

Defense Acc.

2465

Form No. 88  
FOREIGN SERVICE  
(Revised January 1942)

HIROTA

# Certificate of Acknowledgment of Execution of an Instrument

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM  
(Country)

CITY OF BRUSSELS  
(County or other political division)

CONSULAR SECTION OF  
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY  
(Name of foreign service office)

SS:

I, Russell B. Jordan, Consul

of the United States of America at Brussels, Belgium

do hereby certify that on this 29th

of July 1947, before me personally appeared BARON ALBERT DE

COMPIERRE

to personally known, and known to me to be the individual... described in, whose  
name is subscribed to, and who executed the annexed instrument, and being  
informed by me of the contents of said instrument... he... duly acknowledged to me  
that he... executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes  
herein mentioned.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and  
official seal the day and year last above written.

Russell B. Jordan  
Consul of the United States of America.



Service No. 4465  
FEE NO. TWO DOLLARS  
NOTE.—When practical

to a document should be included in one certificate.

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I had the honor to represent my King & Country in Tokyo, as Belgian Ambassador, from December 1920 to February 1939. I was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from December 1928 to February 1939. So I was in a position to know well the leaders of Japan during the two decades which preceded the second world war.

When I arrived in 1921 Japan seemed on its way to become a Constitutional and parliamentary democracy on the European pattern. A series of unfortunate events changed the course of history. The worst elements in the land, which had no influence in 1921, gradually emerged from their position of insignificance and by degrees succeeded in winning to their silly ideas of dominating Asia & the world, first the Army and finally the Japanese people (who will always follow any energetic leaders).

When I left Japan in 1939 an anonymous and collective dictatorship of the Army held the Country and its supposedly "absolute" monarch in their grip.

From my long personal contact with the Emperor I can declare that he is the most convinced "pacifist" that I have ever met. I feel certain that His Majesty did all he could to foil the plans of the war-mongers and that, had he gone in further or sooner than he did in putting his job down on the

3  
military clique and reaffirming his own supreme and legitimate authority, he would have been suppressed, and the situation today would be infinitely worse than it is. I think this will become more and more evident as time passes.

With Mr. Hirota Koki I have had friendly relations for a great many years even before he became Prime Minister in March 1936 and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1937-1938. I feel absolutely convinced that Mr. Hirota always used his real influence with the military leaders to restrain them to the best of his ability.

Baron Hiranuma & Mr. Shigemitsu may, in my opinion be considered pretty much in the same light as Mr. Hirota. They were certainly not among the foolish hotheads who led Japan to disaster. But my acquaintance with them was by no means as intimate as with Mr. Hirota so that I cannot give as definite & formal an opinion about them as about Mr. Hirota.

I knew numbers of Japanese diplomats and statesmen who were too clever not to see the folly of a war against the U.S. and who, moreover, were sincerely and deeply in favor of international cooperation. Such were Count Makino, Mr. Osuneo Matsudaira, Admiral Suwaki, Mr. Count Matsudaira, Baron Shidehara, Mr. Satow, Mr. Kurusu and many more. Others of the same stamp died before the war (Mr. Ishii, Mr. Ijima, Mr. Adachi, Prince Saionji, etc.)

Written and signed at Brussels 24<sup>th</sup> July 47

Baroness

With Mr. Kurusu I have had particularly friendly relations. For several years he was one of the directors of the Gaimusho (Foreign Office) prior to 1936 when he was appointed Ambassador to Brussels. He arrived there with his family in July 1936 when I was home on furlough and I introduced him and his wife and daughter to all our friends in Belgium.

When I returned to Europe at the end of my mission in May 1939, Mr. Kurusu was still in Brussels but, much to his regret, he was transferred to Berlin in September when General Oshima was recalled for having been unable to warn the Japanese Government of the signature of the Russo German pact in August, of which he had been given no kind of notice before it was signed!!

Mr. Kurusu was at the head of the Berlin Embassy till September 1940, when he was ordered to sign the military alliance with Germany and was <sup>then</sup> replaced once more by General Oshima. Before returning to Japan he came to Brussels to say good bye to me and a few other friends. We were then under German occupation.

