INTERR 8F TOGO, SHIGENOR! 11 MAR. 46 (1000-1300)

(22)

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.

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for court size.

5/11/46

Establish # 1207 (21)
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Doc. No. 4115

From interrogation of Shigenori TOGO dated 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours(page 1)

- Q. Who would be considered responsible, who would you consider responsible for the composition of that note?
- A. That notification, as I have previously explained, was a summation of the results of the studies and discussions which took place at the liaison conferences regarding negotiations with the United States. The note itself was written by the Foreign Office, but the responsibility for the composition rests with the participating members of the liaison conferences. The responsibility for the contents of the notification rests with the members of the liaison conferences. Furthermore, the matter was also reported to the Cabinet and passed the Cabinet without objection.
- Q. Could you give me the names of the individuals at the liaison conferences and the Cabinet members who would be considered responsible for the contents of the note?
- As I have said at a previous meeting, members of a liaison conference who were responsible for the study and discussions on the matter were TCJO, SHIMADA, SUGIYAMA, NAGANO, TSUKADA, ITO, KAYA, SUZUKI, and the three secretaries, HOSHINO, MUTO and OKA. As to the members of the Cabinet, under the constitution they are responsible for decisions of the Cabinet, even on matters outside of the competence of their respective offices.

From interrogation of Shigenori TOGO dated 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours (page 3)

- Q. I understood from you that the note was composed by the Foreign Office after the contents of what the note should contain had been decided upon at the liaison conferences. I also understand that after the note was composed by the Foreign Office it was presented for approval to the Cabinet on December 1, 1941, at which time the Cabinet approved it. Is my understanding correct?
- A. The first part of your understanding is correct, that is, that the writing of the note took place in accordance with the decision of the liaison conference as to its contents. However, I should like to make some correction as to the date. December 1 was the date of the Imperial Conference, at which the decision for war was made. However, previous to the Imperial Conference the main points of the note to be sent were reported to the Cabinet; but as to the drafting of the note, that came afterwards, and at a later Cabinet meeting the main points were further explained and the continuation of the explanation that was made at the former Cabinet meeting. I cannot recall definitely, but it seems to be around November 30, but I could have the date more definitely confirmed later.

page 3

From interrogation of Shigenori TOGO dated 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours (bottom of page 4 and top of page 5)

- Q. From what you have stated would you consider that the members of the Cabinet and members of the liaison conference, whose names you have mentioned, are equally responsible with you as regards to the contents of the note and its delivery?
- As to the contents of the note, I think it is but natural that all the members of the liaison conference are responsible. As to the Cabinet, they would have at least a final responsibility in that they expressed no objection, that is, from the legal point of view. Of course, it all depends whether you view the matter superficially or formally, or whether you would like to view it more profoundly. But, practically speaking, in the light of actualities it might be said that there is a difference in the degree of responsibility by the liaison conference and the Cabinet because not all the Cabinet members attended the liaison conference, but the situation was such that whatever was approved by the liaison conference was approved by the Cabinet. Although there may be a difference in degree of responsibility, the Cabinet might have at least a nominal responsibility.
- Q. Who knew and approved of the details concerning the manner of the delivery of the note?
- As to the delivery of the note, instructions were sent previously to the Embassy in Washington stating that it was to be delivered at 1:00 PM. December 7. Washington time, as much as possible to the Secretary of State, and that all preparations be made for the purpose of delivering the note at the specified time. The instructions themselves were dispatched by the Chief of the Cable Section of the Foreign Office. Regarding the sending of such instructions, all members of the liaison conference knew. It is naturally a matter on which there should be no objections, and, therefore, it was approved as a matter of course.

