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AFFIDAVIT OF SHINYA UCHIDA

1. I, Shinya Uchida, after graduation from Tokyo Higher Commercial School in 1905, entered into business. Since 1924 when I became a member of Parliament I entered into a political career. I was a Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Navy from 1927 to 1929, a Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Communication from 1931 to 1932, a Railway Minister from 1934 to 1936 and a Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in 1944. I was also a member of the House of Peers.

2. When I was Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Navy I often hear from officers of the Naval Ministry in charge of the naval budget that they were being extremely annoyed with the opposition to the Naval Office's demand for an increase in their naval budget by Mr. Kaya of the Finance Office.

Again when I was Railway Minister, Mr. Kaya, who was then Chief of the Accountants Bureau of the Finance Ministry, strenuously endeavored to check the increase in the military budget. This led to a disagreement between the War Ministry and the Finance Ministry. There was a heated debate on this matter at a cabinet Meeting in November 1934, when Finance Minister Fujii who was suffering from ill health had to quit his seat, unable to stand it any longer, and thereupon Mr. Kaya became

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the chief negotiator. He firmly adhered to the policy of opposing the Army's demand, exchanging heated controversies through the night. As the issue threatened to bring about a political crisis, I asked the Minister of War to make a concession, fearing that the downfall of the Okada Cabinet would mean its replacement by a Cabinet of the rightist group, judging from the situation in the country, at that time when the influence of the so-called May 15 Incident was still strong. I succeeded in persuading the War Minister to make a concession by reducing its demands and I devised to lighten the burden on general account by applying about ¥15,000,000,000 out of the Railway Special Accounts to the sinking fund. Some amounts from the Communications Special Accounts and the Chosen Special Accounts were also added to this. By taking such expediciencies the drafting of the national budget for 1935 was completed and a political crisis was averted.

Again at cabinet meetings on the following year's national budget Mr. Kaya helped Finance Minister Takahashi and turned down the War Ministry's demand, which again brought about entanglements. Through the good offices of Communications Minister Mochizuki Prince Kan-in, then Chief of Army General Staff, exerted his influence, and the drafting of the budget was finally completed.

3. With the advent of 1941 some deep-thinking people entertained a grave concern over the American-Japanese relations.

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Mr. Kaya who was then President of the North China Development Co. Ltd. called on me when he returned from Peking at the beginning of October of the same year. I remember both of us exchanging views to the effect that Japan should absolutely avoid a war with America.

4. Mr. Kaya is a financial expert with extended service in the Finance Ministry and is not a politician. He did not belong to any political party or association. I have never heard of his affiliation with the militarists, rightists or leftists. He had some connection with Yokusan Seijikai (Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association) in 1944 but was never heard having engaged in any political activities.

5. I remember it was about July 20, 1945. Prince Konoye told me to the following effect: "I got a secret order from the Emperor to proceed to Russia to ask the Soviet Government for her good offices to bring about peace between Japan and America and Britain. I accepted this and am now making preparations. I shall take with me five or six assistants to help me and wish to choose Mr. Kaya as my chief assistant for this mission. What do you think of my choice?" To this I replied that I was in perfect agreement with him on his nomination, as I too considered Mr. Kaya best fitted for the job.

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