

INTERROGATION OF

Fumio Goto

Date and Time: 31 January 1946, 1015-1130 Hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : Fumio Goto  
Valentine C. Hammack, Interrogator  
D. Kildoyle, Interpreter  
Ruth F. Anderson, Stenographer

Questioned by: Mr. Hammack

BY MR. HAMMACK: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you in this proceeding?

BY MR. KILDOYLE: I do.

- Q. When I last talked to you, Mr. Goto, I asked you if it was not a fact that on December 6, 1941, you, as chairman of the Central Cooperative Conference of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, announced a meeting. Do you remember?
- A. A meeting of the Central Cooperative Conference was scheduled for the 8th and there would be no reason to announce it.
- Q. Do you remember, Mr. Goto, making a statement to the newspaper on December 6th in which you stated that there would be a meeting and also the purpose of the meeting?
- A. I do remember announcing this to the newspapers.
- Q. I show you, Mr. Goto, referring to Exhibit "A", a newspaper article dated December 6, 1941, and ask you if you recognize the same?
- A. Maybe. I think I must have said something to that effect.
- Q. Do you recognize that as your picture, Mr. Goto?
- A. Yes. This was before the meeting, the scheduled meeting, and I might have given the information to the newspaper.

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- Q. And is it not a fact that you gave such information to the newspaper on the day or previous to the day on which the paper was dated, that is to say December 6, 1941?
- A. Yes, on the 6th or before that.
- Q. Mr. Goto, I am now going to question you in connection with the translation into English from Japanese of the newspaper article heretofore identified by yourself and containing your picture, and ask you what did you mean by the following language: "I consider the coming Cooperative Conference as a national family council to raise the national determination of one hundred million with one mind and action at this time of extreme emergency."
- A. By "extreme emergency" in the sentence, I was merely using a phrase very common at this period in connection with the China-Japanese Incident.
- Q. Mr. Goto, the China-Japanese Incident was then in its fourth year. Then, why should the Japanese-China Incident be such an extreme emergency at this late date?
- A. Although the war in China was an undeclared war, it had actually become a large scale war, and at the end of four years, it was still undecided and the difficulty of settlement constantly increasing and extreme emergency was used very commonly at the time I used it.
- Q. At the time this meeting was announced, what action was contemplated in connection with the extreme emergency?
- A. Nothing special was contemplated. Also this one hundred million with one mind and action was also a very commonly used phrase. By this action I was referring to the following sentence: "Under this war footing not only should discussions be carried on but the will to put anything into practice should rise voluntarily."
- Q. Mr. Goto, if your announcement of the purpose of this meeting referred to the Japanese-China Incident, why did you not so state?
- A. It was not necessary to refer to China in this speech as the emergency was one created "under this war footing," and by this I meant the war in China.
- Q. Mr. Goto, at this time the Tri-Partite Pact had been signed between Germany, Italy, and Japan, and Germany and Italy were already in war. If your only concern under these circumstances was the Japanese-China war, why should, at this particular time, the Japanese-China war be such an extreme emergency?

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- A. This China-Japan war for some time had been referred to as an extreme emergency and had never been called a war.
- Q. If this is so, why did you then use the words "under this war footing."
- A. Actually there was a war being carried on in China, and this phrase "war footing" was also commonly used before this date.
- Q. The Japanese Army, Mr. Goto, were well established in China, and had been for some years. Again I ask you, why then was the Japanese-China Incident such an extreme emergency at this time?
- A. Actually, there was a war being carried on in China, although it was an undeclared war, and as I stated before, this term extreme emergency was a very common term at the time.
- Q. What action was contemplated by you in announcing the purpose of this meeting in connection with the extreme emergency?
- A. This action is explained in the sentence following war footing.
- Q. Which sentence?
- A. "Not only should discussions be carried on but the will to put anything into practice should rise voluntarily. In other words, this conference is a conglomeration of the determination to put anything into practice in this emergency. What should be discussed should be discussed, but I expect even a single matter to be put into practice." By action here I meant that there were many problems confronting the nation, and it was not a time for discussion only. Action was required.
- Q. Mr. Goto, is it not a fact that in announcing this meeting and in the following language, "In other words, this conference is a conglomeration to put anything into practice in this emergency" that you were referring and preparing the people for the attack upon Pearl Harbor which followed on December 7 and at which you, as an officer of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and close to Premier Tojo had advance knowledge?
- A. Absolutely not.
- Q. Mr. Goto, in view of the war in Europe and Japan's partnership with Germany and Italy in connection with the same, I can not believe that the language used in the newspaper article identified by yourself referred to the China Incident.

