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INTERROGATION OF

Sadao Araki

Date and Time: 5 February 1946, 1030-1200 Hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : Sadao Araki
Colonel T. H. Morrow, Interrogator
Amos W. W. Woodcock, Interrogator
Elton M. Hyder, Jr., Interrogator
D. Kildoyle, Interpreter
Ruth F. Anderson, Stenographer

Questions by : Colonel Morrow and Mr. Hyder

BY COLONEL MORROW: Mr. Kildoyle, 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. KILDOWLE: I do.

BY COLONEL MORROW: General, I was interested in an interview of General Masaki and I want to ask you about some things General Masaki said. This is what General Masaki said: "Among the men who had similar ideas as I, are ARAKI, YANAGAWA, YAMAOKA, OBATA, MATSUURA, HARADA, MOCHINAGA, Asaji. Of these YANAGAWA and MATSUURA are dead. Shinji HATA is another. Leaders of the Manchurian incident were ITAGAKI, ISHIHARA and HANAYA." How many of these people do you know?

A. Every one except HARADA. I believe they all generally had similar ideas, maybe with slight differences. I would believe YANAGAWA, OBATA, and MATSUURA I think, were of one idea. I do not know HARADA. MOCHINAGA I know slightly. I am not well acquainted with this, but ITAGAKI and ISHIHARA were staff officers and perhaps cooperated. I was a Division Commander in Kumamoto at the time and away from the scene of activities here in Tokyo.

Q. Kumamoto is a town in Japan?

A. Yes.

Q. I take it then that you are a friend of General MASAKI, is that correct?

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- A. Yes, General MASAKI and I had similar ideas on many subjects. We were both opposed to the various inauspicious incidents that occurred from time to time. General OBATA was also another with similar ideas and strongly opposed the violent measures taken from time to time.
- Q. General MASAKI made this following statement: "KIDO is to be blamed for the state Japan is in today. I have always had the feeling that if I met KIDO I would like to spit in his face. In January 1945, KONOYE suggested to the Emperor that if UGAKI and MASAKI are not brought out and put into active duty Japan can never be saved and this information leaked into the Army military group, leading to the arrest of all men close to KONOYE, and I believe that the one who informed the military was KIDO. I got this story from YOSHIDA." That is what General MASAKI stated to Colonel Woolworth, and I want to know whether you have the same opinion of Marquis KIDO that General MASAKI has.
- A. I think this is true. I think it was in the spring of 1945, I believe. YOSHIDA was released by the Gendarmes some time in May 1945.
- Q. Do you agree with General MASAKI in saying that Marquis KIDO is to be blamed for the state Japan is in today?
- A. KIDO, having been the closest to the Emperor, I would say, is the one most responsible, but others such as HIRANUMA, OKADA, and HIROTA, who were Prime Ministers, also many others, would have been able to influence the Emperor, as his majesty was always willing to listen to words of advice. The Emperor believed that force should never be used, that treaties should be observed, and that the law must be obeyed. This has been stated in several rescripts by the Emperor. He is a firm believer in benevolence and forbearance toward all.
- Q. Then I understand that you think that Marquis KIDO gave the Emperor some bad advice when in his position?
- A. I do not think that KIDO gave the Emperor any bad advice. I think that the job was one that was too big for him and he did not measure up to the standard required. This is just my own idea, but I believe that KONOYE was not an admirer of TOJO. It is possible that KONOYE thought that by letting the militarists have a free hand for awhile they would get themselves into trouble and realize how mistaken they were in their policies and actions.

I, Clara B. Knapp 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.

Clara B. Knapp

Certificate of Interrogator.

I, ~~xxx~~ John D. Shea, Cmdr, USNR

and _____,

certify that on the 29th day of March, 1946, personally appeared before me ~~xxx~~ MATSUOKA, Yosuke and according to _____, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

Tokyo, Japan
Place

3 April 1946
Date

John D. Shea
Commander, USNR

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- Q. Well, I want to know, if you can tell me, why MASAKI made this statement that KIDO is to blame for the state Japan is in today and why he is so mad at KIDO that he makes this statement. If you know why that is.
- A. I believe MASAKI made this statement because KIDO, as the one closest to the Emperor and the person most able to influence him, fell down on his job.
- Q. How did he fall down on his job?
- A. Judging from Japan's present state, the advice and help which he should have tendered to the Emperor was wrong.
- Q. Have you ever talked to General MASAKI about Marquis KIDO?
- A. I have not seen MASAKI in quite a long while, and have not talked with him about KIDO, but there are many others that blame KIDO as being responsible.
- Q. Who are these others?
- A. OBATA and I think almost any other one that gives the matter any consideration will realize that KIDO is responsible.
- Q. Why do you say that NIBOTA and OKADA and HIRANUMA are also responsible for the present state Japan is in?
- A. In addition to the three mentioned, KONOYE and WAKATSUKI, as ex-Premiers, were responsible for recommending to the Emperor the appointment of General TOJO as the new Prime Minister.
- Q. And do I understand that Marquis KIDO also recommended TOJO?
- A. KIDO, being closest to the Emperor and having the power to veto the choice of the ex-Prime Minister mentioned previously, is also responsible.
- Q. And I understand you to mean that they knew or should have known that the appointment of TOJO would mean war with America and England, and that is why they should not have advised his appointment? Is that what you mean?
- A. Prince KONOYE stated that TOJO claimed if he were appointed Prime Minister and War Minister, he would be able to control the militaristic elements. This appointment of TOJO, who was in active service in the army, violates the Constitution and is unprecedented and would not have received the Emperor's approval unless KIDO advised it.