From interrogation of Shigenori TOGO dated 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours (bottom of page 5 and top of page 6)

- Q. Thy was England not advised of declaration of war?
- In the latter stages of the negotiations, when I became Foreign Minister, our relations with Britain were naturally considered. As a matter of fact, in case understanding was reached with the United States, agreements with Britain, the Netherlands, and other countries concerned would be necessary. Therefore, inquiry was made of the United States government on this matter. Regarding this point the Secretary of State informed Ambassador NOMURA that such matters would be handled by the United States and that the United States government would duly inform Britain and the other countries concerned. That being the case, it was not considered necessary to make any notification in London, since it would be going from Washington. However, on the morning of December 8, Tokyo time, shortly after the visit of Ambassador GREW at 7:00 AM, I asked for the visit of Ambassador CRAGIE of Britain. At that time I informed the British Ambassador the results of our negotiations with the United States and for reference gave him a copy of the Japanese note to the United States. Thereafter, around noon, the British Ambassador was duly notified, in writing, that a state of war existed between Japan and Britain. And, as I recall it, that notification was delivered before the commencement of hostilities with Great Britain.

Doc. No. 4115 11 March 1946 Shigenori TOGO 1000-1200 hours Certificate of Stenographer: I, Fildred Rich, hereby certify that I acted as stenogra-pher at the interrogation set out herewith, and that I trans-cribed the foresoing cuestions and answers, and that the trans-cription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. /s/ Mildred Rich Certificate of Interrogator: I, Roy L. Morgan, certify that on 11 March 1946 Shigenori TOGO personally gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth herein. /s/ Roy L. Morgan

INTERTICIAL FROSECUTION SECTION

REQUEST FORM

2 August 1946

INCIDENT - ACCUSED

JUDGE ALBERT WILLIAMS

The undersigned requests the consideration of Document # 4115

(1. scribe):

Excerpts from interrogation of Shigenori TOGO dated 11 March 1946,
1000-1200 hours, as follows:

Page 1, beginning with "Who would be considered..." through the middle of page 4, "...the draft of the note".

Page 4, beginning with the last question, "From what you have..." through the second answer on page 6, "Yes".

for introduction in evidence (specify purpose)

In proving the preparations and responsibility for war against the United States.

-	ROY L. MORG	AN
	Staff Attorne	
-		1946

TO THE DOCUMENT OFFICER:

The above document has been approved for processing by you with changes as follows:

	Judge Albert Williams
	Document Control Attorney
By	
У	Secretary

INTERPODATION OF

Shigemeri Todo

Date and Time: 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours

Place : Togo Residence, Tolgro

Present : Shigeneri TOGO
Teshire Shimanouchi, Japanese national, Interpreter
Fumihike Tego, sen of Shigeneri TOGO
Nr. Roy L. Mergan, Interregator
Nildred Rich, Stemographer

Questions by Mr. Morgan

Q. As I understand, Mr. TOGO, that final note which was sent on December 7, 1941 (Tokyo time) to MCMURA in Washington was not a declaration of war but a final note breaking off negotiations.

A. As I said before, the final notification of the Japanese government was to be delivered by the Ambassadors in Washington at the instructions of the Japanese government at 3 AM, December 8, Tokyo time. That notification did not contain the words, "declaration of war," but did state the constitution of negotiations and the severance of diplomatic relations, which in the light of the situation prevailing at that time was considered tantament to a declaration of war.

Q. The would be considered responsible, who would you consider responsible for the composition of that note.

A. That notification, as I have previously explained, was a summation of the results of the studies and discussions which took place at the limited conferences regarding negotiations with the United States. The note itself was written by the Foreign Office, but the responsibility for the composition rests with the participating members of the limited conferences. The responsibility for the contents of the notification rests with the members of the limited conferences. Furthermore, the ratter was also reported to the Cabinet and passed the Cabinet without objection.

Q. Could you give me the names of the individuals at the limison conferences and the Cabinet members who would be considered responsible for the con-

As I have said at a previous meeting, members of a limison conference who were responsible for the study and discussions on the matter were TOJO, SHIMADA, SUGIYAMA, HAGANO, TSUKADA, ETO, HAYA, SUEUKI, and the three secretarical HOSHIMO, MUTO and OKA. As to the members of the Cabinet, under the competitution they are responsible for decisions of the Cabinet, even on matters outside of the competence of their respective offices.

