

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ET AL

vs.

ARAKI, SADA0, ET AL

AFFIDAVIT OF

ARITA, HACHIRO

I have held the portfolio of Foreign Minister in four cabinets: Hirota; April 1936 to February 1937; 1st Konoye; October 1938 to January 1939; Hiranuma; January 1939 to August 1939; and, Yonai, January 1940 to July 1940.

The Yonai Cabinet was opposed to the Tri-Partite Pact because we were opposed to any entanglements with Germany. Such being the case, the Tri-Partite Pact was never, during the life of the Yonai Cabinet, put on the agenda for discussion by the Ministers of the Cabinet.

General Hata was the War Minister in the Yonai Cabinet and throughout his tenure in office he was in full accord with the policy of the Cabinet and cooperated fully with it. In fact, I know General Hata opposed the Tri-Partite Pact from the days when it first was being discussed in Japan. When I was Foreign Minister in the Hiranuma Cabinet, I had occasion to have an audience with the Emperor. While waiting to be received, I met General Hata, who was then Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty. We conversed informally and the subject of the Tri-Partite Pact came up. General Hata stated it appeared the Emperor objected to the proposed pact and that he himself was strongly opposed to it. He made it clear to me that besides his personal opposition to any alliance with the Germans, he also opposed the Pact on the grounds that he could see no benefit to Japan in signing a pact which would work against the interests of our country and which would antagonize the Anglo-Saxon countries.

When Hata resigned as War Minister, in the Yonai Cabinet, I believed there must have been some superior power that forced him to resign his portfolio. The cooperative attitude taken by Hata in the Yonai Cabinet leads me to believe, even today, that his resignation was against his will.

OATH

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

ARITA, Hachiro (Seal)

On this 11th day of August, 1947, at Tokyo

Deponent: ARITA, Hachiro (Seal)

I, HORIUCHI, Hyogo, 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: HORIUCHI, Hyogo (Seal)