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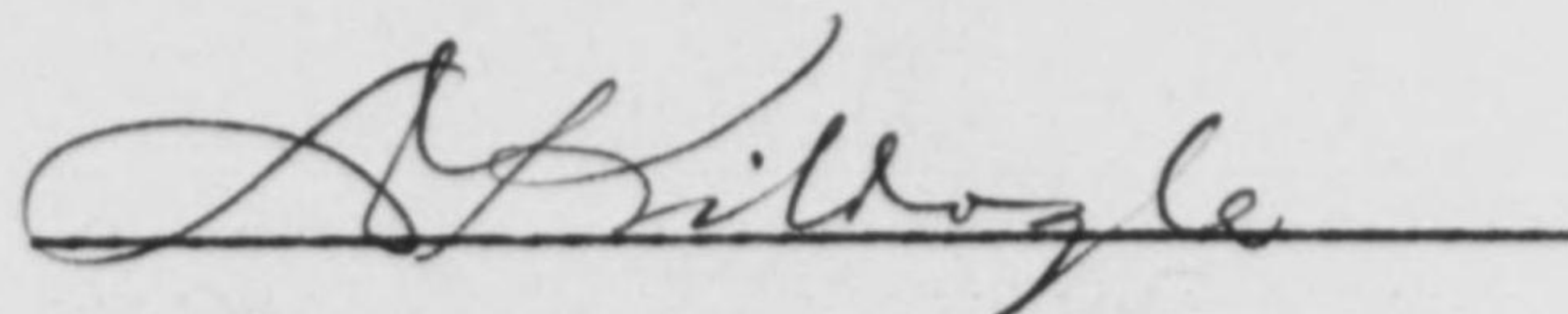
- A. That is merely conjecture. I did not know that there would be a declaration of war on the 8th of December, nor that Pearl Harbor was to be attacked on the 8th. I still thought that a peaceful settlement of differences was possible.
- Q. What did you mean by the following language: "I expect to see the close cooperation between the government officials and the civilians."
- A. These conferences were attended by government officials from several departments and as the principal object was close cooperation between the government and the people in connection with many problems facing the nation, it was desired that the people would voluntarily do the things necessary to surmount the difficulties I mentioned previously, such as increase of production and the solution of difficult living conditions of the people.
- Q. Mr. Goto, if Japan was solely concerned at this time and prior thereto with the Japanese-China Incident, why did Japan become a member of the Tri-Partite Pact?
- A. One view was that becoming a member of the Tri-Partite Pact would ensure the war not spreading to the Far East. The other was that this would complicate matters. There are two views. I did not approve of the signing of the Tri-Partite Pact. I, myself, had hoped that the Tri-Partite Pact would not be concluded because I was very strongly against Nazi ideology.
- Q. Mr. Goto, you were a member of the Imperial Rule Association, however, when the Tri-Partite Pact was signed, as such a member, what if anything did you do?
- A. I have never been informed of the progress in connection with this pact, and I have never worked for its conclusion. But after its signing, as this became a line of policy of the nation, I did nothing to oppose it.
- Q. Mr. Goto, the history of events immediately proceeding Pearl Harbor establish you to have been a very active member and vice president of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, which organization was sworn to support the policies of the government, and that you personally were very closely connected with Premier Tojo and the war policies of his cabinet. What explanation have you to give for your conduct in these matters?
- A. I was not a confidant of General Tojo, and at the time of Pearl Harbor attack, I was not vice president of the Imperial Rule Association. I became vice president in 1943. I was merely chairman of the Central Cooperative Conference, and my connections with the Imperial Rule Association were not very close, and I was not in close connection with government circles.