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- Q. On what evidence or knowledge of yours do you base your statements that these people, KIDO, HIRANUMA, WAKATSUKI, and so forth, are the ones that brought about TOJO's appointment? On what do you base that on?
- A. It is usual for ex-Prime Ministers to find and recommend a new person to be appointed as the Prime Minister.
- Q. And do you mean that these people should have known that the appointment of TOJO would mean the military would take control of the situation? Is that what you mean?
- A. I believe they realized this at the time, but this was done hoping that TOJO would be able to control the younger elements in the army as I stated previously.
- Q. Well, this is something else that General MASAKI said: "As that expansion movement developed" - he is talking about Manchuria - "what Army officers would you consider to be the principal leaders in it?" And the answer was "1. TOJO." Do you agree with that?
- A. I was out of touch with matters in Tokyo at the time, but I believe that the expansion movement originated in Manchuria and not in Japan.
- Q. Well, do you know whether or not TOJO was in favor of expansion and the aggression of the Japanese empire?
- A. I am not certain about this. He was my subordinate at one time, but we were never very intimate and I did not know if he favored this expansion, but I believe when he was Chief of Staff in Manchuria on his own responsibility he started operations in Suiyuan in Mongolia.

BY MR. WOODCOCK: Which Mongolia? Outer or inner?

- A. Inner Mongolia. Mongolia has always been looked upon as a Japanese life-line. Even a man of the type of Ozaki YUKIO, in a speech in the newspapers in 1937, stated that this was a life-line for Japan and it would be fatal to return Manchuria to China. This is on record. I do not agree with OZAKI's views, but even a man of his calibre is apt to make childish statements of this nature.

BY COLONEL MORROW: General MASAKI said, "I never spoke to TOJO. He is my enemy, and I never spoke to him." Do you know why General MASAKI would refer to TOJO as his enemy and never speak to him?

- A. This was on account of the differences in ideas generally. I believe MASAKI's feelings were reciprocated by TOJO. I believe TOJO or his clique did their utmost to make MASAKI the scape-goat in the February 26 Incident.

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BY MR. HYDER: General, what is "Japan's Mission in Showah?" That is a book you wrote.

A. That was a book compiled after interviews with me.

Q. What do you mean when you entitle it "Japan's Mission in Showah?" What is the mission?

A. Japan at the time was surrounded by great difficulties, and I advocated a return to the ancient Japanese ways. My ideas were based on the Emperor's Rescript of 1926. I think I can get a translation of the book if you would like to have it.

Q. Where can we get it?

A. The most important part of the book, the kernel of the book, I will make an effort to translate myself, but you can get it. Japan is a nation based on the family system, with the Emperor at the head of the nation as the father and the Japanese as the children. My book is based on this as the main theme.

Q. General, when was the book written and published?

A. This was published in 1931 about the time I became War Minister.

Q. General, your advocacy of the return to the ancient Japanese ways meant a return to the ways of the Samurai, is that not right?

A. My book has nothing to do with advocating a return to the Samurai era. General TOJO is an example of the Samurai type. My book is based on advocating a return to the old family system of father and children represented by the Emperor and the Japanese under him.

Q. General, did you not say in November of 1933, "Soldiers have always saved Japan. To our soldiers shall fall the grave responsibility for quieting unrest in our agrarian communities, both material and spiritual unrest."

BY GENERAL WOODCOCK: Let me have the question again.

(Question re-read by stenographer.)

A. I have always maintained that the soldier in Japan was not meant for war. His mission was to practice benevolence and forbearance, as I stated previously.

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- Q. General, how do you align your view of the soldiers' mission of benevolence with the fact that within four days after you became Minister of War the cabinet accepted your recommendation to send reinforcements to Manchuria?
- A. This was done with several objectives in view. One was the passive occupation of Manchuria, which was in an unsettled state. Another, to form a policy in connection with the maintenance of peace and order there, and another to endeavor to settle this matter in the shortest possible time. Chang Hsuehliang was responsible for the disturbance in the four provinces comprising Manchuria.

1200 HOURS

Certificate of Interpreter

I, D. Kildoyle, a civilian, 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 six pages, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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

Colonel T. H. Morrow
Duly Detailed Investigating Officer
International Prosecution Section, GHQ,
SCAP

Certificate of Stenographer

I, Ruth F. Anderson, 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.

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Certificate of Interrogators

We, T. H. Morrow, Colonel, ASN O-140286, and Elton M. Hyder, Jr., a civilian, certify that on the 5th day of February, 1946, personally appeared before us Sadao Araki and according to D. Kildoyle, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

Tokyo, Japan

___ day of February 1946

T. H. Morrow, Colonel

Elton M. Hyder, Jr., a Civilian

The original transcript of this interrogation will be found in our EXHIBIT FILE as EXHIBIT # 228. The original shorthand notes of Miss R. J. Anderson on this interrogation will be found in our EXHIBIT FILE as EXHIBIT # 229.

FILE NO. 58
SERIAL NO. 22

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 Copy Language:
English

Has it been translated? Yes No
Has it been photostated? Yes No

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-
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SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

(See p. 2)

Analyst:

W H Wagner

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P. 2

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