

Def. Doc. No. 1545

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)
- vs -) No. 1
ARAKI Sadao, et al)

A F F I D A V I T

SATO NAOTAKE

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

1. I was Ambassador to the Soviet Union from March 1942 until the outbreak of war between Japan and the U S S R in August 1945, and am at present President of the Foreign Ministry's Training Institute in Tokyo.
2. In 1944, in response to the Japanese request concerning the arming of fishing-craft as a defensive measure, Vice-Minister Lozovsky on 3 June, in saying that the Soviet Government did not wish armed merchant vessels to enter Soviet ports, stated that the U S S R maintained strict neutrality in the war between Japan and the United States and Britain. A written protest lodged by Zhukov, Director of the Second Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs of the Soviet Foreign Office, with Kameyama, Counsellor of the Embassy, on 27 June, concerning the arming of the Kanazu Maru, a Japanese tanker engaged in the transport of oil stocked in Northern Sakhalin, contained the positive statement that the Soviet Government maintained such neutrality.
3. On 19 July 1944, at a conversation concerning Japanese-German and Anglo-American-Soviet relations, I stated that the Japanese Government was determined to maintain a faithful attitude of neutrality in future as in the past, and had the expectation of a similar attitude from the U S S R. Lozovsky replied to the effect that the government of the U S S R at all times took the existence of the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact into consideration, and acted in accordance with it in dealing with all problems.
4. On 16 September 1944, in the course of a conversation on the China question, I requesting confirmation of the Soviet Union's neutrality in the Sino-Japanese hostilities, Foreign Minister Molotov replied that there was no change in the U S S R's relations with Chungking. He further stated that Soviet-Japanese relations were in a normal condition, and even tending toward the better.
5. On 17 November 1944 I said that while it was assumed that the question of Siberian bases must have been discussed at the Anglo-American-Soviet Moscow Conference, nevertheless it was expected that the U S S R would offer confirmation that there was no change in its attitude toward Japan. In reply, Molotov said that the Siberian-base question was by no means new, having come up for discussion even before the Moscow Conference, but that the policy of the Soviet Union was clear from the fact that Marshal Stalin, in his address of 6 November, had made no reference to any change in Soviet policy toward Japan.
6. On 22 February 1945 I inquired of Foreign Minister Molotov whether the Yalta Conference had dealt with Far-Eastern

questions, to which Molotov replied that the result of the conference was as had been published, and that the discussion was limited almost wholly to European problems, with some discussion of post-war questions, but that Far-Eastern questions had been entirely excluded. Soviet-Japanese relations, he pointed out, were a matter exclusively between the U S S R and Japan, who maintained relations of neutrality; whereas Anglo-American-Japanese relations were a matter concerning those powers exclusively, they being in a state of war.

7. At various times from 22 February 1945 I had discussions with Molotov or Lozovsky concerning the Neutrality Pact, expressing the desire of the government of Japan that it be continued in force and requesting a similar statement of the U S S R. On 5 April Molotov, receiving me, stated that he was about to convey the statement of the Soviet Government on the question, and read a memorandum notifying the Japanese Government of the Soviet denunciation of the Neutrality Pact as of its expiration date, 25 April 1946. I inquiring what attitude would be adopted by the U S S R during the remaining period of the Pact, Molotov replied that the intention of the Soviet Government was to return, after the expiration of the Pact, to the conditions prevailing before its execution; that the Soviet denunciation was made in accordance with the provisions of the Pact itself, but that needless to say it was only after the expiration of the full term of five years that conditions were to revert to the status quo ante; and that the outbreak of the Russo-German and Japanese-Anglo-American wars after signature of the Pact had altered conditions, and that the Soviet Government's reasons for abrogation were clearly expressed in the prepared statement. I said that the statement was received with regret, and that the government of Japan hoped to have the former relations continued, and the peace of the Far East remain undisturbed as before, even after the denunciation of the Pact. Molotov replied that, as to conditions after the denunciation, it was recognized that the Pact continued in force for another year, and that the attitude of the Soviet Government would be determined by this condition.

