

No. 3326

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: OKAZAKI, Koichi

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. I, Koichi, OKAZAKI, was an Intendant Major General, having served as a member of the Intendant Bureau of the Army from April 1933 to April 1937. During this time I was in charge of the completion of the Army's budget and the discussions concerning them with the Finance Ministry. I am well acquainted with KAYA, Okinori, who during this time was an official in the Accounts Bureau of the Finance Ministry in charge of Military budgets. He was the Chief of the Budget and Settled Accounts Section of the Accounts Bureau of the Finance Ministry from April 1932 to about 1934 and the Chief of the Accounts Bureau from about 1934 to about 1936. During that period it was my duty, yearly, to present the summarized budget estimates of the Army to the Finance Ministry and to obtain its

Def. Doc. #2059

approval thereof. The Army budgets, at that time, were continuously increasing in parallel with the international situation. In connection with these budgets the attitude of the Finance Ministry and particularly that of Mr. KAYA, as the Official in Charge, was very critical of the heavy fiscal demands of the Army and these officials and Mr. KAYA were vigorously opposed to granting the Army's budgetary requests.

Mr. KAYA based his opposition on the ground that the Army budget requests if granted would be contrary to sound public finance and that the national defense expenditures must not be permitted to exceed the limit of the state public finance plan.

This reasoning of Mr. KAYA and his action opposing the military budget requests was criticized by army officers, clamoring for completion of national defense in view of the international situation, as anti-militaristic, and as infringing upon the prerogative of the High Command. I will relate two experiences to illustrate the attitude of Mr. KAYA in opposing the fiscal demands of the Army:

1. During the time when the Army budget for 1936 fiscal year was under preparation there existed an army appropriation for completion of national defense which had been approved by the Imperial Diet as a continued expenditure to be spread over more than 10 years. After the Manchurian Affair the Army was hurriedly completing its national defense plan and requested that the

Def. Doc. #2059

continuing appropriation be revised as to the allotment for each year thereby to shorten the period previously scheduled for the completion of the program. The Finance Ministry officers led by Mr. KAYA insisted that the Army request could not be complied with due to the condition of the nation's public finance. The negotiations between the officers of the two ministries ended in a failure and the problem was shifted to a Cabinet conference in which it was not easy to arrive at an accord, debate continuing all night through. Such instances, we believed, tended to provoke the young officers and were important factors in generating the February 26 Incident when Finance Minister TAKAHASHI was assassinated. The fiscal policies of Finance Minister TAKAHASHI were fully supported by Mr. KAYA and because of this he, too, became the object of bitter Army opposition.

2. It was either 1933 or 1934 fiscal year in which it occurred, when I accompanied Colonel (later General) TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA, then Chief, Military Section, to a conference with Mr. KAYA, then Chief Budget Section, on the restoration of some items which the Finance Minister had rejected from the Army budget. I remember that Mr. KAYA did not yield to the urging of the Army and stubbornly refused to restore the items in question; this so aroused the Colonel that he charged that the Finance Ministry's

Def. Doc. #2059

lacking of understanding of the international situation, and of his taking such an unsympathetic attitude towards the Army will give rise to a serious question. To this Mr. KAYA replied: that just such an attitude is an expression of the recent ideology of the Army in general, which is really a matter of greatest regret for our country. And after several hours of debate at this conference we could not reach an agreement.

On this 20th day of July, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent: /S/ OKAZAKI, Koichi (seal)

I, TANAKA, Yasumichi, 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: /S/ TANAKA, Yasumichi (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ OKAZAKI, Koichi (seal)