MAR 1 4 1946

1-42

Shigenori T000 11 March 1946 In discussing the contents of what the final notification note should contain, did all persons just mentioned by you take into consideration the international law prevailing or treaties that were in existance at the time. As I said in a previous meeting, when the question of precedure in giving notification was brought up in the ligious conference, I contended that a note declaring war or some final ultimatum was the best procedure. As against this contention of mine, the high command, more specifically the navy high commend, ITO and MAGANO, declared that giving such notifiestion was undesirable in giving the greatest possible effect to the opening of hostilities and requested that no notification be given. I recall HAGANO was having stressed the necessity of "surprice attack," However, as a result of my strong objection, the question was not settled them and there. Thereafter, ITO frequently approached no requesting my acceptance of the navy's point of view, but as the result of my continued objection, it was finally decided in the manner I explained previously: to carry on a surprise attack, but to give due notification to the United States government. The arrangement finally made was reported to the liaison conference, which approved of it without objection. There were no arguments against the arrangements agreed upon. The procedure was also reported to the Cabinet, which also approved of it without objection and no discussion. Q. I understand that all members of the ligison conference, and the Cabinet nembers who were not present at the lisison conference, were well aware of the international law and treaties them in existence. An I correct. A. I presume also. Q. As Foreign Minister, you were well acquainted with the international Maw and trenties then in existance. A. I am not a specialist on international law, but I have fairly well rounded knowledge of the subject, or a general knowledge of the subject, and in settling various questions I have naturally consulted various reference books on international law and treaties and also, in this case, consulted international law scholars. G. Haturally, from this, Japan, represented by all members of the Cabinet and those present at the limison conferences, considered itself bound by international law and treaties to which Japan was a party. A. Of course. I can confidently may that all, whether at the liaison conference or the Cabinet, gave great importance on acting in conformance with international law and treaties to which Japan was a party, and to which Japan is bound.

- Q. You have stated your reasons may Japan did not insert in the final note that a declaration of war existed, however, did you not personally feel that the United States was entitled to have received a declaration of war rather than the Circle notes and the have received a declara-
- A. It is difficult to consider from the standpoint of law whether the United States was "entitled to", as you my, a declaration of war, for on that matter Japan had a different view. Since you have a sked for my personal feeling on the subject, I will say from the very outset I had considered a note declaring war, or an ultimatum with time limit, more desirable. It thus becomes a question of policy, and if I am to speak on that, as I explained before, the attack took place about a half an hour after the time set for the delivery of the note; and, as I have said before, I protested to ITO that if the attack was to take place such a short time after the delivery of the note, why had the nevy hesitated in the first place regarding the issuance of a notification of war. As I have said before, ITO's reply to my protest was swasive, and even to this day the newy attitude and their psychology remains unclear to me.
- Q. I understood from you that themote was composed by the Foreign Office after the contents of what the note should contain had been decided upon at the limison conferences. I also understand that after the note was composed by the Foreign Office it was presented for approval to the Cabinet on December 1, 1941, at which time the Cabinet approved it. Is my understanding correct.
- A. The first part of your understanding is correct, that is, that the writing of the note took place in accordance with the decision of the limited conference as to its contents. However, I should like to make some correction as to the date. December I was the date of the Imperial Conference, at which the decision for war was made. However, previous to the Imperial Conference the main points of the note to be sent were reported to the Cabinet; but as to the drafting of the note, that came afterwards, and at a later Cabinet meeting the main points were further emplained and the continuation of the emplanation that was made at the former Cabinet meeting. I cannot recall definitely, but it seems to be around November 30, but I could have the date more definitely confirmed later.
- Q. Hay I ask when the note was finally composed and approved. I mean by that, on what date.
- A. I think it was around the 5th of December.
- Q. I understand from what you have said that it was decided that the note should be delivered at 1:00 PM, December 7, Washington time, and since that is the case, why was it not sent to Admiral NOMURA on December 5 after it had been completely written and approved.