8. I had numerous conferences with officials of the Soviet Foreign Office concerning the landing of American military planes in territory of the U S S R. There were three such cases before the end of 1943: on 15 April 1942, one plane; on 12 August 1943, one plane; and on 12 September 1943, seven planes. In reply to the inquiries which I made on those occasions, the government of the Soviet Union replied that proper measures were being taken in accordance with the provisions of international law. In 1944 there were numerous such instances, although they were not published, I was informed by Molotov, Lozovsky and Zimkov that two planes had landed on 15 June, and one on 21 June. Inquiries were made concerning these cases and others of which we had word, the reply being given by Lozovsky on 29 August that in all such cases the government of the U S S R would act in accordance with the provisions of international law, and would furnish to the Japanese Government all information which the Soviet Government might acquire in connection with such cases. No information was ever given thereafter, nor were replies given to inquiries concerning landings reported to have occurred on 20 August, 18 November, and other dates. On 13 December Lozovsky said, upon being pressed for a reply, that the American bombers must be missing, as no report had been received from the responsible authorities.

9. The history of my efforts to secure Soviet mediation in the Pacific war at the direction of Foreign Minister Tōgō is contained in the telegrams, Defence Documents Nos. 1465, 1467, 1468 and 1469, addressed to me from the Foreign Minister, and Defence Documents Nos. 1466, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473 and 1474, sent by me

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to the Foreign Minister, which I verify as respectively correct copies of telegrams received and as true relations of what occurred in connection with this matter.

10. Upon returning to Tokyo after the end of the war I made an official report to the Foreign Ministry concerning the delivery of the Soviet declaration of war on 8 August 1945. I have been shown Defence Document No. 1476, and verify that it is a correct copy of that report; and that it is a true statement of what occurred as therein related.

11. In passing through Manchuria in March 1942, en route to my post in Kuibishev, I had conversations with various friends, including General Umezu, Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army, and some of his high staff-officers. I told them that it was most important that the Kwantung Army should take no action which could be construed as aggressive toward the U S S R or could give them provocation in any way. General Umezu and others agreed with my opinion, and General Umezu told me that all dispositions of the Kwantung Army were defensive and that from the Kwantung Army there would be no manifestations of an aggressive attitude.

12. Prior to the Soviet declaration of war on Japan there had been in March 1944 a settlement of the Fisheries Convention question by extension of the convention for five years, and simultaneously a settlement of the troublesome Northern Sakhalin petroleum concessions question by Japan's relinquishment of its concession there. No protest was ever made during my tenure as ambassador against the maintenance of Japanese forces in Manchoukuo and Korea or along the Soviet border; and though border incidents were numerous during that time, they were very minor--involving only a few soldiers at a time--and no serious disputes ever developed from them. With removal of the long-standing sources of friction mentioned above, relations between the two countries during my tenure were good and bordering on the cordial, and no question was pending in August 1945 to suggest the possibility of an outbreak of war.

N. Sato (Seal)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned authority, on this 13 May 1947, at Tokyo.

H. Yanai (Seal)

O A T H

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

N. Sato (Seal)

3 May 1947

Translation Certificate

I, Abe Fumio, 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.

Abe Fumio

Tokyo
14 May 1947

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 佐 藤 尚 武

自分儀我國ニ行ハレ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、私ハ一九四二年三月ヨリ一九四五年八月日本ト蘇聯間ニ戦争ガ勃發スルマデ駐蘇大使デアリマシテ現在ハ東京外務省研修所會長デアリマス。
- 二、一九四四年漁船ノ自衛的武装ニ關スル日本ノ要求ニ答ヘ「ロソフスキ」次官ハ六月三日ニ蘇聯政府ハ武装商船ノ蘇聯港ニ入ルヲ好マズト言ヒツツ蘇聯政府ハ日本ト米英間ノ戦争ニ嚴正中立ヲ持シテ居ルト語リマシタ。
- 三、六月二十七日蘇聯外務省東亞第二局長「ヴァーコフ」ガ龜山參事官ニ書面ヲ以テ爲シタル北樺太貯油搬出ニ從事セル油槽船金津丸ノ武装ニ關スル抗議ハ同政府ガ斯ル中立ヲ維持スルコトヲ明記シテ居リマス。
- 三、一九四四年七月十九日、日獨並英米蘇關係ニ關スル會談ニ於テ私ハ日本政府ハ過去ニ於ケルト同様將來共忠實ナル中立的態度ヲ維持スル決心デアルト述べ蘇聯ヨリモ同様ナル態度ヲ豫期シマシタ。
- 「ロソフスキ」ハ蘇聯政府ガ常ニ日蘇中立條約ノ存在ヲ考慮ニ入レ總テノ問題ニ付イテ同條約ニ從ツテ行動シテ居ル旨答ヘマシタ。
- 四、一九四四年九月十六日支那問題ニ關スル會談中ニ日支戦争ニ對スル蘇聯

