

Ref. No. 2957

(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

SHIBAYAMA KENSHIRŌ

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:

1. I testify herein about my relations with the accused Umezu.

From January 1932 to May 1933, for about one and a half years, the accused Umezu was the Chief of the General Affairs Department of the General Staff, in which office I also served as a member. From August 1943 to December 1944, for about one and a half years, he was the Commander of the China Garrison and I was the Assistant Military Attaché in Peking, subject directly to his guidance. From March 1937 to May 1938, for more than a year, he was Vice-Minister of War and I was the Chief of the Military Affairs Section in the War Ministry. From August 1944 to July 1945, when he was the Chief of the General Staff, I was Vice-Minister of War.

2. Concerning the accused Umezu's relation with the Manchuria Incident. At the time of the Manchuria Incident he was the Chief of the General Affairs Section of the General Staff. However, he had taken office only one month before the outbreak of the Incident, and his section had nothing to do with operations or policies. Therefore, he was not in a leading position in connection with the settlement of the Manchuria Incident, the policies for Manchoukuo or the withdrawal from the League of Nations. I was then in charge of business relating to Manchuria; but I never received directions from him in connection therewith.

3. I state now what I know concerning his attitude toward China. When he was the Commander of the China Garrison, I served in Peking.

He had sympathy and understanding toward China, and always warned his men not to face China with a superiority complex and not to interfere in the internal affairs of China. In March 1934, a little after he arrived at Tientsin, a strike happened in the Kailan mines, in which Chao Tah-chung and others agitated the workers. Mr. Tilton of the mining company visited Commander Umezu, and said to him: "It is suspected

that behind the agitators there are Japanese military officers and roughs. If this is true, I hope the Garrison will regulate them." Then General Umezu immediately ordered that such activities be prohibited, to the company's appreciation.

4. I state hereby the accused Umezu's relations with the China Incident. At the time the China Incident broke out, he was the Vice-Minister and assisted the Minister, holding firmly to the non-expansion policy and exerting his efforts to realize the policy all the while. At that time, since I was the Chief of the Military Affairs Section, I was familiar with the intention of the Vice-Minister. On the night of 8 July, when it was reported that the troops at the front were going to make a night attack on Yien-Ping, he called me and ordered me to investigate the truth at the General Staff and to advise the General Staff that the attack should be given up, since it would be contrary to the national policy if it was true. I did so.

Furthermore, the then Commander of the Garrison, Lieutenant-General Tashiro died of illness, and Umezu consulted me about his successor. Since he liked to have the most moderate and fair man, I recommended Lieutenant-General Katsuki, which recommendation was approved by the Minister after Umezu's agreement.

He also dispatched me, in company with Lieutenant-General Nakajima, the Chief of the General Affairs Department of the General Staff, to Tientsin in order to convince them of the non-expansion policy, when we met Commander Katsuki and conveyed the policy to him with solemnity.

OATH

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

Shibayama Kenshirō (seal)

On this 25th day of January, 1947  
At Tōkyō

Deponent: Shibayama Kenshirō

I, Miyata Mitsuo, 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: Miyata Mitsuo (seal)

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.

Tokyo  
25 January 1947

Nishi Haruhiko