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4 INTERROGATION OF
General ARAKI, Sadao

Date and Time: 25 February 1946, 1335 - 1630 hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : Gen. ARAKI, Sadao
Elton M. Hyder, Jr., Interrogator
SAIKI, Tachio, Interpreter

Oath of Interpreter administered by Mr. Hyder.

BY MR. HYDER: Mr. Saiki, 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?

BY MR. SAIKI: I do.

On February 26, 1936 they assassinated SAITO (Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal), TAKAHASHI (Finance Minister,) and Gen. WANANABE (Inspector General of Military Education.) General Watanabe replaced General Masaki, and he must have said something. This is probably the reason Watanabe was assassinated. I think Watanabe gave the good and the badpoints of Masaki, and the young officers did not like this. I do not know what was said. General Suzuki (Kantaro) (Grand Chamberlain) was wounded. Count Makino ran away and was not wounded. Saionji (elder statesman) ran away and was not wounded. Okada (Premier) got away but his secretary was killed.

About 1500 personnel, including Army personnel, participated, and they had ~~six~~ about 12 to 13 principal leaders, with about 4 civilians. The 4 civilians were Kita (Idoki), Nishida (Zei), Shibukawa (I think Zensuk). I think Kita and Nishida were writers.

The Supreme War Council gave advice to the War Minister on request. Whenever important questions arose, the War Minister had to approach the Supreme War Council on the questions, for advice. The members of the Council were important men in Japan, and the War Minister asked their advice.

Classmates of mine at the Academy were Masaki (Jinsakiro), Abe (Shinko), Honjo (Shigra).

After the February 26th Incident, I heard that the Emperor told Honjo that this incident must be cleared up. (Gen. Honjo was the Chief Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor.) The Supreme War Council gathered in the Palace on

26 February, and Honjo told them that the Emperor was worried and the incident must be cleared up.

After the meeting of the Council, and with nothing definite reached, we went over to the official residence of the War Minister, which was surrounded by about 1500 soldiers, and found 6 or 7 young officers inside. Seven of the Supreme War Councillors were over -- Hazashi, Mazaki, Abe, Terauchi, Ueda, myself, Nishi. They talked to the 6 or 7 young officers (Kosobe, Muranaka, Kurihara, Tsushima) and told them the Emperor was worried and they should send the troops back immediately and apologize to the Emperor for their conduct. But the officers were stubborn and would not follow their wishes. General Abe heard from one of the officers that if the seven people (Supreme War Councillors) would go to the Emperor and recommend Mazaki for Prime Minister, they (the young officers) would withdraw their troops. Abe told Mazaki of this. Mazaki went to the young officer and told him he was not qualified for the job, that it was not proper for a Japanese officer to kill people, and tell the Supreme War Council that he (Mazaki) should be recommended for Prime Minister.

The War Minister at this time was with the cabinet members in a gathering. Isabe and Muranaka spoke for the officers in the meeting with the Supreme War Councillors.

After the meeting with the young officers, we went to the Army and Navy Club, and the War Minister came over. We reported on the conference with the young officers. Hayashi told the War Minister that the incident should be cleared up, and that the young officers had made a proposal that if we would make Mazaki Premier, they would take away the troops. The War Minister went back to the Cabinet. (The War Minister and the Chief of Staff decided on the 28th to attack the troops around the official residence of the War Ministry.)

The cabinet had been meeting continuously for a couple of days, and we met with the War Minister in the early morning of the 27th. I think the cabinet met when the War Minister reported back. We carried on discussion as to how the incident could be closed, and also what took place at the meeting with the young officers, earlier. We decided to send Mazaki back to the young officers and talk to them again. (I do not know what Mazaki told the young officers). This was during the daytime of the 27th. Mazaki reported back in one or two hours that the young officers had agreed to lay down their arms and go home. We decided on Mazaki because he had the most influence on these young officers.

CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETER

I, Tashio Saiki, being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the statements from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English, and that the above statements, consisting of two pages, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of March 1946.

Elton M. Hyder, Civilian
Duly Detailed Investigating Officer
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

CERTIFICATE OF INTERROGATOR

I, Elton M. Hyder, certify that on the 25th day of February personally appeared before me Sadao ARAKI, and according to Tashio SAIKI gave the foregoing statements set forth therein.

Elton M. Hyder, Civilian

CHARGE OUT SLIP

DATE July 3

EVIDENTIARY DOC. NO. 2353

TRIAL BRIEF _____

EXHIBIT NO. _____

BACKGROUND DOC. NO. _____

SIGNATURE Stefanelli

ROOM NO. _____

*Original presented
in Court*

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2341-2353, inclusive

2 July 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Transcripts of Interrogations of General ARAKI, Sadao

Date: (See Below) Original (x) Copy () Language: English

Has it been translated? Yes () No (x)

Has it been photostated? Yes () No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL:

PERSONS IMPLICATED: ARAKI, Sadao, et al

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Aggression, Manchuria

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS:

Interrogations of ARAKI have been assigned following document numbers: (All are from Document Division Exh.290)

<u>Doc. No.</u>	<u>Date of Interrogation</u>
2341	5 Feb 46
2342	18 Jan 46
2343	19 Jan 46
2344	22 Jan 46 (A.M.)
2345	22 Jan 46 (P.M.)
2346	6 Feb 46
2347	12 Feb 46
2348	14 Feb 46
2349	15 Feb 46
2350	18 Feb 46
2351	20 Feb 46
2352	23 Feb 46
2353	25 Feb 46

Analyst: W. H. Wagner

Doc. No. 2341-2353, inclusive.