

EXHIBIT No. 3218

(8)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

AFFIDAVIT OF
MURAKAMI, Hajimu

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:

In March, 1937 (Showa 12) I graduated from the Tokyo Imperial University. Immediately after that I found work in the Ministry of Finance.

In July, 1940 (Showa 15) when Mr. HOSHINO, Naoki, took office as president of the Planning Board, I was appointed as secretary to the president. From then until April of the following year, when Mr. HOSHINO resigned from the post of president of the Planning Board, I worked closest to him and then I returned to the Ministry of Finance. I am now working at the Accountants' Bureau.

Even after resigning from my post as his secretary, at the request of Mr. HOSHINO, I almost always lived at his private house, and took charge of the transaction of his miscellaneous business, collection of materials for his speeches and his discussions, arrangement of his manuscripts, and whatnot.

Now I will state below what I know directly or from those who were with him about the movements of Mr. HOSHINO during the period between his resignation from the post of president of the Planning Board of the Kono Cabinet, in April, 1941 (Showa 16) and his inauguration as Chief Secretary of the Tojo Cabinet, in October of the same year.

After his retirement from his office as president of the Planning Board, Mr. HOSHINO spent his days chiefly in reading books, exercises and travels to the provinces.

Those who visited him most frequently at that time were Mr. ISHIWATA, Sotaro, Mr. IRIMANO, Takeo and Mr. OBATA, Tadayoshi, Mr. HOSHINO's intimate friends since his school days. These men visited him as companions in conversations and amusements. Besides these people, Mr. KAWAI, Yoshinari, Mr. TAKEUCHI, Tokuji, and Mr. IDE, Norimichi, a painter, came to his house to play

tennis with him. These were about all who ever visited him during the period and no visit or contact ever made by any of the so-called professional politicians. His life was that of unemployment to the letter.

Mr. HOSHINO visited Mr. TOJO only once. Immediately after his resignation, he dropped in the official residence of the War Minister for a courtesy call regarding the resignation. He has never visited Mr. TOJO since then, nor has he ever seen Mr. TOJO at any place outside their homes, nor has he ever talked with Mr. TOJO on the telephone.

As for his local trips it was as he said when he resigned as the President of the Planning Board that "because of my being away in Manchuria for so long a period there is a necessity hereafter to look about the actual conditions in every field more frequently than ever." Starting with the trip for Kansai area in April 1941, he made such long trips as going to Hokuyiku, Amanohashidate and Fukuchiyama areas, Shikoku and Okayama areas, Hoddai area, Tohoku area and Kobe, Nagoya, Kyoto and so on, which were more often interrupted by short trips such as to Oshima, Gumma Prefecture and the like; so much so that he could hardly find time to rest at his home in Tokyo. Except for the initial trip to Kansai area on which I accompanied him, his trips were as a rule with his daughter or his other family members. In October he planned to come back to Tokyo, after going to Kobe, Kyoto, Nagoya areas, in order to attend the discussion meeting sponsored by the "Oriental Economist Publishing Co., Ltd," and from the 19th of the same month on, to go to the Northern part of Kyushu and Korea. The previous consultations concerning the date of his start, etc., with Mr. DATE, Muneaki (then serving at the Finance Ministry) who was to go with him, had been already completed. Making use of the few days of his stay in Tokyo, he went on 19 October to the Kabuki Theater together with his family. Just then, around five o'clock PM, at the entrance of the Kabuki Theater, he read an extra reporting "The Imperial Order Came for Mr. TOJO", and Mr. HOSHINO for the first time knew the fact. With only the observation, "Mr. TOJO will have hardships", he continued seeing the Kabuki Play. Then unexpectedly before eight o'clock PM he was called out by loud speaker, and was told to go to General TOJO's residence.

On this account he was obliged to hurriedly cancel his prearranged trips after the 19th.

On this 13 day of September, 1947.

At Tokyo.

/s/ MURAKAMI, Hajimu

OATH

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

/s/ MURAKAMI, Hajimu

On this 13th day of September
1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT: MURAKAMI, Hajimu (seal)

I, Resuke MATSUDA, 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: (signed) Resuke MATSUDA (seal)