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Def. Doc. 2916  
(Tōgō)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

- Defendants -

A F F I D A V I T

ŌTA SABURŌ

Having first duly sworn an oath as on the attached sheet, in accordance with the procedure prevailing in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

I entered the service of the Foreign Ministry in 1928. As Chief of the Third Section, Bureau of European-Asiatic Affairs, Foreign Ministry, from November 1940 to October 1942, I was charged chiefly with business concerning relations with the British Empire; the Foreign Minister presiding over the Foreign Ministry from 18 October 1941 to 1 September of the following year, 1942, was Mr. Tōgō Shigenori.

Shortly after the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Governments of the United States and Britain respectively proposed to the Japanese Government the mutual exchange of diplomatic and consular officials and their families, as well as as many resident enemy nationals as possible. I was ordered to take charge of the exchange business under Foreign Minister Tōgō, and managed the business relating to the negotiations, with the United States, Britain and other Allied Powers, through the protecting Powers, and also the preliminary consultation among the competent Japanese offices, necessary for its realization.

As a result of the negotiations with the United States and Britain, it was decided that, owing to the shortage of bottoms, those persons to be repatriated should for the time being be limited, except for diplomatic and consular officials and their families, be limited to temporary residents, and that the Japanese Government should send back, not only the resident nationals of the enemy countries in Japan Proper, but also those in Manchoukuo, China, French Indo-China and Thailand, including the nationals of all the allied European and American countries, not to speak of those of the United States and Britain. In spite of the complexity and difficulties attending the exchange business and the carrying out of the agreement, Foreign Minister Tōgō exerted himself from the very first to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion and to carry out the agreement thus reached, constantly urging us to the speedy realization of the repatriation.

For this purpose, however, it was necessary to secure vessels to transport those persons to be repatriated, and great was the difficulty, among Army, Navy and other circles concerned, with the development of operations imposing large demands upon shipping. Moreover, the High Command attached various conditions to setting a date for the voyages of the

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O A T H

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth, withholding nothing and addign nothing.

Ōta Saburō (seal)

On this 2nd day of December, 1947

At Yokosuka

Deponent: Ōta Saburō

I, Shichida Motoharu, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to by the deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Yokosuka

Witness: Shichida Motoharu (seal)

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko (seal)

Tokyo  
6 December 1947