What Mr. Kurusu told me then I am not at liberty to reveal as he bound me to secrecy. But what I may and do affirm is that I had definite proof then that Mr. Kurusu

in Feb. 41,

personally disapproved the military pact he  
had signed and deeply regretted the trend of  
his Government's policy which seemed to be in  
the direction of war!

If Mr. Kurusu chose to publish the details  
he gave me under the seal of secrecy, every one  
would be convinced as I am, that when he  
accepted, in the fall of 1941, the mission to go  
to Washington to second Admiral Nomura, he  
did it in perfect good faith, with the sole and  
sincere wish to strain every effort to maintain  
peace.

Written and signed at Brussels  
on July 24<sup>th</sup> 1944

Baron Kurusu

極東軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國 其他

對

荒木貞夫 其他

宣誓供述書

私は一九二〇年十二月から一九三九年二月まで白耳義王及び白耳義王を代表する光榮を言しました。私は一九二八年十二月から一九三九年二月まで外交官の部長でありましたので第二次世界大戦前二十年間の日本の指導者達をよく知ることが出来ました。

一九二一年私がやつて来た時には、日本は歐洲の手本に倣つて、憲法を議會に基く民主政体になる途上にある上に見えました。併し引續き

起つた不幸な出来事は日本の歴史の方向を変えたのであります。

一九二一年には全然勢力のなかつた日本における悪分子が漸次彼等より身を起して次第に亞細亞及世界を支配するといふ腹かき考を懷く上りになりました。これは最初は陸軍であり、以後には（同時に）強力な指導者のいう通りになる一日本門閥であります。

一九三九年私が日本を去つた時には陸軍といふ署名の集體的獨裁主義が日本及び一対外的」と思われている日本の君主をその手中に握つていました。

陛下と個人的に長い間接觸したことから、私は陛下が今まで私が會つた中で最も徹底した「平和主義者」であると思言することが出来ます。陛下は全力を盡して「戦争」の計画を挫かれましたが、若し陛下が實際上よりも早く又は一步深く突進んで軍部に對して毅然たる態度をとり陛下の正當なる至上策を主張せられたらば、陛下は抑壓される今日の事態は今上りはずつと悪くなつていたものと私は確信します。

この事は時が経つにつれて一層はつきりして來ること、思います。

廣田弘毅氏とは彼が一九三六年三月總理大臣になり一九三七年から一九三八年迄外務大臣をやつる前も私は多年親しく交際していました。私は

廣田氏が軍部の指導者達に實際に信用があるのを利用して出来る文け等  
 を抑えよつとしていた事を絶対に確信するものであります。  
 平沼男爵と重光氏は、私の考では、山口氏とほぼ同様に考えられます。彼  
 等は、日本を災難に導いた愚かなせつかち殿の中には確かに入つていませ  
 ん。併し私と彼等との交際には廣田氏との交際ほど秘密なものではありませ  
 んでしたから廣田氏に関する意見ほどはつきりした正式の意見を述べるこ  
 とは出来ません。

賢明で、米口と戦争する愚を悟つていたか更に日露間の協約に心から當  
 成していた日本の多くの外交官や政治家を私は知つていました。そついろ  
 人達は、牧野伯爵、松本恒雄氏、鈴木大將、松平子爵、榊原男爵、佐藤氏、  
 東郷氏、其他大勢でした。同じ型の人で戦争前に多くをたつた人に石井子爵  
 伊藤陸男爵、安達氏、西園寺公使等がおりました。

一九四七年七月二十四日

ブラッセルズにて記帳署名

パツソンドエール(署名)



來栖氏は特に親しい關係にありました。

彼がブラツセルズ駐劄大使に任命された一九三六年に先立つる年間、彼は外務省の局長の一人でした。彼は私が四段階級中の一九三六年七月、家族同伴でブラツセルズに到着しました。私は彼と夫人と娘とを白耳寺の私の我々の友人全部に紹介しました。