- A. The composition of the note was completed on the 5th, and in my recollection it was reported to the Cabinet on the 6th and that the telegram was dispatched on the same day, that is the 6th. There were no delays in the sending of the telegram, but being a very lengthy note some amount of time was required in sending it off. These dates mentioned were Tokyo time.
- Q. Do you not think that the time in preparing the note after the details of what it should centain were decided on November 30 was too long.
- As you may, it seems that considerable time was consumed, but before the final draft was approved the note west through a series of many revisions. The two secretaries of the limison conference, the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau, MUTO, and the Chief of the Navy Affairs Eureau, OKA, were in frequent contact with the Foreign Office in councetion with the drafting of the note. They represented the driving force of the time, that is, the Army War Office and the Army General Staff and the Mavy Office and the Mavy General Staff; and on practical matters those two men represented these two fighting services in making frequent contacts with the Foreign Office in the making of the draft. As a consequence, many revisions were gone through. Being personally interested in the process and course of the revision that was gone through, I wanted to have some some concrete naterials on the subject, that is, the copies of the many revisions that were made at the time. But I found out that these materials, too, had been detroyed in the air raid; and, therefore, I am not able to offer substantial materials to explain my point. Had I had such materials, I could more clearly explain some of the reasons for the delay that was taken in completing the draft of the note.
- Q. Where were these revisions kept.
- A. I am not familiar with the details, but it is my understanding that they were kept in the files of the American Bureau of the Fereign Office.
- Q. Do you have any substantial reason to believe that the army and navy, through OKA and MUTO, caused the delay to be intentional by always making suggestions and revisions.
- A. No, I do not think so. The delays were caused by frequent revisions in phraseology and I do not think it proper to say that the army and navy had any such intentions.
- Q. From what you have stated would you consider that the numbers of the Cabinet and numbers of the limison conference, whose names you have nentioned, are equally responsible with you as regards to the contents of the note and its delivery.

Shigenori TOGO

11 March 1946

- As to the centents of the note, I think it is but natural that all the members of the limison conference are responsible. As to the subinet, they would have at least a final responsibility in that they expressed no objection, that is, from the legal point of view. Of course, it all depends whether you view the matter opporticially or formally, or whether you would like to view it more profoundly. But, practically speaking, in the light of actualities it might be said that there is a difference in the degree of responsibility by the limison conference and the Cabinet because not all the C binet members attended the limison conference, but the situation was such that whatever was approved by the limison conference was approved by the Cabinet. Although there may be a difference in degree of responsibility, the Cabinet might have at least a nominal responsibility.
- Q. Who know and approved of the details concerning the manner of the delivery of the note.
- As to the delivery of the note, instructions were sent previously to the Embassy in Washington stating that it was to be delivered at 1:00 PM, December 7, Washington time, as much as possible to the Secretary of State, and that all preparations be made for the purpose of delivering the note at the specified time. The instructions themselves were dispatched by the Chief of the Cable Section of the Foreign Office. Regarding the sending of such instructions, all members of the limited conference knew. It is naturally a matter on which there should be no objections, and, therefore, it was approved as a matter of course.
- C. Did you know that the Emperor was angry about the manner in which the note was delivered.
- As explained before, the delivery of the note was delayed for technical reasons, and it is regarding this delay that the Emperor was dissatisfied and displeased.
- Q. Why was England not advised of declaration of war.
- A. In the latter stages of the negotiations, when I became Foreign Minister, our relations with Britain were naturally considered. As a matter of fact, in case understanding was reached with the United States, agreements with Britain, the Netherlands, and other countries concerned would be necessary. Therefore, inquiry was made of the United States government on this matter. Regarding this point the Secretary of State informed Ambassador NOMURA that such matters would be handled by the United States and that the United States government would duly inform Britain and the other countries concerned. That being the case, it was not considered necessary to make any notification in Lendon, since it would be going from Mashington. However, on the morning of December S, Tokyo time, shortly after the visit of Ambassador CREM at 7:00 AM, I asked for the visit of Ambassador CRAMIE of Britain. At that time I informed the British Ambassador the results of our negotiations with

