

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)
)
 vs) AFFIDAVIT
)
 ARAKI, Sadao, et al)

*Character
Witness*

DEPONENT: YOKOMIZO, Mitsuteru

I, YOKOMIZO, Mitsuteru, make oath and say as follows:

I am living at the home of TOYAMA, 221 Tsukimidei,
Hodagaya-ku, City of Yokohama.

A brief sketch of my personal history is as follows:
I was a full-time secretary of the Cabinet from May 1927
(the second Year of Showa) to July 1936 (the eleventh Year
of Showa), Chief of the Intelligence Bureau of the Cabinet
from September 1937 (the Twelfth Year); Governor of Okayama
Prefecture from February 1940 (the Fifteenth Year), Governor
of Kumamoto Prefecture from June 1942 (the Seventeenth Year)
and retired from that office in August 1944 (the Nineteenth
Year).

I was acquainted with Mr. ARAKI since he became a mem-
ber of the INUKAI Cabinet, and especially when he became
Chairman of the National Spiritual Mobilization Committee,
I worked under him as the Chief Secretary.

The National Spiritual Mobilization Movement was
started at the time when the China Incident, during the
period of the first KONOYE Cabinet, did not seem to be
settled easily and appeared as though it would last for a
long period. It was then feared that such situation might
induce spiritual slackness or degradation of the people.
The Education Ministry, therefore, planned a national move-
ment before Minister of Education ARAKI assumed his post,
but since it was related to every ministry by its nature
that later the Intelligence Bureau of the Cabinet assumed
the office of liaison and adjustment. Namely, the movement
was originated to animate the national spirit, to elevate
the consciousness and culture of the people, and thus to
materialize its aim in practical life. Accordingly, an
organization called the Central League of National Spiritual
Mobilization was set up and it became the central agency of
various civilian organizations and also served as a liaison
and adjustment agency as well as a driving force of the move-
ment. On the other hand, the Intelligence Bureau of the

Cabinet acted as a liaison agency among the various ministries.

However, viewing from its historical development, the movement was liable to fall into open criticism of being bureaucratic and self-righteous. It was decided, therefore, that its fundamental policy will be decided upon unanimously by both the officials and people of various fields and for that purpose a committee on the National Spiritual Mobilization was organized under the direct supervision of the Cabinet. Hence, it was the democratization of this movement.

Members of the Committee included the people from various fields such as government officials, political, academic and civilian circles, and by giving special attention to the women's standpoint, it was decided to include women among them and a minister of state was to be chosen for its chairman. Therefore, it was thought appropriate to appoint one of the Ministers either of Home Affairs or of Education and Mr. ARAKI, then Minister of Education and an exceeding idealist, was appointed for the post. The Intelligence Bureau of the Cabinet was to be in charge of the general affairs of this Committee, and naturally I was made its Chief Secretary. Although members of various committees hitherto included officials and peoples of various fields, their leaders were chosen chiefly from government officials. This Committee, however, appointed many civilians for its leaders in accordance with Mr. ARAKI's opinion, and it should be noted that this has contributed much toward its democratization.

This committee had often met and discussed the fundamental policy of the movement, and policies were always based upon the resolution adopted by the entire members of the committee.

Further, in carrying these policies into effect, its charge was transferred to the Central League of the National Spiritual Mobilization whereby accelerating the realization of such policies which were put into practice through various civilian organizations. Thus it will be seen that the Committee functions as a wedge between the government offices and civilians, and further the importance was placed on the everyday life of the people.

In my dealings with Mr. ARAKI, he was a man of sincerity itself, and one who never was unreasonable. Even after he became the Chairman, he had always allowed all the members to exhaustively discuss problems and he was not lead to a decision easily, so much so that I even became impatient about his method. He never coerced his opinion upon anyone but paid due respect for opinions of the members of the Committee. Moreover, he took notice of the fact that the

the Committee was often inclined to subject its opinions along the lines of current situations, that he even endeavored to pay attention to the elevation of the cultural level of the people to the utmost and reflect it on the everyday life and frequently advocated cheerful manners of living. However, when there was an argument on deciding July 7th, the day when the China Incident broke out, as the Day of Self-Examination for the people, a few members of the Committee contended strongly for it but the Chairman was of the opinion that it would stress merely the interest of the situation as such and that it would not quite agree with the purpose of fundamentally healthful development of national spirit. He thought, rather of deciding the first day of every month with due respect to the traditional Japanese custom as a day of self-examination and practice and designating it as the Service Day. As the members of the Committee agreed to it and by so deciding, it was avoided in allowing themselves to take advantage of the current situation.

The Chairman paid exceedingly scrupulous attention concerning such point.

Minister of Education ARAKI resigned several months after that and thus the discussion on this subject was not completed while he was its Chairman.

Next I shall relate about the documents discussed at the Cabinet Meetings.

I was the Chief of General Affairs of the Cabinet Secretariat at the INUKAI and SAITO Cabinets, to both of which Mr. ARAKI was War Minister, and so I was responsible for keeping in record the documents discussed at the Cabinet Meetings and subsequently passed to the Secretariat for safe keeping. The decision at the Cabinet Meetings was not necessarily done on documents, a considerable part of it was done verbally. Moreover, quite a number of documents on which decision had been made at the meeting was not given to the Secretariat for safe keeping. It was not a customary practice to make record of the Cabinet Meetings.

YOKOMIZO, Mitsuteru

Subscribed and sworn to before the under-signed officer by the above-named YOKOMIZO, Mitsuteru, at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, on this _____ day of August 1947.
