

No. 3320



INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ET AL

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

DEPONENT: SHIONO, Suehiko

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

(1) - I, SHIONO, Suehiko, was Minister of Justice from February, 1937 to August 1939 and was concurrently Minister of Communications from January to April 1939.

(2) - On July 7, 1937, a clash of arms took place between the Japanese and Chinese troops at Lukouchiao in North China. The First Konoye Cabinet was in office at that time. Two or three days after the Lukouchiao Incident, War Minister SUGIYAMA made a short report about the clash of arms at the Cabinet meeting. According to that report, the Chinese troops made an illegal attack on the Japanese troops so the Japanese troops had to fight back. Minister SUGIYAMA stated that troops must be dispatched to protect the lives and properties of Japanese nationals in the area and the small Japanese force stationed there. However, Premier Konoye and the other members of the Cabinet desired the Incident to be settled on the spot and not allowed to expand and agreed on a policy to settle the incident locally.

(3) - Two or three days later War Minister SUGIYAMA submitted that we dispatch a fairly large force at once for unless we do so our troops stationed in the area and the lives and properties of Japanese nationals would be endangered. The Premier and the other members of the Cabinet were of the opinion that if the dispatch of troops was necessary to protect the lives



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and interests of Japanese and the Japanese troops already there, then it cannot be helped, but insisted that even if troops were dispatched, the Incident should be settled locally and the Japanese troops withdrawn as soon as the Incident was settled. They requested the dispatch of troops be limited to the barest minimum for the dispatch of a large force might bring about a major clash between the Japanese and the Chinese. As War Minister SUGIYAMA was of the same opinion, the Cabinet decided to recognize the dispatching of troops.

(4) - During the First Konoye Cabinet, the Cabinet members were not informed either at the Cabinet meetings or elsewhere about the acts of atrocity that were committed in China. No report of such acts were ever printed in the newspapers. I do not know whether there were any protests from foreign countries, but if there were, such protests were never brought to the attention of the Cabinet. The Panay and Ladybird Incidents were reported to the Cabinet, but they were reported as having been inevitable or was accidental. I was told that compensations for these Incidents were paid to the United States and Great Britain and the matters were satisfactorily settled.

(5) - The Cabinet was never consulted about plans and strategies of war. We were not even informed about the battles beforehand, nothing about the attack on Nanking, for instance.

On this 25th day of September 1947  
at TOKYO

DEPONENT: SHIONO, SUEHIKO (SEAL)



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I, YASUMICHI TANAKA 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 TOKYO

WITNESS: YASUMICHI TANAKA (Seal)

O A T H

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

SHIONO. SUEHIKO (Seal)