

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS FOR MAJOR WAR CRIMES
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Date 5 March 1947

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George A. Furners.
Attorney

By K. Kinn

AFFIDAVIT OF GENERAL UGAKI, KAZUSHIGE

I, UGAKI, ^K Kazushige, swear on my conscience that the following is true:

I am 79 years of age and reside at Nagaoka, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan.

I am a retired general in the Imperial Japanese Army.

I held the post of War Minister from January 1924 until the Spring of 1927 and from the spring of 1929 until the end of the spring of 1931 and was Governor General of Korea from June 1931 until the end of the summer of 1936. After my return from Korea, His Imperial Majesty ordered me to form a cabinet but since the Army refused to recommend any War Minister for any cabinet of which I was to be Prime Minister, his order could not be carried out.

I was appointed Councillor to the Cabinet at the end of autumn of 1937, which post I held until I became Foreign Minister in the First Konoye Cabinet in May 1938, succeeding Hirota Koki and was Foreign Minister until I resigned in September 1938. During the time that I was Foreign Minister, General Itagaki was War Minister and Shigemitsu Mamoru was Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The policy of the Government of which I was a member was to remain at peace with the Soviet Union and to avoid war.

About the middle of July 1938, as Foreign Minister, I was informed by someone from the War Office, I believe General Itagaki, that entry of Soviet Forces across the border into Korea or Manchuria was imminent and stating that the Army would take certain purely defensive measures transferring certain divisions from central to eastern Manchuria. I immediately sent telegraphic instructions to the embassy in Moscow, giving instructions that the utmost be done to settle the matter peacefully.

From then until the incident was finally settled I was in constant touch with the embassy sending the Ambassador ~~instructions~~ by telegram almost daily and receiving about as many telegrams from him in reply. The objective from beginning to end of the government, the Foreign Office and the Ambassador was to remain at peace and to prevent the incident from breaking into war. In order to accomplish this it was proposed that the opposing forces withdraw. I was kept constantly informed by Mr. Shigemitsu's telegrams and knew that my instructions were being carried out. Through Mr. Shigemitsu's effort an agreement was reached in Moscow for the withdrawal of the opposing troops and for ceasing hostilities. The troops were withdrawn within two or three days of the signing of the agreement and hostilities ceased. Since I was of the opinion that through Mr. Shigemitsu's skillful and expert handling of negotiations this border incident

had been prevented from enlarging into general war and causing great harm to both nations, I sent him a telegram of commendation and appreciation.

This part of the frontier was in dispute, ^{was} ~~is~~ not clearly marked and the incident took place in the disputed area. It was a typical border incident, each side saying ~~that~~ one crossed the border into the other's territory and fired the first shots. The clash started with isolated volleys of patrols but later there were several hundred casualties but at no time did it develop into general war.