ノ中立ノ確言ヲ要求シマシタノニ對シ「モロトフ」外務大臣ハ蘇聯ノ對重慶關係ハ變化シテ居ナイト答ヘマシタ、彼ハ更ニ日蘇關係ハ平常狀態ニ在ツテ稍々良化シテキルト述べマシタ。

五 一九四四年十一月十七日ニ私ハ英米蘇「モスコ」會議ニ於テ「シベリヤ」基地問題ヲ論議サレタコトハ推察セラレルニモ係ラズ對日蘇聯態度ニ變化ナシトノ回答ヲ豫期スルト申シマシタ。之ニ答ヘテ「モロトフ」ハ「シベリヤ」基地問題ハ決シテ新シイモノデナク「モスコ」會議以前既ニ論議サレテ居タモノデアアルガ蘇聯ノ對日態度ハ十一月六日ノ「スターリン」元帥ノ演說中ニ對日蘇聯政策ニ何等ノ變動ニ言及シテキナイ事ニ徴シテモ蘇聯ノ政策ハ瞭ラカデアルト述べマシタ。

六 一九四五年二月二十二日私ハ「モロトフ」外務大臣ニ「ヤルタ」會議ガ極東問題ニ觸レタカラ訊メマシタ處「モロトフ」ハ會議ノ結果ハ發表サレタ通りデアツテ議題ハ殆ンド全部歐洲問題ニ限定サレ若干ノ戰後問題ガ商議サレタガ極東問題ハ全ク除外サレテキタト答ヘマシタ。蘇聯ハ中立關係ヲ持シテキル日本ト蘇聯ニ限ラレテ居リ三國ハ目前ノ戰後狀態

ニアルト彼ハ指摘シマシタ。

七一九四五年二月二十二日以降私ハ中立條約ニ關シ日本政府ガ同條約ノ實施繼續ヲ希望スル趣ヲ傳ヘ又蘇聯政府ヨリモ同様ナル言明ヲ要求スル爲「モロトフ」又ハ「ロゾフスキー」ト時々會談シマシタ。

四月五日私ガ「モロトフ」ヲ訪ネマシタ處彼ハ本問題ニ關スル蘇政府ノ意向ヲ傳ヘヤウト思ツタ處デアツタト述べ蘇政府ガ一九四六年四月二十五日滿期ト同時ニ中立條約ヲ廢棄スルトイフ覺書ヲ讀ミマシタ。私ハ條約ノ殘存期間中ノ蘇政府ノ取ルベキ態度ニ付質シマシタ處條約滿期后蘇政府ハ條約締結前ノ狀態ニ復歸スル意向デアリ蘇聯ノ條約廢棄ハ條約自体ノ條項ニ基クモノデアリ且以前ノ狀態ニ復歸スルノハ全年限ノ五々年ヲ滿了シタ後デアルコトハ言ヲ俟タナイト「モロトフ」ハ答ヘ條約調印後蘇獨開戰及日英米戰ハ狀況ニ變化ヲ來シ、蘇政府ノ廢棄理由ハ準備サレタル聲明書ニ依ツテ明ラカニ傳ヘラレテキルト述べマシタ。私ハ聲明書ノ受領ハ遺憾デアリ日本政府ハ條約廢棄後モ以前ノ關係ヲ繼續シ極東ノ平和ガ以前ノ如ク亂サレナイデキル様希望シテキルト申シマシタ。

「モロトフ」、廢棄后ノ狀況ニ付條約ハ未ダ一年間有效デアリ蘇政府ノ態度ハ此狀況ニヨツテ決定サレルデアラウト答ヘマシタ。

八、米軍用機ノ蘇聯領著陸ニ關シ私ハ蘇外務省官吏ト數回會談シマシタ、一九四三年末マデニ此様ナ事件ハ三件アリマシテ一九四二年四月十八日ニ一機、一九四三年八月十二日ニ一機、一九四三年九月十二日ニ七機デアリマシタ。其時ハニ發シタ私ノ照會ニ對シ蘇政府ハ國際法條項ニ基ク然ル可キ所置ガ構セラレテキルト回答シテ來マシタ。一九四四年ニハ發表ハサレマセンデシタガ澤山ノ此様ナ事件ガアリマシタ、私ハ「モロトフ」「ロゾフスキー」「ゾーコフ」ニ依リ六月十五日ニ二機、七月二十一日ニ一機、著陸シタ旨報告サレマシタ、之等兩件並ニ他ノ我々ノ聞知シタル件ニ付照會ヲ發シマシタ處八月二十九日「ロゾフスキー」カラ回答ガ來マシテ蘇政府ハ國際法條項ニ基キ行動シ之等事件ニ付蘇政ノ得ルデアラウ情報ハ日本政府ニ傳ヘルト申シマシタ、其後決シテ情報ハ提供サレズ且八月二十日、十一月十八日其他ノ日ニ著陸シタトイフ報知ニ關スル照會ニモ返答ハアリマセンデシタ、十二

