

Def. Doc. # 2255

Exh. No.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: TAKAGI, Yasaka

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.

I, TAKAGI, Yasaka, make oath and say as follows:

1. I, TAKAGI, Yasaka graduated from the Law College of the Tokyo Imperial University in 1915. In 1918 when the so-called American chair was founded with an endowment from Mr. A. Barton Hepburn at the Tokyo Imperial University, I was appointed lecturer to take charge of the new chair, later, I was promoted assistant professor.

In the spring of 1919, I went over to the United States of America, where I studied at various universities until the spring of 1923, including Harvard University where I was granted the degree of A.M. in 1921. I also attended Michigan and Chicago Universities.

During my ^{four} ~~five~~-year sojourn in America, I devoted myself to the exclusive studies of the history, politics, idea and institutions of America and I spent some time in Washington, D.C.

2. In 1924, I took charge of the said chair of American Constitution, History and Diplomacy at the Law Department of the Tokyo Imperial University. The same year, I was promoted to full professor and have continued as such up to the present time. I have since devoted the past twenty-three years to the studies of and lectures on the American ideas and institution. The KIDO brothers were among my classmates when I changed schools and entered the Peers' School in 1905. Marquis KIDO and his brother Dr. WADA, Koroku were among my best, old friends.
3. When Marquis KIDO assumed the portfolio of Minister of Education in 1937, I had frequent opportunities to discuss University questions with him. I know of no acts of his which had any totalitarian tendency still less a Fascist trend. At that time the Tokyo Imperial University was confronted with a set of difficult questions, caused by a tense situation including those pertaining to chairs, personnel affairs about professors and others. Marquis KIDO, who paid full respect to University autonomy, closely cooperated with Dr. NAGAYO, President of the Tokyo Imperial University, in his official capacity as Education

Minister. In my conversations with Marquis KIDO about University matters I found he had common ideas with the University authorities about University autonomy, never trying to antagonize or bring pressure to bear upon the University. In dealing with the question of Professor YANAIBARA Marquis KIDO stated that he refused to interfere, leaving the solution of the problem to the University authorities. I was one of the councillors of the University at that time and I know that Marquis KIDO did not interfere, nor exert any pressure whatsoever in connection with Professor YANAIBARA's resignation.

4. On August 3, 1945 I met Marquis KIDO and told him that it would be better to broach peace talks directly to the United States of America. In reply, the Marquis explained that the reason why Japan proposed peace through the Soviet Union was due to her respect for the latter's neutral position. He expressed himself in favor of keeping two routes open for peace talks without dropping the negotiations with the Soviet Union. After all, he said, Japan must seize the best opportunity to terminate hostilities and the opportunity was now ripe. He clearly stated that he would place implicit confidence in the firm determination of Prime Minister SUZUKI, who was charged

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with the great task. A complete identity of views existed between the Marquis and me on a peace formula, which envisaged both world peace and national salvation. On that occasion, I obtained an indelible impression that he was determined to work for peace regardless of the consequences to his personal safety.

On this 7 day of Feb., 1947

At I.M.T.F.R.

DEPONENT /s/ TAKAGI, Yasaka (seal)

I, HOZUMI, Shigetaka, 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 the same place.

Witness: /s/ HOZUMI, Shigetaka (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ TAKAGI, Yasaka (seal)