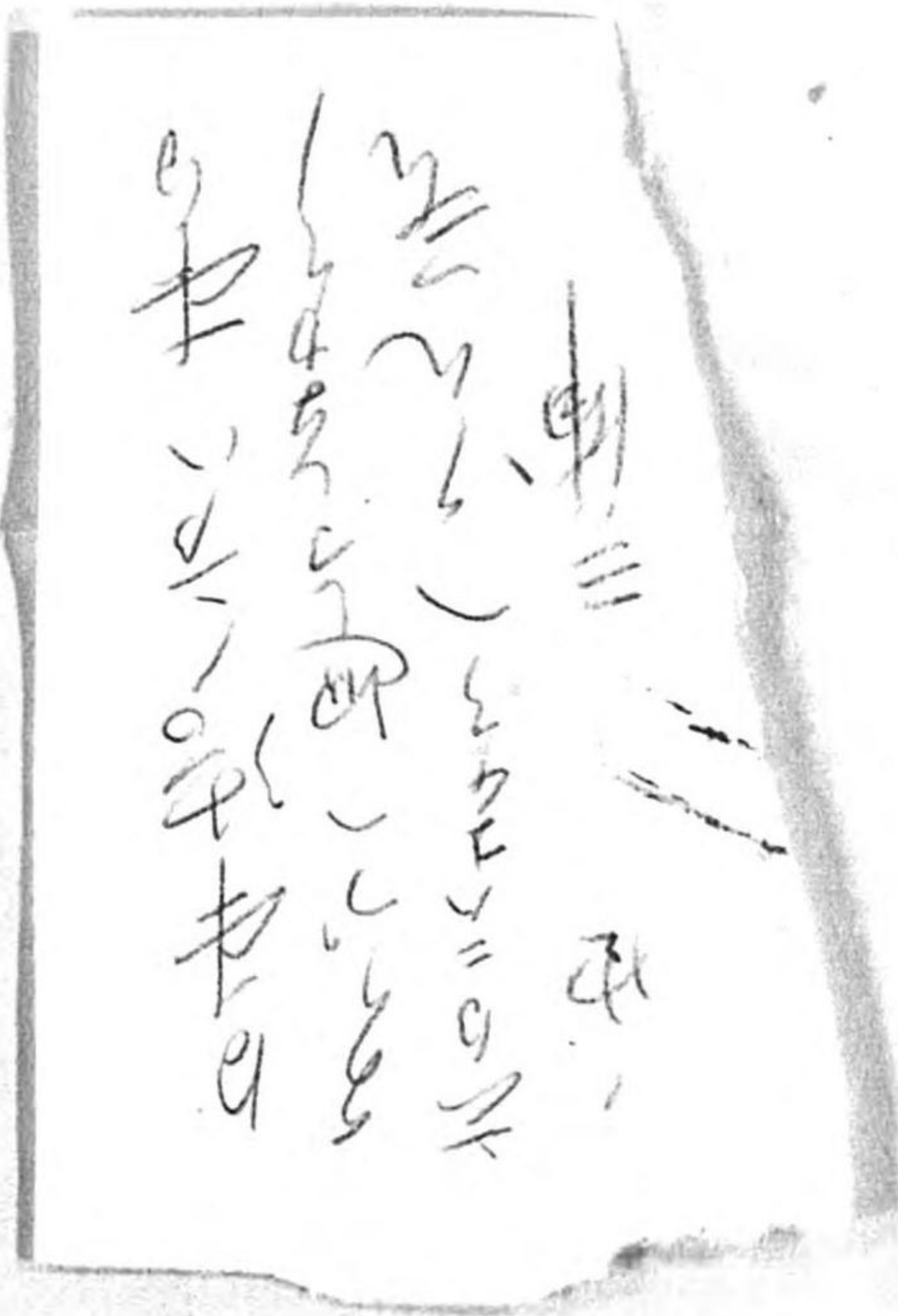
In order to avoid recurrence of such incidents, Mr. Shigemitsu recommended the appointment of a joint Soviet-Japanese Commission to settle and mark the border. I concurred in his suggestion and instructed him accordingly. However, since I retired shortly thereafter and Mr. Shigemitsu was transferred to London as Ambassador, I do not know what became of the recommendation.

The appointment of Mr. Shigemitsu to the post of Ambassador to Great Britain was made by me shortly prior to my resignation as Foreign Minister. At that time relations between that country and Japan were very delicate and required expert handling. It was a promotion and did not indicate any dissatisfaction with his work in Moscow. Furthermore, I had heard from no one in Russia nor anywhere else that the Soviet Union did not desire him as Ambassador nor that that country was dissatisfied with his work. I knew that he had done his best to carry out the policy of the Government to remain at peace with the Soviet Union, ^{that} if he had been successful and wished to reward him. More important I knew from his skillful handling of this incident of his great ability and I believed that if this ability ~~was~~ transferred to London it would be beneficial to Japan.

February 22, 1947

(signed) Kazushige Ugaki

WITNESS:
(signed) Kazuichi MIURA



The box contains several columns of handwritten Japanese characters. The characters are somewhat stylized and difficult to read precisely, but they appear to be a signature or a set of initials. There are approximately four columns of text, with varying lengths and some horizontal lines interspersed.