

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al.

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: NAKAMURA, Masao

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. My name is NAKAMURA, Masao. I am an ex-Lieutenant Colonel. I was a member of the Military Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry from April 1940 to March 1943 and was under Lieutenant General MUTO when he was Director of the Military Affairs Bureau.
2. In those days my duty was to make liaison with and reception of Foreign Attaches, and similar matters.
3. With reference to the matter that an American officer called on Director MUTO sometime in the first ten days of October 1941, I recall the following points:
 - A. At that time a certain American officer who was attached to a regiment of the Japanese Army at Hirosaki (I am sure he was then called Captain Morrill) came to say farewell to Director MUTO, as he was being transferred to the Philippines. I was present at the time in the Director's office. On cross-examination, MUTO stated that he met somebody from the United States Military Attache's office, and that it was a young captain, "a very hale and hearty fellow, who came to see me because he was returning to his country in October". (Record p. 33,208). This is the very same instance.
 - B. The American officer being quite a joyful and merry fellow, we had a very good impression of him. The Director was very busy in those days and therefore his interviews were usually ended in about five minutes. This interview, however, lasted an hour or so, and they both made straightforward remarks from the standpoint of soldiers in a very smooth atmosphere throughout.
 - C. He talked a good deal about the happy experiences he had had both in his official and private life during his attachment to the regiment in Hirosaki. At that time we had respect for him, knowing that he had studied and was well acquainted with the real situation of Japan and the Japanese Army.

- D. Such being the case, his chat with MUTO naturally was prolonged. During the talk, MUTO laid stress on the necessity of good-will between Japan and America under the then-prevailing taut circumstances, and repeatedly explained how he had been trying his best to bring about a peaceful conclusion of the negotiations between Japan and America for that particular reason.
- E. If my memory is not mistaken, MUTO then referred to the issue of infringement on American rights in China caused by the Japanese Army during the hostilities as being one of the important reasons which interfered with the Japanese-American negotiations. He mentioned, I recall, something to the effect that it was difficult to have the whole case understood merely through the explanations given by the diplomats; but that "such military personnel as you, who are well acquainted with the true situation of Japan and the Japanese Army, can well understand the whole case. Therefore, please make your explanation of the situation to your superior officers. From such a mutual understanding of the Japanese-American military circles, the crisis of a Japanese-American collision can be averted".
- F. MUTO further stated that in case this mutual understanding unhappily could not be reached, there were possibilities that the situation might expand into war, and that that was the point about which he was worrying. I remember that he added, half in jest, to the effect that "in case we arrive at such an unfortunate situation, since you are now going to Manila, we might meet again there -- isn't that so?"
- G. During their interview, there was absolutely no statement by MUTO to the effect that "you will be fighting us in six weeks in Manila". The real situation was that in those days the whole staff of the Military Affairs Bureau, including Director MUTO, had been trying their utmost, by order of War Minister TOJO, to bring about a satisfactory conclusion of the Japanese-American negotiations. Moreover, that was still in the period in which no decisions whatsoever had yet been made to make war. Also, MUTO was the type of man whose utterances and behaviour were based on common sense. It is impossible that he should have stated such an unscrupulous matter as above-mentioned.

O A T H

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

/s/ Masao Nakamura (Seal)
NAKAMURA, Masao

On this 23rd day of January 1948

At Ichigaya, Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo

DEPONENT: NAKAMURA, Masao, (Seal)

I, HARA, Seiji, 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/ Seiji Hara (Seal)