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Exh. No.

Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATES AMERICA et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao et al

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: YAGASAKI, Setsuzo

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. I am YAGASAKI, Setsuzo. I am an ex-major general  
and up to the time of the end of the War, I was serving  
in the defense of the Tokyo area. At present I live at  
Haruki, Togo-Mura, Aichi-Gun, Aichi Prefecture, and am  
engaged in farming.

- II. From August 1931, when Gen. ARAKI was appointed Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Inspectorate-General of Military Training, to the time he left the above post to become War Minister, I served as adjutant captain in the Inspectorate-General. From January 1934 to March 1936, when his excellency entered the reserves, I served (as major) under the general as adjutant to the Military Councillor. Again from April 1932 to January 1934 I served under the general, who was then War Minister, as a member of the Personnel Bureau, of the War Ministry.
- III. From August, 1930 to April, 1932 I served as adjutant to Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Inspectorate-General, whose post was occupied during the above period successively by Gen. HAYASHI, ARAKI and KAWASHIMA. The duty of the Chief of the General Affairs Department was to assist the Inspector-General and to take charge of all affairs coming under the jurisdiction of the Inspectorate-General. Therefore it was an extremely busy post. For instance, he often had to go on trips to inspect maneuvers, army schools and various other training institutions all over the country. In addition to this, the Chief of the General Affairs Department concurrently held the post of Chairman of the Permanent

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Examination Committee for Army Cadets and as such had to discharge the extremely exacting duties concerning the examination of the junior and senior students of various army schools. Therefore he did not attend any conferences held by the War Ministry, the General Staff, etc., except in cases where the subject matter concerned military education.

General ARAKI assumed the post of Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Inspectorate-General on 15 August, 1931. Although he remained in this post but for less than four months, by the time he was promoted to War Minister he had almost finished his inspection tour, having begun his visits to schools and maneuvers under his jurisdiction at a very early period of his term of office. These schools, including the Military Academy, numbered more than ten and were not all situated in Tokyo, but dotted all over the country as far as Kyushu. Inasmuch as the general made detailed inspections, his trips required more than the usual time. For instance, on the occasion of his visit to the Cavalry School in Chiba, which was only about a three hours ride from Tokyo, he spent the previous night

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at a place near the school, and, after hearing detailed explanations from the responsible party made his inspection on the following day. Therefore it was already in the middle of October when he finished his visits in the Tokyo area.

Late in October, he made visits to schools of the outlying localities. At about the same time he made a trip of two weeks in order to prepare and carry out special communication maneuvers. On finishing this, he went to Kumamoto to assist at the special grand maneuvers held there. As soon as he returned to Tokyo, he was appointed War Minister. A greater part of his time was thus spent outside of Tokyo. Therefore the Manchurian Incident which broke out at that time was quite a news to him and of which he first learned, like other people, from the newspapers.

IV. At the time of the October Incident Gen. ARAKI and I were busy making preparations for a trip to Kumamoto to inspect the Instructors' School there. At about 4 p.m., however, when the general made a courtesy call to the War Minister's official residence, he was

told by War Minister MINAMI and Gen. KANAYA, Chief of the General Staff, about the occurrence, and was asked to go to quell the incident. Thereupon the general went to the War Ministry and stayed there until late at night finally succeeding in smoothing away the situation. He came back home at dawn, and so the scheduled trip was postponed. On that occasion he told me that the substance of the matter proved to be that some of the younger officers in the General Staff who were irritated at the corrupt state of the political world had made a common plan to carry out a reform and that although he finally succeeded in dissuading them from the plan, the situation was very difficult inasmuch as the said officers were all men of naive character.

V. On the morning of 13 December, as I remember, he phoned me that he was going to visit Mr. INUKAI's. Thereupon I accompanied him. After a few minutes' talk with Mr. INUKAI, he went to the official residence of the War Minister to talk with the War Minister, the Chief of the General Staff and the Inspector-General of Military Education. After that he went again to Mr. INUKAI's. In the afternoon, he was appointed War Minister in a

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ceremony of installation by His Majesty. It happened so suddenly that we were very busy with various arrangements and liaison services. I did not continue to attend him after he became War Minister.

VI. In April, 1932, I managed personnel matters as a member of the Personnel Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry. The Minister believed, in consideration of various incidents which had frequently happened by that time and of the aggravation of the internal condition of the country, that it was no doubt a matter of real necessity to select men of character as the commanders of armed forces in order to introduce such a reform into the Japanese army that it would become upright in its existence--an army excellent in its high moral virtues. So the General, unlike his predecessors who used to approve personnel recommendations as they were submitted from the Personnel Affairs Bureau regarding commanders of the lower classes ordered his staff to be careful in the selection of the lower officers, such as the company commanders, etc..

As he was very careful about the problem, those who were of excellent character become to be appointed commanders.

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VII. For two years from January, 1934, I was adjutant to the General, who then was a military councillor. At that time, the fact that the plans which he had planned formerly for national policy were not put into practice either by the Government or by the Army, made him anxious constantly. He was quite different in his opinion from other men of importance in the Government at the time. The Military Council was a peacetime pool for reserving army commanders for war-time. The members had no duty nor business of special importance, and there was no formal meeting during the period the General held the post. The details of the meeting, even when it was an informal session, were not disclosed to newspaper-men.

VIII. The General was very earnest in instructing young officers. But he severely scolded and warned any young officer who broke the law of justice and moral obligations. The General made it his principle to welcome everyone who came to him and not to pursue those who leave him. He frankly talked about his beliefs with everyone who visited him to hear his opinion. He used to say: "Japan is no closed country now. Japan has intercourse with the world. So our first duty is to

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know the conditions of the world and to refine our personality; be Broadminded and do not be narrow".

IV. At the time the so-called 2-26 Incident broke-out out, he went to the Imperial Palace to see the Emperor, as soon as he was informed by the KEMPEI-TAI of the occurrence. On our ride to the Palace, he said to me as follows: "If I had taken more effective steps in the instruction of the young officers, they would not have been misled by the "civilians" (meaning by this expression the authors of the Incident other than soldiers in active service). It is a matter for deep regret."; and "The authors of the Incident are usurpers of the Imperial prerogative of military command. They are the ruin of our Imperial army". Those words impressed me so deeply that I still remember them quite distinctly.

X. In speaking of the national character of the various peoples of the world, he used to refer in laudatory terms to the sobriety and refinement of the Englishmen, the frontier spirit and practical enterprise of the Americans, the broad and good heart of the Russians, the serenity and generosity of the Chinese, the patriotism



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of the Frenchmen, the organizing capacity and diligence of the Germans. Above all ~~he~~ praised the Swede for their warm and pure heart which kept their country free from thrives. He taught us that if we were to be citizens of the world, we had to adopt these merits of other peoples. At the same time, he was always desirous to have Japan become a country with morality even higher than that of Sweden.

On this 8th day of Sept., 1947

At \_\_\_\_\_

DEPONENT YAGASAKI, Setsuzo (seal)

I 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: (signed) HASHIOKA, Komei (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ YAGASAKI, Setsuzo (seal)