name. This is pretty vague talk but I seem to remember that Mr. FUJISAWA formed some sort of society or other.
- Q. Planning Board officials were appointed by Premiers starting from the fall of 1937, were they not?
- A. Yes, it is true.
- Q. In your opinion did the Planning Board become a powerful organ between the years of 1939 and 1942, and was it responsible for the aggressive policies of the government?
- A. In regard to the first part of the question, I think it became quite powerful. In regard to the other part of the question, it is difficult to make a simple reply. As a matter of fact I left the government in 1939 and have in general disagreed with its policies since. Not being on the inside I really don't know to what extent the Cabinet Planning Board is responsible.
- Q. Do you know whether or not there were differences of opinion between the Planning Board and the Foreign Office as to foreign policies?
- A. I don't know. When do you mean?
- Q. Between 1939 and 1942?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. You have said that the members of the Planning Board were appointed by the Premiers and that the Planning Board had a good deal of power. Can you explain how this came about?
- A. I haven't been in the government for some time so I can't speak from the inside but judging from the outside I think it was because the Planning Board in general drafted all the plans and made all the decisions. They had the over all picture and could decide, for example, where to get materials and many other policies. Once the decisions were made and the plans drafted, I imagine that the Cabinet handled them without too much inquiry as to detail. The various ministries themselves were very busy and knew nothing about what was going on. I rather think that some of the directors whose names I did not know were taken from the various ministries to sit on the board, Especially from the time of the

second Kono cabinet on the Planning Board became very powerful, I think. This is just my opinion.

- Q. During the years of 1938 and 1939 when you were Education Minister in two cabinets, the China Affair was going on and a military alliance with Germany and Italy was being arranged. Who, in your opinion, was responsible for the continuation of the China Affair and who was responsible for the concluding of the three power pact?
- A. During the first KONOYE Cabinet the question of the three power pact had not yet come up. It was considered during the time of the HIRANUMA Cabinet but the Premier was opposed to it. He called in the Foreign, Navy, Army and Finance Ministers and the decision was not to conclude the pact. Germany and Russia concluded a non-aggression pact in August 1939. The result of this pact was the fall of the HIRANUMA Cabinet.
- Q. You have answered one part of the question very satisfactorily, but the other part is not yet answered, namely, who was responsible during 1938 - 1939 for continuing the China Incident?
- A. The army I think.
- Q. What leader of the army?
- A. The War Minister, ITAGAKI, I should say.
- Q. What about the General Staff?
- A. I think some of the younger officers there were perhaps most responsible but I don't know their names.
- Q. How about the Chief of the General Staff?
- A. That was Prince KAN-IN. He did not actually do very much work I think. It was the Vice Chief of Staff and those under him.

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I, YALE C. MAXON, 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 five pages, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

YALE C. MAXON

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of February, 1946.

THOMAS MORROW, Colonel
Duly Detailed Investigating Officer
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

I, THOMAS MORROW, hereby certify that on the 14th day of February 1946 personally appeared before me ARAKI, SADAO and according to YALE C. MAXON, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

Tokyo, Japan

THOMAS MORROW, Colonel

14 February 1946

I, INGEBORG NYDEN, 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.

INGEBORG NYDEN

CHARGE OUT SLIP

DATE July 3

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