

HARA, Shiro
Request by: OSHIMA, Hiroshi

Address: First Demobilization Bureau, Tokyo

This witness was a member of 20 Section of G.F.Q. (War Policy) 1940-1942.

(1st, Demob)

HARA, Shiro

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This witness was a member of 20. section
of GHQ (war policy) 1940-1942.

REPORT BY: RICHARD LARSH
30 Dec 46

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: HARA, Shiro

Address: First Demobilization Bureau, Tokyo

He was a member of 20. Section of GHQ (War Policy)
1940-1942.

A check of IPS files reveals no mention of Subject.

COPIES: 3 File
1 Mr. Prout

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Hara, Shiro

Date of Birth: 13 August 1911

Permanent Domicile: 491, Nakasato, Fuchu Village, Ashigara-shimo County,
Kangawa Prefecture.

Present Address: c/o Baba, 40, Wakamiyacho Street, Ushigome Ward, Tekyo
Metropolis

Education:

25 July, 1931, Graduated from Military Academy

Military Career:

25 Oct. 1931 Appointed sub-lieutenant

Oct. 1933 Promoted to lieutenant

Oct. 1936 Promoted to captain

1 Oct. 1940 Promoted to major

1 Mar. 1944 Promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Office Career:

25 July 1931 Assigned to First Regiment of Cavalry

Nov. 1938 " to Staff Headquarters of Kwantung Army

1 June 1939 " Staff officer of the above

Nov. 1939 " Military staff officer of Imperial
headquarters.

Feb. 1942 Appointed Chief Secretary of post graduate course
of Military Staff College and concurrently
Military Staff officer of Imperial Headquarters.

9 Nov. 1942 Appointed staff officer of 8th Theatre Army

1 Mar. 1944 Appointed Military Staff officer of Imperial
Headquarters.

28 Aug. 1944 Assigned to Military Affairs Bureau of War Ministry

30 Nov. 1944 Placed on waiting list

1 Dec. 1944 Transferred to reserve list

1 Dec. 1945 Assigned to History Division, 1st Demobilization
Ministry.

Curriculum Vitae

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HARA, Shiro - First Demobilization Bureau, Tokyo

Request by OSHIMA, Hiroshi

- (a) The nationality of the witness is Japanese.
- (b) Witness was a member of 20. Section of GHQ (war Policy) 1940 - 1942.
- (c) Witness will testify as to the extent OSHIMA's report influenced Japan's decision to go to war in 1941.

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3 December 1947
 DEFENSE - SATO
 HARA - Direct

Page * DIRECT EXAMINATION OF HARA, Shiro
 34450 By Mr. Freeman

34451 The witness identified and verified exhibit 3533 as his affidavit.

34450 The affidavit stated that from November 1940 to February 1942, as member of the 20th section of army general staff, the witness was concerned with matters relating to the liaison conference between the government and imperial headquarters, and those relating to the imperial conference. He was familiar with exhibit 1175 "A Draft regarding the fundamental reason of the opening of the war against U.S.A. and Great Britain." *Under the title of the document it was written as "Project to be decided at the Liaison Conference." Project to be decided does not mean the project already decided, but meant a draft which awaits decision at some future date.

34453 At that time a deliberation was being carried out among officials of the army and navy general staffs, army and navy foreign offices to regulate and unify differences between the high command and government regarding the reasons relative to the opening of hostilities in case the worse happened and war became inevitable. Exhibit 1175 was nothing but a kind of draft. The document was never presented to the liaison conference or put on the agenda for discussion. It was only a plan of study. * To the right of the title it was shown that four or five copies were made proving it was for the use of the five officials within sections of the army and navy general staffs, army and navy ministers, and foreign office.

34454 If it was prepared for the use of the liaison conference, at least thirteen copies were needed because thirteen in all were present at those conferences, including the secretaries. Exhibit 1175 was drafted collectively and not written by the chief of the military affairs section SATO, as testified by the witness, TANAKA, Ryukichi, nor was it drafted by the military affairs section. For that reason, the name of the draft department was not mentioned following administrative custom. If the document were drafted at the army military affairs * section, * it would have been mentioned as a draft of that section.

On the document was written "No. 4 of 5 copies", but according to army custom it would have been written as "the 4th among 5 copies" with a rubber stamp being used and the number being inserted with ink. This proved that the document was not prepared by the army or the war ministry.

3 December 1947

DEFENSE - SATO

HARA - Direct - Cross

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On further oral examination the witness was reminded in his affidavit he had said that if it were an official document prepared in the war ministry, it would have the war minister's seal on it. Asked if this document was ever considered by the liaison conference, he stated it was not.