私が一九三七年五月私の使命を果して歐州に歸つて来た時、來栖氏はブラツセルズにまをかりましたが、大島將軍が、露露協定調印前何等の通知を受けてたかつたにも拘らず、八月に行われた同盟定の調印を日本政府に警告出交をかつたために日本に召喚された時に、來栖氏は残念を女から九月柏林に轉勤になりました。

來栖氏は一九四〇年九月柏林大使館の長でありましたが露露協定の署名同盟に口印方を命ぜられました、それから一箇大島將軍と交善しました。日本に歸る前、私と二、三の他の友人に別れを告げに一九四一年二月、彼はブラツセルズに参りました。その時我々は露露協定の占領下にありました。その時來栖氏が私に語つた事は、私に秘密を守つて呉れよの事でしたからそれを明かす事にはいきません。併し私が所望してよい事は、

來栖氏が自分で訂印した軍事協定を個人的には否認した事、並びにロホ  
 政府の政策が戦争の方向に向つていふと思はれることを深く歎いていた  
 事、を表明す時かなに遺憾を當時私が述べたことである。また  
 若し來栖氏が、秘密を守るという約束で私に語つた詳細を自ら發表した  
 ら彼が一九四一年の秋ワシントンに行つて海軍大將を助ける使命を受け  
 た時に彼が唯書意をもつて平和維持のため全力を盡すことだけを念頭と  
 していたことを何人も私と同様に確信することでありました。

一九四七年七月二十四日

ブラッセルズにて記帳署名

パツソンビエール（署名）

書類の記名調印確認に關する證明書

白耳義王國  
ブラツセルズ市  
米大使館領事課

正當に任命され、資格を與えられたる白耳義王國ブラツセルズ駐劄、亞米利加合衆國領事ラツセルズデヨードンは、一九四七年七月二十九日、自分の直接の知り合であり添附書類に記載されたる人でありその名が同書に署名されてあり、同書に記名調印せる、アルバート、ド、バツソソビエール男爵、自身小生のもとに出頭、若書類の内容を小生より聴取したる後同書に記載せる目的のもとに自發的に同書に記名調印せしことを確認せることを茲に證明す

證據として前記年月日の翌日この書類に署名捺印す

ラツセルズデヨードン (署名)

亞米利加合衆國領事

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

I had the honor to represent my King and country in Tokyo, as Belgian Ambassador, from December 1920 to February 1939. I was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from December 1928 to February 1939, so I was in a position to know well the leaders of Japan during the two decades which preceded the second world war.

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Written and signed at Brussels 24th July '47

(Signed) Bassompierre

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Mr. Kurusu was at the head of the Berlin Embassy in September 1940, when he was ordered to sign the military alliance with Germany, and was then replaced once more by General Oshima. Before returning to Japan he came to Brussels in Febr. 41, to say goodbye to me and a few other friends. We were then under German occupation.

What Mr. Kurusu told me then I am not at liberty to reveal as he bound me to secrecy. But what I may and do affirm is that I had definite proof then that Mr. Kurusu personally disapproved the military pact he had signed and deeply regretted the trend of his government's policy which seemed to be in the direction of war.

If Mr. Kurusu chose to publish the details he gave me under the seal of secrecy, everyone would be convinced as I am, that when he accepted, in the fall of 1941, the mission to go to Washington to second Admiral Nomura, he did it in perfect good faith, with the sole and sincere wish to strain every effort to maintain peace.

Written and signed at Brussels on July 24th, 1947

(Signed) Bassompierre

CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXECUTION OF AN INSTRUMENT

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM )  
CITY OF BRUSSELS )  
CONSULAR SECTION OF )  
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY )      ss:

I, Russell H. Jordan, Consul of the United States of America at Brussels, Belgium, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that on this 29th day of July 1947, before me personally appeared BARON ALBERT DE BASSOMPIERRE to me personally known, and known to me to be the individual described in, whose name is subscribed to, and who executed the annexed instrument, and being informed by me of the contents of said instrument he duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year last above written.

(SEAL)

(Signed) Russell B. Jordan  
Russell B. Jordan

Consul of the United States of America.