月十三日ニ「ロゾフスキー」ハ回答ヲ督促サレタ結果責任者カラ報告
ガナイノテ多分米機ハ行方不明ナノデアラウト申シマシタ。

九東郷外務大臣ノ指示ニヨリ大平洋戦争ニ蘇聯ノ調停ヲ求メントスル私
ノ努力ノ經過ハ辯護團文書第一、四六五、第一四六七、第一四六八、
及第一四六九號ノ外相ヨリ私宛ノ電信及辯護團文書第一四六六、第一
四七〇、第一四七一、第一四七二、第一四七三及第一四七四號ノ私ヨ
リ外相宛電信ニアラハレテ居リマス、ソシテ其等ノ文書ハ夫々受信ノ
正確ナル寫デアリ且本件ニ關スル眞實ノ出來事デアルコトヲ證言致シ
マス。

三戦争終結後東京ニ歸リマシテ私ハ外務省ニ一九四五年八月八日ノ蘇聯
ノ宣戰布告ノ通達ニ關スル公式ノ報告ヲ致シマシタ、私ハ辯護團文書
第一四七六號ヲ見マシタガ、ソレハ私ノ報告ノ正確ナル寫デアリ且書
カレテ居ル事柄ハ當時ノ出來事ノ眞實ノ供述デアルコトヲ證言致シマ
ス。

二一九四二年三月「クイビシエフ」ノ私ノ任地ニ向ツテ滿洲ヲ通リマシ

夕時私ハ關東軍總司令官梅津大將ト其高級參謀將校數名ヲ含ム多勢ノ友人ト懇談シマシタ、私ハ彼等ニ關東軍ガ蘇聯ニ對シ積極的ト解釋サレル行動ヤ如何ナル刺戟ヲモ與ヘヌ様ニスルコトガ肝心デアルト言ヒマシタ。梅津大將以下ハ私ノ見解ニ同意テシテ大將ノ話テハ關東軍ノ總テノ行動ハ守勢デアリ關東軍ヨリ積極的ナ行動ノ顯レハ見ラレナイデアラウト言ハレマシタ。

三蘇聯ノ宣戰布告ニ先立チ一九四四年三月ニ漁業條約問題ガ條約ノ五ヶ年間延長ニヨリ解決シマシタ、同時ニ困難ナル北樺太石油利權問題モ日本ノ同地ニ於ケル利權ノ撤回ニヨリ解決シマシタ、私ノ大使在職中ニハ國境紛擾ハ度々アリマシタトハ言フモノノ日本軍ノ滿洲、朝鮮、蘇聯國境等ニ駐屯スルコトニ對スル抗議ハ會テアリマセンデシタ。紛争ハイヅレモ輕微ナ事件テ一時ニ數名ノ兵士ガ掛リ合ヒニナル程ノモノデ決シテ重大ナ紛擾ニ發展スルヤウナモノハアリマセンデシタ。二、三ニ述ベマシタ長期ニ亘ル摩擦ノ原因ガ除去サレマシタ結果、私ノ在任中ハ兩國ノ關係ハ良好テシテ親密ニ近イモノガアリマシタ、ソシテ

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戦争勃發ノ可能性ヲ指示スル様ナ問題デ一九四五年八月間ニ未決ニ指示スル様ナ問
テ居ル様ナモノハーツモアリマセンデシタテ。居ル様ナモノハーツモアリマセン

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昭和二十二年五月十三日 於東京 佐藤尚武 供述者

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昭和二十二年（一九四七年）五月十三日 於東京

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供述者 佐藤尚武

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右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シ

マス

同日於同所

立會人 花井一忠

翻譯證明書

余阿部文雄ハ茲ニ余ガ英語及日本語ニ精通シ且右ノ翻譯ハ余ノ知リ且
信ズル限リニ於テ原文ノ正確ナル翻譯ナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年五月十三日

於東京

阿部文雄