

ERRATA SHEET

Page 1

First Paragraph - Delete "at, present I am the Chief of Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs."

Second Paragraph - Insert "Chief of Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs" between "HIGASHIKUNI" and "etc."

Second Paragraph - Delete "and at the moment I am holding my present post".

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)
)
 vs) AFFIDAVIT
)
 ARAKI, Bando, et al)

DEPONENT: TAKAMURA, Sakahiko

I, TAKAMURA, Sakahiko, make oath and say as follows:

At present I am the Chief of Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In 1940 I was appointed Secretary to the Prime Minister for the Second KONOYE Cabinet, and since then I have held the following posts successively: Secretary to the Prime Minister for the Third KONOYE Cabinet, the Chief of the Police Department of Ehime Prefecture, the Chief of the Police Bureau of Osaka Prefecture, Investigator of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Secretary to Prince KONOYE, Minister without portfolio of the Cabinet of Prince HIGASHIKUNI, etc., and at the moment I am holding my present post.

For over a decade I have known intimately General ARAKI and thus visited him occasionally to request his advice.

The reason that I sought advice from the General was because he attaches great importance to morals and not only emphatically advocates that our people should endeavor to follow the benevolent spirit of His Majesty but he unceasingly practiced this himself.

The General's thought was always justly humanitarian and peaceful. Unlike a military man, the General disliked war and said that to invite occasions such as fighting for the sake of political expediency should absolutely be avoided. Even when we are attacked by another country and obliged to defend ourselves, the effort should be made to confine the damage of war to the minimum. He emphasized the fact that to drag women and children as well as civilians into a war of disaster or to carry on the war by such cruel methods as the use of poison gas or bacteria should absolutely be avoided.

In the summer of 1937, soon after the occurrence of the Nomonhan Incident, when I called on General ARAKI at his home, he spoke much as to the effect that a war is of great national importance and that the army should not be mobilized for it hastily. He spoke of its tragedy and said, "It is most regrettable that recently there is a tendency to think and handle war simply and lightly among a group of young soldiers. It would be a redeeming feature in a tragic affair if this incident helps to awaken them to the facts of the disaster of war in some way." I listened to it and was greatly impressed by it.

It was not myself alone but there were many officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs who were enlightened by General ARAKI who has comprehended the soul of Bushido which inspires morals and a noble spirit. Those who have been enlightened by him such as I have come to hold the ideas which were for the most part opposed to the expansion of the China Incident, to the Tripartite Pact, and to the Fascistic political party or the one-party system, and were opposed to waging war against the United States and Great Britain. Since the outbreak of the Pacific War, especially concerning the policy of propaganda, he was critical from the moral standpoint and at times assumed the attitude of opposition.

In 1940 when I was the Chief of the Police Department of Ehime Prefecture, a group of young men at that time had likenesses of President Roosevelt and Premier Churchill drawn up and had them pasted on straw dolls and they planned to have the passersby strike at them with bamboo spears in order to raise a feeling of hostility among the people. I, because of my advocacy of ARAKI's principles, admonished and ordered them to suspend such action. Again there was a lady who said "How pitiable", at the sight of the prisoners of war, and she was widely criticized for it but we also said at that time that it was only natural sympathy according to Bushido or Japanese chivalry, and that it is rather absurd to attack such an attitude, and thus I uttered my belief at the gatherings of subordinates consisting of department chiefs, etc.

In November 1941 when Colonel AKAMATSU was Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. AKAMATSU and I became acquainted when I was serving as Secretary to Prince HONOYE, and especially when the TOJO Cabinet approached me to continue in my post as Secretary but I refused the offer, I endeavored to have him fulfill his mission to Japan by requesting him to send to Prime Minister TOJO a long letter including a quotation, a paragraph from the Biography of ITO, Hakubun. It concerned the historical fact of Emperor Meiji, who loved peace and manifested much concern over the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war.

Such attitude, as mentioned above, in every case was greatly influenced by General ARAKI's principles.

Thus the spirit of Japan and the spirit of Bushido as entertained by General ARAKI were absolute pacifism and that which highly values morality. The General disliked war and said on many occasions that he was opposed to the expansion of the Sino-Japanese Incident and the starting of the war against the United States and Great Britain. Neither did he give consent to the Tripartite Pact as it meant stimulating the danger of such a war and those of us who frequently listened to his speeches and were enlightened by him, viewed the conditions and thought that the situation was, and is at present most regrettable.

In May 1942 (the 17th Year of Showa) when I was serving as the Chief of the Police Department of Ehime Prefecture, we requested the General to give a lecture to the entire body of officials of the prefectural and municipal offices under the auspices of the governor. The propaganda policy, etc. of the government as to morality at that time appeared questionable and so we especially requested his advice concerning the excellent opinions of the General regarding the

morally correct views of the situation and as to the direction in which the people should follow morally.

The contents of the General's lecture criticized the situation emphatically and urged the self-explanation of the people by saying that "The Japanese people, regardless of whether one is participating in war or not, should at all times keep in mind His Majesty's benevolent virtue and endeavor never to act against the Imperial will. If the situation remains as it is at the present, one worry is added to each victory." Local government and municipal officials who had never previously heard the General's speeches were deeply impressed and became fully aware of the General's ideas of morality, benevolence, and even though I include pacifism I shall also say patriotism.

TAKAMURA, Sakahiko

Subscribed and sworn to before the under-signed officer by the above-named TAKAMURA, Sakahiko, at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, on this _____ day of August 1947.

not used

Def. Doc. 30735 Exh. No.

