

326. The China Affair broke out when I was President of the Bureau of Peerage in the Imperial Household Department. I knew nothing about the circumstances which had led up to the opening of hostilities between Japan and China. Four months after the outbreak of hostilities, Prime Minister KONOYE desired me to join his Cabinet. I accepted his offer at his request that I would work hard to terminate the China Affair as soon as possible. I worked hard for an early settlement of the China Affair, but the war situation went on expanding far more than generally anticipated, so that it became impossible to have any clear outlook on the future. The force of circumstances was gathering momentum on top of all this, threatening to compel Japan to plunge into a Pacific war. I could not bring myself to support the new war under any circumstances. I was opposed to the Pacific war from beginning to end. I never supported it in any positive way. I endeavored hard to seize every opportunity to avert it, as already mentioned. But alas! the American reply of November 26 made me helpless, depriving me of all possible means to save the situation at the eleventh hour. The subsequent events took its implacable course with the really regrettable result that the war dogs were unleashed. When hostilities opened, I gave hurried thought to the question as to what I should do. I decided there was only one course for me. I would render my best services to the Emperor and work for peace. In taking a long-range view of Japan's future, I decided to try to save the country from impending misfortune by putting forth every ounce of energy to assist the Emperor, however difficult and trying the task might be. It is to be profoundly regretted that the developments of the war situation falsified all anticipations, indeed so much so that Japan had to surrender unconditionally. It is my sole consolation, however, that at the close of the war I was able to give full play to my bold activity under the august virtues of the Emperor, thereby succeeding in preventing the Japanese mainland from becoming a battleground and saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.



Def. Doe. No. #2502

On this 29th day of Sept. 1947

At I.M.T.F.E.

DEPONENT Koichi KIDO (seal)

I, S. HOZUMI hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At I.M.T.F.E.

Witness: (signed) S. HOZUMI (seal)

OATH

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

I, Koichi KIDO hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

Koichi KIDO (seal)

On the same date

At I.M.T.F.E.

Witness: (signed) S. HOZUMI (seal)

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