Shigemeri Todo 11 March 1946 A. (confd) the United States and for reference gave him a copy of the Japanene note to the United States. Thereafter, around moon, the British Ambassador was duly notified, in writing, that a state of war existed between Japan and Britain. And, as I recall it, that notification was delivered before the commencement of hosfilities with Great Britain. Q. As I understand, that notification to Great Britain clearly stated that a state of war existed between Japan and Great Britain. You. Why was not the Netherlands advised that Japan was at wer with that country. A. I think the Notherlands were informed. I think that notification was delivered to the Netherlands legation in Tokye about the same time as the notification to Great Britain. Q. Going back to the note which was sent to Washington. Were NOMURA and KURUSU informed before the delivery of the note that war had been decided upon at the limison conferences, or at the Cabinet meeting, or at the Importal Conference on December 1, 1941. No such terms as "declaration of war" were used, but they were informed that the negotiations may be ceased, or that diplomatic relations may be ruptured, or that the worst may come, and that some such decision may be fortheoming, and they sufficiently understood that the situation was such that it might lead to war. When were they so informed. The decision for war was made on December 1, but even before them and about once or twice thereafter the Ambassadore were informed that some decision by the Imperial and other conferences My be fortheening. After the final decision was made on December 1, 1941, why were NCHURA and KURUSU told to keep talking. A. Because there was at least the slightest hope that at the last moment the United States might change its attitude, and on account of that hope efforts were made to urge such a change on the part of the United States. This was done in the hope that at the last minute some sudden change in the situation might occur. What information was given to the Emperor at the time of the delivery of the note. That the delivery of the note was delayed and that the hostilities began before the delivery of the note we were informed by American short wave broadcasts. This information I myself reported to the Emperor, and I complained at that time that there was no way of knowing why the delay was omused until MCMUNA returned to Japan, since communications, both incoming and outgoing, had been out off.

Shigemori TOGO

11 March 1946

O. How early after hostilities began did you tell the Emperor about the note.

A. I do not recall definitely, but I think it was on the first occasion
I had for an audience, which was not less than a week after the outbreak
of war. I think the Emperor was informed of the matter from other sources,
as such information was obtainable by other sources.

Q. What did the Emperor say at the time of this meeting.

A. The Emperor expressed displeasure and said that it was unfortunate, and I said that since there were no means of knowing the details then at this time, I told the Emperor the necessity of making impairies of HOMURA and his staff after their return to Japan.

Q. When did ToJO discuss with you as to his knowledge of the late delivery of the note.

- A. I think TOJO was informed since such information was available, not only by short wave American broadcasts received by the Foreign Office, but by other means, such as Demei, and he most likely would have been informed by the Board of Introstica. Shortly after I learned it, I regall having spoken of the natter to TOJO saying that the American report aid that the attack had taken place before the delivery of the note and that the President was utilizing this fact in order to enhance animosity against Japan. Since all informed circles were aware of these American broadcasts, and that such an unfortunate occurrence had taken place was known to all well informed circles, and there is no likelihood that TOJO did not know.
- Q. On what date was this.
- A. At least within a week a rather wide circle of people were informed.

