

EXHIBIT No. 3202

(6)

THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ET AL

vs.

ARAKI, SADAO ET AL

AFFIDAVIT OF

NODA, KENGO

1. I was born on April 22, 1891, at my permanent domicile, No. 2609 Kochi Village, Hotaku District, Kumamoto Prefecture and I am now residing at No. 22 Shiomigaokamaohi, Chiba City.

2. The outline of my personal history is as follows:

Graduated from the Military Academy in the year of 1912 and attached to the 55th Infantry Regiment.

Graduated from the Military Staff College in November, 1920.

Appointed Director of the Second Department of Military Education in July, 1938

October, 1939, appointed Director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau

April, 1942, appointed Vice-Chief of Staff of the China Expeditionary Forces

August, 1942, promoted to Lieutenant-General.

December, 1942, appointed Chief of the Fourteenth Division

October, 1943, appointed Departmental Head of Military Education

April, 1945, appointed Commander of the 51st Army, and remained in that post up to the close of the war.

3. When I was Chief of the Personnel Affairs Bureau, I used the most scrupulous care and attention in recommending the man to succeed General Hata as War Minister. As Chief of the Personnel Affairs Bureau, it was my duty to recommend the man who should be the next War Minister as well as recommending to the War Minister the names of those who should be appointed to the various positions in the War Ministry and in the Army. I took into full consideration the views prevalent in the various bureaus of the War Ministry; I consulted with and took into consideration the wishes of the General Staff, and I consulted fully with the Vice-Minister of War, General Anami. After all these consultations and after a thorough-going study and a careful weighing of all the surrounding circumstances, I decided it best to recommend Lt. General Tojo as the succeeding War Minister. I then notified General Hata of my decision. There were others who were considered for the position of the new war minister, but they were already in other important positions and they could not be easily recommended as the new war minister because it would have been difficult to affect a sudden change from their old positions to the new position of War Minister.

Lt. General Tojo, on the other hand was in Tokyo, holding the position of Inspector General of the Air Force, and he had formerly been Chief of the Military Service Bureau and also of the Consolidation Bureau. Further, he had once been the Vice-Minister of War in the Hiranuma Cabinet. I considered him as the fittest person because of his background to succeed to the position of War Minister. In accordance with my recommendation, General Hata then submitted the name of General Tojo to the Three Chiefs Conference held on 18 July 1940. My recommendation was adopted in due course by the Three Chiefs Conference. My recommendation of General Tojo, and General Hata's submitting the name of General Tojo to the Three Chiefs Conference was in accordance with the standing procedure for such matters in the War Ministry. As a matter of fact, neither General Hata nor I had any personal relations with Lt. General Tojo in the past nor any private intercourse with him.

OATH

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

NODA Kengo (Seal)

On this 8 day of August, 1947, at Tokyo.

Deponent: NODA Kengo (Seal)

I, IMANARI, Yasutaro, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date,
at Tokyo

Witness: IMANARI, Yasutaro
(Seal)