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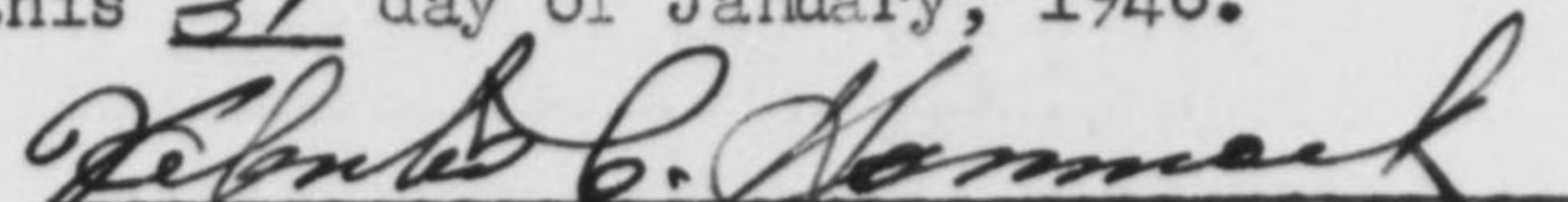
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Certificate of Interpreter

I, D. Kildoyle, a civilian, being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of four pages, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

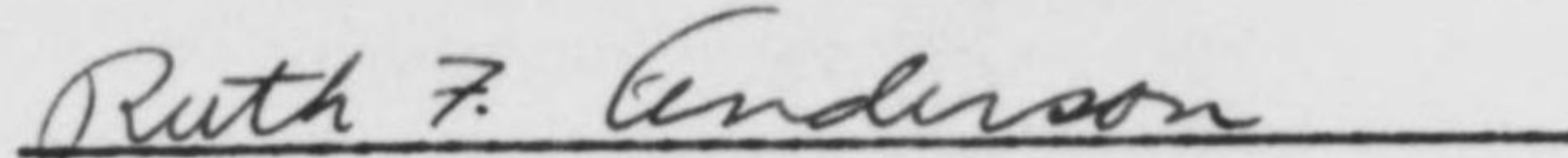


Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31 day of January, 1946.

  
Valentine C. Hammack, Civilian  
Duly Detailed Investigating Officer  
GHQ, SCAP

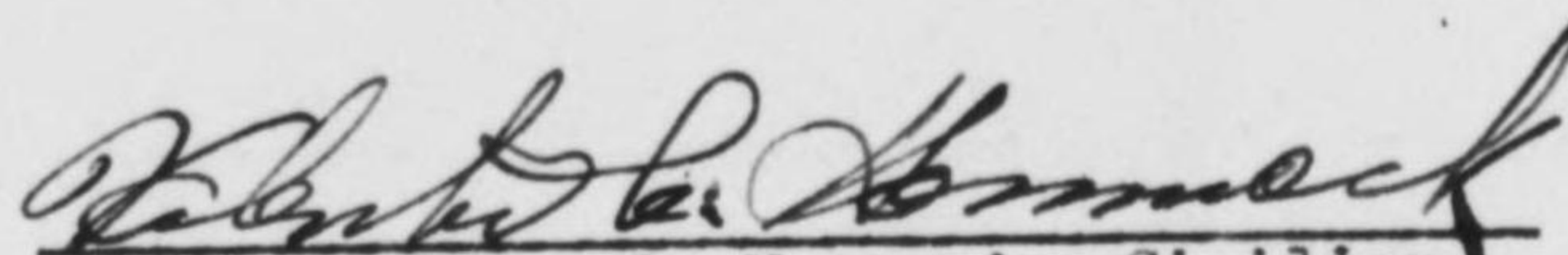
Certificate of Stenographer

I, Ruth F. Anderson, hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Certificate of Interrogator

I, Valentine C. Hammack, a civilian, certify that on the 31st day of January, 1946, personally appeared before me Fumio Goto and, according to D. Kildoyle, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

  
Valentine C. Hammack, Civilian

Tokyo, Japan

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