

Documents #1464-1474

(20)

Served 0920
June 3

Def. Doc. No. 1464

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

A F F I D A V I T

TAKEUCHI Ryūji

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

1) I was Chief of the Third Section, Bureau of Political Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, from April 1944 to August 1945, having charge of matters in connection with diplomatic relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

2) The Soviet Army opened attack against the Japanese troops in Manchoukuo at 0:00 AM, Tokyo time (6:00 PM, Moscow time), 9 August 1945. It was in the morning of the 9th that the information was received that the Government of the Soviet Union had declared war on Japan as from 9 August. The first news thereof reached us through radio broadcast from the United States about 4:00 AM. At that time, the Japanese Government had asked the Soviet Government to use its good offices to end the Pacific War, and was urging its reply. As a telegram from Ambassador Satō in Moscow had reported that an interview with Molotov had been arranged at 5:00 PM, 8 August (Moscow time), we were expecting to receive the answer of the Soviet Government to our request on that occasion. Meanwhile, Soviet Ambassador Malik asked for an interview with Foreign Minister Tōgō a little after 9:00 AM, 9 August, but the Foreign Minister, being pressed with official business, could not receive him on that day. The Minister met Malik at 11:15 AM the following day, the 10th, on which occasion the Soviet Ambassador handed to the Foreign Minister a notification dated 8 August to the effect that the Soviet Union and Japan would be in a state of war from 9 August. I was later informed that Ambassador Satō received from Molotov at 5:00 PM (11:00 PM, Japan and Manchoukuo time) on the 8th the notification of the start of war on the 9th, and that Molotov assured him that he might send cables to Tokyo making report of the matter to the Foreign Minister. The telegrams, however, did not reach the Foreign Ministry. At that time the Japanese-Soviet Neutrality Treaty was still in force and there was no important negotiation in progress between the two countries which would suggest the possibility of the outbreak of war between them.

On this 11th day of March, 1947, at Tokyo.

(Signed) Takeuchi Ryūji (Seal)

Sworn to and subscribed before me at the above date and place.

(Signed) Nishi Haruhiko (Seal)

Witness

OATH

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

(Signed) Takeuchi Ryūji (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 translation is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

H. Nishi

Tokyo

5 May 1947

(Signed) Nishi Haruhiko (Seal)

(Signed) Nishi Haruhiko (Seal)

Ref Doc 1464 -

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 武内龍次

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス

- 一、私ハ一九四四年四月カラ一九四五年八月迄外務省政務局第三課長トシテ勤務シ、日本ト蘇聯部間ノ外交關係事務ヲ主管シマシタ。
- 二、蘇聯邦軍ハ日本時間一九四五年八月九日午前零時（莫斯科時間八月八日午後六時）カラ滿洲國ニ在ル日本軍ニ對シ攻撃ヲ開始シマシタ。蘇聯邦政府ガ日本ニ對シ八月九日ヲ期シ開戦ヲ宣言シタトノ報道ハ九日朝承知シマシタ。第一報ハ午前四時頃米國カラ「ラデオ」放送テ始メテ承知シタノデアリマス。當時日本政府ハ太平洋戦争終止ノ仲介ヲ蘇聯邦政府ニ依頼シテ居ツテ其ノ回答ヲ催促中デアリマシタガ、駐蘇佐藤大使カラハ八月九日午後五時（莫斯科時間）「モロトフ」氏ト會見ノ豫定デアル旨外務省ニ入電ガアリマシタノデア我々ハ此會見テ右申入ニ對スル蘇聯邦側ノ回答ニ接スルコトヲ期待シテ居タノデアリマス。他方在東京「マリク」蘇聯邦大使ハ八月九日午前九時過ギ東郷外務大臣ニ面會ノ申込ヲナシマシタガ大臣ハ公務多忙ノ爲同日ハ會見出來ズ結局翌十日午前十一時十五分同大使ト面會、其ノ際同大使カラ蘇聯邦ト日本トガ八月九日カラ戦争状態ニ在ルベキ旨ノ八日附ノ通告ヲ同大臣ニ手交シマシタ。後テ承知スル所

Ref Doc 1464

ニ依レバ佐藤大使ハ八日午後五時（日露時間
午後十一時）「モロトフ」氏ヨリ九日開戦ノ
旨ノ通告ヲ受ケ、右ニ歸スル同大使ノ外務大
臣宛電報ハ東京へ發送方可能ナルベキ旨「
モロトフ」氏ノ確言ヲ得タノデアリマスガ、右
右電報ハ外務省ニ到着シマセンテシタ。當時
日露中立條約ハ尙有效ニシテ兩國間ニ何等戰
争勃發ヲ望ハシムルガ如キ重要問題ノ交渉モ
行ハレテ居ナエツタノデアリマス。

4

Ref Doc 1464

良心ニ従ヒ眞實ヲ述ベ何事ヲモ祕秘ヤズ又何事ヲモ
附加セザルコトヲ誓フ

宣
誓
書

(署名)
捺印
武
内
德
次

Ref Doc 1464i

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）三月十一日

於 東京

供述者 武 内 龍 次

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタル
コトヲ證明シマス

同日 於 東京

立會人 西 春 彦 印

UNCLASSIFIED

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



DO NOT REMOVE PAPERS FROM THIS FILE

This file carries the overall security classification stamped hereon. Questions regarding security classification of individual papers within this file will be referred to the Chief, General Reference Section, Departmental Records Branch, TAGO (Code 1225).

DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.

UNCLASSIFIED