

EXHIBIT No. 3198

(8)

THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ET AL

vs.

ARAKI, SADA0, ET AL

Affidavit of

ADMIRAL YONAI, Mitsumasa

I was a member of various Japanese Governments over a period of years and since 1937 I held the following positions:

1. Navy Minister for the Cabinets of HAYASHI, KONOE (1st Cabinet), HIRANUMA and SUZUKI.
2. Prime Minister from January 16, 1940, to July 21, 1940.

When the Incident of the Marco Polo Bridge broke out on July 7, 1937, I was the Navy Minister in the 1st KonoE Cabinet. Just at this time General Hata was the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Forces on the Island of Formosa (Taiwan) and it is needless to say that neither the forces in Formosa, nor General Hata had any connection whatsoever with this Incident either in its beginning or later. It was not until February 1938 that General Hata first went to China, when he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Forces in Central China.

During the period from January 16, 1940, to July 21, 1940, when I was the Prime Minister, General Hata Shunroku was the War Minister at the time. With respect to the Tri-Partite Pact with the Axis countries, my Cabinet was completely opposed to it and for this reason this question did not even once come up in our Cabinet conferences.

It appeared that there was an atmosphere and a feeling in army circles to make good use of Germany in settling the China Incident, ~~but in my Cabinet,~~

but my Cabinet completely disregarded such a thing.

War Minister HATA fully understood and wholeheartedly cooperated in this policy of my Cabinet.

However, a conspiracy arose to overthrow my Cabinet. A good plan for the conspirators was to have General HATA, who was opposed to the Tri-partite Pact, resign, thus overthrow the Cabinet and kill two birds with one stone. Finally this plan was carried out. When I received General HATA's resignation, I believed that he was forced to resign, not of his own will, but through outside forces. I am today still convinced that this was so.

that his resignation was not of his own free will but that he was forced to resign by elements he was powerless to fight and today I am more convinced than ever that my beliefs then were correct.

On the 16th of July 1940 I asked Hata to recommend someone to be the next War Minister. Hata immediately went out saying that the successor would be decided in the Three Chief's Conference. This Conference was composed of the Chief of Staff, the Inspector General of Military Education, and the War Minister. It was their duty to name the new War Minister. He returned in the evening looking very worried and said there was no man who would be the successor to the post. His face looked very pensive because he was conscious that this lack of the successor would become the cause of the fall of the Cabinet - ~~consequently he~~

and he felt the responsibility. Knowing General HATA's feelings, after the resignation of the Cabinet en bloc, I called him into my room and shaking his hand said, in general, 'I can understand your feelings. You have suffered much. I do not blame you.' He smiled sadly. His situation was indeed pitiful.

General HATA, as far as I know, was never connected with any clique, association or organization while in the Army or in politics. He, of course, never belonged to any aggressive or ultra-militaristic organization. In fact, he scrupulously avoided politics.

OATH

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

YONAI, Mitsumasa (Seal)

On this 7 day of August, 1947, at Tokyo

Deponent: YONAI, Mitsumasa (Seal)

I, IMANARI, Taitaro, 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, Taitaro (Seal)