

EXHIBIT No. 3173

(17)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: NAKAJIMA, Torakichi

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 am NAKAJIMA, Torakichi. I live in No. 858, 2- Chome, Kamikitazawa-machi, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo.
2. I am an ex-lieutenant-general, and served as <sup>intendant</sup> to Prince NASHIMOTO till March, 1946.
3. As regards relation with General ARAKI, I was a major-general attached in the headquarters of the 6th Division at KUMAMOTO when he was Commander of the Division from 1929 to 1931. Thus, we both were in the same place while in KUMAMOTO. Since then we were on intimate terms in Tokyo. Moreover, we were class mates as students in the military Academy, I am therefore, one of those who know what kind of a man he is as a public and private man.
4. While in the 6th Division, I was in charge of the work on reservists, schools and the local affairs I am therefore

well conversant with his way of thinking and of doing things as well as his educational method as a division commander.

5. The fundamental of his military educational policy can be expressed in this one phrase "to make the army manifest the Emperor's virtue."
6. The general also used to tell officers attached to various universities, high schools, colleges and middle-schools that the education of students and pupils should not be training for war, but should be directed to guiding youngsters to develop their innate traits so as to turn out good citizens useful for the society, that is to say citizens punctually sound in health and bright minded. To say emphatically, one of the characteristics of his addresses to the attached officers was his strong appeal to them to let deans, principals and faculties of colleges and schools in which they were attached, have a clear understanding of the fact that the Japanese Army was not an army of militarism, of imperialism, particularly of the Prussian type but an army which was talking into it the benevolent heart of the Emperor, the real image of the Japanese Army. He said it was the major mission of the attached officers. He also used to tell them that the attached officers should be obedient to the school regulations and show examples of good behaviour. In selecting attached officers I was always ordered by him to pick up men of a harmonious mind rather than strong-willed or bullish man.

7. He always told me that the young officers of the Japanese Army should not be of the Prussian type but that they must always carry the character of the Imperial Army which embodies in it. -- His Majesty's heart.
8. One of my great reminiscences is what he said on one occasion during my four days stay with the general at KUMAMOTO for the purpose of attending the special great manoeuvres which was held in the neighborhood of KUMAMOTO in November 1931. In that year both the General and I myself were no longer in the 6th Division. At the time of the manoeuvres he was the chief of the Headquarters of the Department of Military Education.
- He said. "The army should be such as, even victorious, will not buy bitter feeling from the enemy and will be loved by the inhabitants in where it stays."
- He was emphatic on it even while he was the Commander of the 6th Division. Now he saw in the course of this maneuver forms being devastated as soliders and wagons trotted on their mercilessly. Pointing at that scene with his finger he sighed, "Despite my great effort in matters of education while in the 6th Division, cannot it bear any fruit yet?"

9. In Dec. of 1931 General ARAKI was appointed War Minister. As I was then living in TOKYO, I often called on him to hear him speak on various questions. He was then very much worrying over <sup>the disposition of</sup> the Manchurian Incident. He said that there was a danger of it developing into an all out clash between Japan and China, if we should leave it to take its own course and as the League of Nations failed to grasp the truth of the situation because the of one-sided propaganda of the Chinese, I for myself-should do my best to put an end to the armed fighting now going on, and to prevent the danger of an all out clash between Japan and China. He then said to the effect that after that he would endeavor to see the League of Nations and the other Powers brought together to take the right cognizance of the situation.

10. When I met the General at the time of the withdrawal from the League of Nations he said that it was decided at the Cabinet meeting not to withdraw, but as a result of the proceedings of the conference at Geneva, withdrawal took place.

~~became a matter of necessity,~~ Politics is a really difficult thing, complained he.

11. In may 1935 I called on the General shortly after the Tangku Treaty was signed. He was very cheerful and treated me with dinner. While dining, and having the meal with me, he

told me joyfully. "I think I have troubled you a good deal about the Manchurian Incident. I am, however, glad to say that it has been settled."

12. In January of 1934 he caught pneumonia. As his condition became quite serious he resigned his post as War Minister and became a patient in the sanatorium at Atami. I went to the sanatorium to inquire of his condition. He said: I am very sorry that I became ill at a very important moment. We are already out of the League. What I wished to do was to hold the opening of a Far Eastern conference in order to restore our cooperation with the Powers, but I became ill and found it impossible to take an active step in the Diet and elsewhere. This was the reason why I resigned, but I have my plans presented before the prime Minister SAITO and other ministers by letters, and as for the army since HAYASHI, my successor, pledged to carry it out, I think that it will be realized.

13. He was completely recovered and returned to TOKYO after a few months' rest when I called on him he was in ill humour. He sighed greatly because he could see no trace of any effort that had been paid for the realization of what he had so earnestly requested to the Premier and other ministers.

He said: "they were discussing only minor question. They took no interest in the work of getting a world-wide understanding for the peace of the Orient.

14. After the Feb. 26 affair he retired from the active service. Since then he was leading a quiet life confined in his residence and spending most of his time in reading. Meantime, with much concern he was only looking at the situation of the country which was being led by an extreme movement.
15. When the China Incident broke out.

Premier KONOE, recommended the General as the Education Minister so as to let him serve as the fire-extinguisher just as at the time of the Manchurian Incident. But as the Education Minister, unlike the War Minister, had no power over acts of the Army he could not do anything with the matter, though with all his efforts. I heard him murmuring: "As the Education Minister I can do nothing with the matter" I went to his official residence at NAGATA-CHO for congratulation as he became Minister of Education and learned it.

16. At the time of the conclusion of the Triple Alliance among Japan, Germany and Italy as well as the establishment of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association he was opposed strongly to both of these. He told me that he had been approached by Prince KONOE with the post of a State Councillor, but he had declined it saying that he would not accept in such a situation even to become a State councillor.

17. The general on many occasions warned us against mistaken liberalism, communism and totalitarianism. He firmly told us that we could make contributions toward world peace by perfect realization of the true way of Japan (the basis of which was the Imperial Spirit of benevolence). He was opposed to conquering or amalgamation of any other country or race. For instance, he was opposed to Japan's amalgamation of Korea. At that time he was in Russia and wrote a letter of opposition to Gen. UTSUNOMIYA, one of his intimate seniors, national structure or racial spirit of long standing should be respected and not violated. Especially we have never fought Anglo-Saxon, against which war should be avoided by any means. So he told us.

18. During the Pacific War opinion was prevailing that the monument of Commodore Perry at KURIHAMA should be withdrawn. I went and asked the general if it would be inevitable for unity of public opinion. Suddenly he became serious and said. "I am surprised that even you should say such a thing. The strong point of Japan is to have a sense of gratitude. We cannot deny that we owe much to America since the opening of our country to foreign trade. Though there have been some issues. Unfortunately the present war has broken out. But favors once received cannot be forgotten. Otherwise, where is Japan's strong point?"

While he was minister of War, oppression of Lancashire cotton industry and opposition against import of siamese rice were hotly debated. He was chatting with several visitors about them. I remember he strongly opined that it would be immoral to be ungrateful to the former benefactors in our need now that we didn't want their help any more.

On this 23 day of Aug., 1947

At Tokyo.

DEPONENT NAKAJIMA, Torakichi (seal)

I, HASUOKA Komei hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

At the same date

At the same place.

Witness: (signed) HASUOKA Komei (seal)

OATH

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

NAKAJIMA Torakichi (seal)