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 高村 坂 彦

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス

一 私が高村坂彦であります

二 私は昭和十五年第二次近衛内閣の總理大臣秘書官を拜命爾來第三次近衛内閣秘書官、愛媛縣警察部長、大阪府警察局長、内務省調査官、東久通官内閣、近衛國務大臣附秘書官等内務省調査局長等を歴任いたしました

三、荒木大將に對しては私は十數年前から其高潔なる人格と卓越せる識見に傾倒して時々御伺ひして教を請ふて居りました

四、私が大將に最も敬服致しましたのは大將が非常に道義を重んじ我が國民は陛下の仁愛の大御心に添ふ様努力せねばならぬと強く主張し自らも絶えず實行して居られた事であります

五、従つて大將の考へは常に正しく人道的であり平和的でありました。大將には軍人には珍らしい戦争嫌ひで政略の爲の戦争の如きは断じてやつてはいけない萬一他國から仕掛けられて防がねばならぬ場合でも戦争の災害を最少限度に止ることに努めなければならぬ非戦闘員や女子供を戦争の慘禍に巻き込んだり毒瓦斯や細菌を使つたり殘虐な方法で戦争をする^{なげれ}ことは絶対に避けなければならぬと主張して居られました

六、一九三七年の夏ノモンハン事件があつて間も無い頃荒木大將の御宅を訪問した際大將は戦争は國の大事であつて輕率に軍を動かしてはならぬ事及戦争といふものが如何に悲惨なものであるかといふ事に就て種々御話があつて「最近若い軍人の一部には戦争を簡單に考へ軽く取扱ふ傾向

のあることは遺憾に堪えない。今度の事件で多少でも戦争の悲惨なことに就て覺醒して呉れるならば不幸中の幸である」との御話を承つて非常に感銘したことがあります

七 斯様な道義的な崇高な精神武士道の眞隨を体得して居られた荒木大將の感化力の影響は獨り私丈でなく多數の内務省の官吏にも及んで居ります。之等大將の感化を受けた人達は概ね支那事變の擴大に反對、三國同盟に反對、一國一黨的フアツシヨ政黨反對、對英米戦争反對と云つた考へを持つ様になつて居りました

太平洋戦争勃發後も其戦争指導就中宣傳方針に對しては道義的立場から批判的であり時には反對的態度をも採つたのであります

八 一九四〇年私が愛媛縣警察部長當時一部青年が國民の敵愾心を昂揚せしむる手段としてルーズベルト大統領、チャーチル首相の似顔を畫かせ之を菓人形に張り着けて竹槍を以て之を通行人に突かせようと計畫したので私は兼て荒木大將より受けた精神を呼び起し之をさとして中止せしめました。又俘虜を見て「お可哀相に」と云つた婦人を批難する言動が廣く行はれた時にも我共は前と同じ考を以て日本武士道から云つても當然の同情であり之を攻撃するが如き態度は寧ろ血迷へる沙汰であるとして部下の課長等にも會同の席上等でも信念を吐露して參りました。之等は

九 大將より受けた感化の一例であります
一九四一年十一月當時内閣總理大臣秘書官をして居た赤松大佐（赤松

氏と私とは私が近衛公の秘書官時代に知合になり特に東條内閣の時私に秘書官に残る様交渉を受けたが私は考ふるところがあつて断つた。に對し日露戦争開始當時重臣會議の席上に於て明治天皇が平和を愛し日露兩國民を戩禍から救はんとして垂れさせ給へる御軫念に就ての史實を伊藤博文傳の一節から引用した長い手紙を出して同秘書官をして東條總理の輔佐を完うして冀ふ爲努力した事がある以上は何れも荒木大將の御感化による處大であります

七、此の様に私共の受けました荒木大將の抱懷せられて居た日本精神及武士道は飽く迄も平和主義であり道義を重んずる精神であると感ぜました。そして荒木大將が戦を嫌はれ日支争變の擴大にも對米英戦争の開始にも反對され其戦争の危険に近づく三國同盟にも賛會の設立にも賛成されなかつた事が日本の本來の精神であることも明になり私共平素大將の種々の御話を聴き啓蒙する所多く其感化も大であり複雑な時局に對し道義立脚の態度を持つる事が出来ました

十一、昭和十七年（一九四二年）五月私が愛媛縣の警察部長をして居りました時縣知事の主催で縣廳や市役所の官公吏全員に對し大將の御講演を御願ひした事がありますそれは當時政府の宣傳方法等が道義的に見てどうかと思はれたので大將の卓越せる御意見により道義的に正しい時局の觀方や道義的な國民の行方等に關し御教を受けたいと考へ特に御願を致したのであります

大將の講演の内容は日本國民は戦争に従事して居る者も居ない者も齊しく陛下の仁愛の御徳を身に体して大御心に背かぬ様に心掛けなければならぬ今の様な有様では「一勝を聞く毎に一憂を増す」と強く時局を批判し國民の反省を求められました

豫て其様な話を聞く機會に恵まれなかつた地方の官吏としては深い感銘を受けました。大將の御考へを充分承知して居りました私としては更に一般の人以上に正しき時局の觀方と眞の日本國民としての心構へを教へられ今日も尙感謝して居る次第であります

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）八月二十四日 於

東京都北多摩郡武藏野町吉祥寺一九二〇ノ二

供述者 高 村 坂 彦

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

同日 於

立會人 蓮 岡 高 明

良心ニ從ヒ眞實ヲ述ベ何事ヲモ黙秘セズ又何事ヲモ附加セザルコトヲ誓フ

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