34455 * Cross Examination by Colonel Mornane

The witness stated that he first saw exhibit 1175 in mid November 1941 in the office of the general section of the general staff. He was suggesting that there was one of five copies, one each being distributed to the army and navy general staffs, the war and navy ministers and the foreign office. The document was a joint draft made by the officials concerned of the above agencies. * Since he was an assistant to the officer who participated in the drafting of the document, he was familiar with it. The drafting took place in mid November 1941 which was about the date it bore, 11 November. The war ministry representative who participated in drafting it was Colonel ISHII, a member of the military affairs section, at which time the accused, SATO, was chief of the section.

Reference was made to the affidavit where it was stated that the document was not written by SATO as testified by the witness TANAKA. Asked how he knew what TANAKA testified to as regards to that matter, * he replied he learned of it through the newspapers and also the transcript of the court proceedings. * The witness stated he was not actually present when these five officials drafted exhibit 1175 and all five came to a complete agreement on it. Before the draft was made there must have been an interchange of ideas, 34459 * but he had no recollection in detail as to what views were exchanged. Generally speaking their views agreed.

Asked if he could say whether they came to an agreement on the facts originally submitted by the representative of the military affairs section * he stated that he did not know where the original draft came from. When shown exhibit 878 purporting to be the liaison conference decision of 13 November 1941 he stated, * that as the document did not bear the signatures and seals of the members of the liaison conference, he could not say whether the plan was actually adopted by it. When shown exhibit 919, a plan for that liaison conference dated 11 November 1941, he stated he had no recollection as to that document.

Ex 3533

Def Doc No. 2643

Exh. No.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-VS-

ARAKI, DAAO, et al



Sworn Deposition (Translation)

Deponent : DAKI, DAIO

Having been duly sworn in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I do hereby depose and say as follows:

Handwritten notes:
re 198. 800
now 1175
draft - fundamental reasons / opening war. M.P. - Great Br

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

1. I am former Lieutenant Colonel of the Army, HARA, Shiro.

From November 1940 to February 1942, as member of the 20th section of Army General Staff, I treated, in the Army General Staff, such matters relating to the Liaison Conference between the Government and the Imperial Headquarters and those relating to the Imperial Conference. Therefore I am familiar with the document entitled "A Draft regarding the fundamental reason of the opening of the war against U.S.A. and Great Britain" (Ex. 1175), presented by the Prosecution.

2. Under the title of this document (in the English text, it is mentioned to the right of the title) it is written as "Project to be decided at the Liaison Conference" Project to be decided does not mean the project already decided. It means a draft which awaits decision at some future date.

At that time, a deliberation was being carried out among the officials concerned of the Army General Staff, Navy General Staff, Army Ministry Navy Ministry and Foreign Office (or Cabinet) in order to regulate and unify the differences between the high command and the government in regard to the fundamental reasons relative to the opening of hostilities, in case the worse occurred and war became inevitable. The present document is nothing but one of these kinds of drafts for study.

3. This document was never presented to the Liaison Conference or put on the agenda for discussion. It is just a plan of study for the officials concerned. The plan proves that for itself. It is because, on the right top of the title (in English text, on the left), it is marked as No. 4 of 5 copies, which means that 5 copies were made. That prove that it was made for the use of five officials within sections of the Army General Staff, Navy General Staff, Army Ministry, Navy Ministry and Foreign Office (or Cabinet), each being distributed on copy.
- If it was prepared for the use of the Liaison Conference, then at least 13 copies were needed because the members usually present at these Conferences at that time were Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, War Minister (concurrently nominated), Navy Minister, Finance Minister, President of Planning Board, Chief and Vice Chief of Army Staff, Chief and Vice Chief of Navy Staff and the secretary, in all 13.
4. As it is clear from the above, the present document was drafted collectively by officials of the Army General Staff, Navy General Staff, Army Ministry, Navy Ministry and Foreign Office (or Cabinet). It was not written by the Chief of Military Affairs Section, SATO as testified by the prosecutors' witness, TANAKA, Ryukichi. It is neither drafted by Military Affairs Section of War Ministry. It is for this reason that the name of the draft Department is not mentioned following the customs of Japanese administration of that time. If the present document were drafted at the Army Affairs

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Section, then it would have been mentioned as "Draft of Military Affairs Bureau, War Ministry" or "Draft of Military Affairs Section, Military Affairs Bureau".

Moreover, on the right top of this document it is written "No. 4 of 5 copies". But, according to the custom of the Army, it would have been written as "the 4th among 5 copies" (Army used rubber stamp of "the ____ among ____ copies" and the number inserted with ink) that proves definitively that the present document was not prepared by the Army or War Ministry.

Def Doc No. 2643

On this 22 day of Sept., 1947

At Tokyo.

DEPONENT HARA, Shiro (seal)

I, KUSANO, Myoichiro, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At the same place.

Witness: (signed) KUSANO, Myoichiro (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing

KUSANO, Myoichiro (seal)