2/4

4/15

四六 記切雪 年 三月十一日(十 三的附東鄉茂德

能が主具位者デア

生 外が設 一度人心連 去見 0 通告八合歌口小友 議研究之多語 八外務省二日以 其 参與

三数 ツ田、ニカ、 道 スルレ 甚受住艺 運絡会議

更 可用 七日 肾 題八 小品 談 17.72 要送敬無 后

层 議之只見 研究的鐵 治見書日 七日 運絡在議 前 鬼ハレ 題 厘

4/15

事項等アツラモ之 Plo 建定一对心 天假令其心 松水及三名/書記 東條寫風物山 南国人二典三丁 一対之去見任かア が宮員ノ海当以外 俊等八、意远法上、家議 伊好的四层

F 1

外務省デ作成サレタモノデアル 接近人次置了項二從 受力ノ解似,最初人的 的国教的工工可認可 同防二般八道之首的外外 儿八十的客的運絡会議可決定力以多後、 過去の你成八リノ内 夕後、一九 亚一年一個 三、送ラルベキ党を書り五 併之、日的二郎レデ 多第 3個月夕月 图 新 日, 三月日八京歌子汉 解然二回道八八人 石二 ソノ河見書が、ソレニ合メラン 和十六 務省 n 活新金额 要項目小 実ン 当 29 有に正かん 41117 出力 何子 与 7 7 正江夕 艺 ト解 积 亍 国业 運 AST I 一日一日 作成力 祭之名。 爱兰教 絡住 即分 八年

No 3.

4115

佐サレタ、シカシ過見書自 説明が維熱サンタ、外 八更二説明 事が出界心。 一後一十九八八人後衛議 ナイが、別のイナー月 回阁議二

No 4

力、中見ろか強なるラフトカラ 藏的具及連絡会議 與之子八院等人少人 過書內容過一個三門便務会議 或ハンソショり深り見 雪月可容及灰行三國之 方がリノ白題可殿相的 主具在 下上了上八至館 当然了 维的見地三少不少八千 アンがテロ取像ノ音見住かでルデアラウ 発したかかかいトラと 给金额二元五具任人 ラッチアルシカシるのはかる 一分文文二學三十一天 スペラか連絡伝教 自 四 当是 101 力 あシカハ 少見 为小男性因少少时 近数三三儿生鬼 去見性アリ THE THE ルト思え 八、安見多人同等三、完 トルカラ 的病 友対ラホカナ 形式 的三天 九四見 全四見 いしい ト鬼フガ 立し 三見儿九九 ラカ史 100 不 5 十五

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教上ノ主見住分ルト思ス 連 識がで可決サンタノデアツ 三差コッアルカモシレナイが、南縁モックトモ名 絡会議就可可決力 コトハ何ニョラズ南 9。 黄性/程度

答 15) 刻十二月七日午後一的 ル大使 運事交付,方法一與人心詳細八能が知少于中 長官宛三渡サレルコト 通老日,友付二期少于八、 書司可及付及门目的リタ 当然反对人心中事的 りか、又能ノ同意可得 電信課是二三門谷然送可以見此川部示然送 ルコトトスフノデアル。 三朝之 牙八連絡会議 シテ田意かしのワケデアルの 館二部下が発でうし、即今ワシントン地 訓示 /全員がが知 シデキャンハ 三道書が成ルベク町務 及心指定的刻三川之 デハナクな一当到一事 強人ワシントン二於ケ リモノハ、外務省海西 テノ準備がすせ

166

加六 年三月十一日(一一一些)付 東鄉茂

Ast Pro

12

何放遊口八雪歌一就 支沙俊地二至见松小明 我口少对英的係人自然港處中心 12 的題小一方后家口 雪八野的大使二期 少要ナナツテ東ル 取极力之及合愛口酸 動う云ラ東方 實外 若门這通告人心 通 7年9 到ジルト大使ノケ ラ通告が行うつトトン りか二郎、金竹山夕、 三、 遊、 一一他的 告了我人以光感 三方文松八東七 デアツ フュデ 7 信節外 協定が 南 力当地 拉 際

4115

俊二渡心 结 果 15 = 知 過是書日 ノゴラン 詩門

7。至朔 告竹 二面少 ヲをへ 正午頃 日花 記憶 前 野 えん 例 狀態 左が湯 上思 12.