

(Excerpts from the Interrogation of MATSUOKA, Yosuke)
Sugama Prison, Tokyo.

12 March 1946

Q. Now, having in mind the essence of the meaning of the words non-aggression treaty, to whom or to which nation do you think the beneficial implication of this term non-aggression accrued? To Japan or to Russia?

A. Chiefly to Japan, because we would never encroach upon Russia. We would never be aggressor toward Russia.

Q. Well, it is true, isn't it, that back in 1937 or '36, or somewhere in that period of time, your government entered into a treaty or pact, so-called, the Anti-Comintern Pact, including your nation, Germany and Italy, and a number of other nations who subsequently joined in this Anti-Comintern Pact?

A. Yes. Italy, I think, joined later.

Q. Now, isn't it true that according to your testimony, or questions and answers made here yesterday, you made representation that in your visit to the Pope at Rome, and also that you restated your conversation with the Pope to Hitler, in which you outlined that Communism in the Far East, and its spread in China and Manchuria was the basis of the initiative taken by Japan in that area to stabilize her interests and that of the peoples of that region?

A. What initiative?

Q. The question now is did you not represent in your conversation with the Pope, when he requested that you do what you could to bring about peace, did you not say that the peace of the Far East was disturbed by the spread of Communism in the areas outlined in the previous question?

A. Disturbed, yes.

Q. What would you say?

A. We were trying our best to prevent the spread of Communism.

Q. Where?

A. In the Far East.

Q. And by trying to prevent the spread, what do you mean? What did you do or what did your government do?

A. We employed many means available.

Q. And it was these means that were under discussion when this representation was made to attempt to bring peace to the world, isn't that true? Now then, is it not true that the Japanese government and the Russian Government had a basis upon which Japan was opposed to the Russian Government as such in its initiative, so-called, in the spread of Communism in Manchuria and China. Is that true?

A. That is rather a positive question but this anti-Comintern was against Communism. It doesn't directly oppose Russia and Russia herself said that they were not distrustful of Communism. Soviet Russia and Communism are two different things. They themselves claimed and we never questioned about it.

not used

(松岡洋石訊問調査抜萃)

東京 巢鴨刑務所

一九五六年(昭和二十一年)三月十二日

(問) 不侵略條約と言ふ語の意義の本質を思つてみて不侵略なる用語に含まれてゐる恩恵は誰に、即ちどの國家に現はれたと貴君は考へますか、日本にですか、それ共ロシアにですか。

(答) 主に日本にであります、何故なら我々は決してロシアを侵害する氣はなかつたからであります、我々は對謀侵略者とならう等とは決して意思して居ませんでした

(問) 一九三七年(昭和十二年)又は一九三六年若くはその頃の或る時期に、貴國、ドイツ、イタリ、及び其後之に参加した他の一聯の國々を含む所謂「反共同盟」と云ふ條約又は同盟に貴君の政府は加盟

したことは事實ですわ。

(答) さうです。イタリーは後になつて參加したと思ひます

(問) 貴君の證據或は昨日此處でなされた問答に依れば、貴君はローマ法王を訪問した際極東の平和維持に及ぼす共產主義の影響を強調したことを、又極東に於ける共產主義と 中國及滿洲に於けるその擴大が原因となつて日本及び同地域の諸國民の利益を保全する目的で石地域に日本が行動を起したものであると貴君が法王に告げた會話の内容をヒットラーにも繰返して述べたことを陳述したとあります。が、事實ですか。

(答) どう云ふ行動の發起ですか

(問) 今貴君に聞いてゐることは、法王との會話中平和を齎らす爲出来るだけの手を盡す様法王が要請した時貴君は前問に述べた地域に共產主義が擴がつてゐる爲に極東の平和が掻き亂されてゐると言はなかつたかと言ふことです

(答) 掻き亂されてゐた、さうです。

(問) 貴君は何と言はうとしたのですか。

(答) 我々は共産主義の拡大を防止しようとして最善を盡して居ました

(問) 何處で

(答) 極東に於てであります

(問) その拡大を防止しようとする、とはどう云ふ意味ですか

(答) 我々は用ひ得る多くの手段を講じました。

(問) 世界に平和を招来しようとする企圖して斯様な陳述がなされた時は之

等の手段が議論されてゐる最中であつた。さうではありませんか、

それでは、日本政府とロシア政府とは一つの基盤を持つてゐたか、

その上に立つて、日本はロシア政府に——率先して行動を起すもの

としての、又所謂滿洲及中國に共産主義を拡大するものとしてのロ

シア政府に反對した、と言ふのは事實ですか。

(答) それはどちらかと言へば断定的な質問ですが、此の反共とは共産

主義に對抗するものであります。それは直接ロシアに反對するも

のではありません。ロシア自身彼等が共産主義を信用してゐると言