

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

DEPONENT: ISHIWATA, Sotaro

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

- I, ISHIWATA, Sotaro, have the following career:
- May, 1916, Graduated from the English Law Department of the Imperial University.
  - May, 1916, Joined the Finance Ministry.
  - July, 1918, Appointed Chief of a taxation office.
  - July, 1921, Appointed Secretary of the revenue superintendent bureau, (first in Osaka and later in Tokyo).
  - December, 1924, Appointed Secretary of the Finance Ministry, (attached to the Revenue Bureau).
  - May, 1931, Appointed Chief of the National Taxes Section of the Revenue Bureau, Finance Ministry.
  - June, 1934, Concurrently appointed Chief of the Private Secretariat Section.
  - December, 1934, Appointed Director of the Revenue Bureau of the Finance Ministry.
  - March, 1936, Appointed Investigator of the Cabinet.
  - February, 1937, Appointed Director of the Revenue Bureau of the Finance Ministry.
  - June, 1937, Appointed Vice Minister of Finance.
  - January, 1939, Appointed Minister of Finance, (in the HIRANUMA Cabinet).

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August, 1939, Resigned.

January, 1940, Appointed Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, (in the YONAI Cabinet).

July, 1940, Resigned.

January, 1944, Appointed Minister of Finance (in the TOJO cabinet) and remained in the office (in the KOISO Cabinet).

February, 1945, Appointed State Minister and concurrently Chief Secretary of the Cabinet.

April, 1945, Resigned.

June, 1945, Appointed Minister of the Imperial Household.

January, 1946, Resigned.

Mr. HOSHINO was a junior student at the Tokyo Imperial University one year behind me. After he entered the Finance Ministry, he was my colleague in the Revenue Bureau of the Ministry as well as in the Osaka Revenue Inspection Bureau for many years. I was particularly intimate with him so that even on his personal affairs he asked my advice without reserve.

In June, 1932, the Manchurian government asked the Finance Ministry to send the former a person appropriate to assist its Department of Finance in the execution of its affairs. Finance Minister TAKAHASHI thought it imperative that a man of excellent ability should by all means be sent. So after consulting Mr. KURODA, Hideo, Vice-Minister of Finance and Mr. ONO, Ryuta, Chief of the Private Secretariate Section, he selected Mr. HOSHINO. Hence it may be said that the nomination of Mr. HOSHINO was originated from the intention of the Finance Ministry authorities. Mr. HOSHINO, when approached by Mr. ONO in this regard, however, strongly rejected this offer because of the illness of his father (HOSHINO, Kote, a well-known Christian minister in Japan) and of some other family circumstances. In accordance with the request of Chief ONO of the Private Secretariat Section to urge Mr. HOSHINO to accept his new post, I called at Mr. HOSHINO's residence and, having an interview with some members of his family as well as him, I persuaded him to take the government offer. At last Mr. HOSHINO made up his mind to accept the offer. In July he resigned his post in the Finance Ministry, and went over to Manchukuo to enter the civil service of the Manchukuo government.

Through my official negotiations with Mr. HOSHINO, which were carried on in the Finance Ministry and according to my experience during my trip to Manchukuo, I knew that Mr. HOSHINO, after taking his post in the Manchukuo government, had whole heartedly exerted himself to promote the welfare of the people of Manchukuo. As far as I can remember, whenever he regarded any Japanese policy toward Manchukuo as adverse to the interests of the people of Manchukuo, he did everything in his power to prevent it from being carried out. At one time he persistently insisted that, in the interests of the people of Manchukuo, Japan relinquish special rights and interests she had enjoyed so far. In order to realize his projected plan, he frequently visited the Finance Ministry, presenting many a demand to it. In 1935, for example, he

sharply criticized controversial issues, such as the raising of tariffs on agricultural products of Manchukuo and the prohibition of the importation of apples produced in Manchukuo, and urged the Finance Ministry to bring the issues to a conclusion as it saw fit. In addition, he stressed the necessity of relinquishing extra-territorial rights and the executive powers vested in the railway zone authorities. At one time he visited the Finance Ministry and insisted that, in the event of the relinquishment of these, the Japanese installations be transferred to Manchukuo at prices as cheap as possible and especially public facilities be transferred without compensation. Such an attitude as his led some persons to criticize him as laying too much stress on the interests of Manchukuo at the expense of those of Japan.

I do not know well the circumstances under which Mr. HOSHINO took part in the Second KONOYE Cabinet. However, immediately after the general resignation of the YONAI Cabinet took place, Prince KONOYE rang me up, asking for my opinion as to the advisability of appointing Mr. HOSHINO as Director of the Cabinet Planning Board. In reply to it, I said that I considered him to be fit for the post in view of his practical experience in that line of business.

/s/ ISHIWATA, Sotaro

OATH

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

/s/ ISHIWATA, Sotaro (seal)