

Def. Doc. No. 2959
(Umezu)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

- Defendants -

A F F I D A V I T

TAKEI SEITARŌ



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

I served as an operations staff officer of the Kwantung Army from August 1940 to August 1943. I state here about the outbreak of the Pacific War and the relation of the Kwantung Army to it.

1. No formal information came from Tōkyō to the Kwantung Army about the progress of the Japanese-American negotiations which were under way from summer to autumn of 1941. However, I used to go up to Tōkyō on business, at which times I got fragmentary news of them, which I reported to the commander-in-chief and others on my return. Therefore, the Kwantung Army knew of the tense situation of the negotiations with the United States by news of this kind as well as by information in the newspapers.

2. Commander Umezu was very much worried by receipt of such information, and used to express to us staff officers his personal opinion that Japan should not begin a war with the United States even under the worst conditions.

3. When I went up to Tōkyō on business in November 1941, I happened to have a talk with Director of the Soldiers' Affairs Bureau Tanaka about current conditions. Then I told him that Commander Umezu was of the opinion that Japan should not engage in war with the United States in any circumstances, which Tanaka well understood.

4. The Kwantung Army received no intelligence reports concerning operations plans against the United States or the decision for war against the United States; much less were we consulted about those matters.

We received a notice from Tōkyō by telegram at the end of November, that Japan was making preparations for war with the United States. For the Kwantung Army no new duties were assigned, however; it was emphasized that the Kwantung Army should specially preserve tranquillity with the U S S R.

We first knew of the outbreak of the war on 8 December by public broadcast on that very morning; the formal order came after that.

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5. After the outbreak of the Pacific War, Commander Umezu frequently stated to me that it was most unfortunate that Japan had begun war with the United States.

OATH

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

Takei Seitarō (seal)

On this 2d day of April, 1947

At Tōkyō

Deponent: Takei Seitarō

I, Ikeda Sumihisa, 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 Tōkyō

Witness: Ikeda Sumihisa.

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, 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.

Nishi Haruhiko

Tōkyō

5 April 1947