

DEF. DOC. # 2475

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

RE-DIRECT INTERROGATORY FOR MR. EUGEN OTT

By Tatsuki Shimanouchi

Counsel for Defendant Oshima

- I. With respect to Paper No. 1 attached to the crossinterrogatory in behalf of the Prosecution (a telegram from Ott, dated 31 December 1939);

Question 1. You stated in your telegram that: "according to opinions of Ambassadors Oshima and Shiratori who are strongly working for the collapse of the present cabinet" Please state concretely what actions Oshima took in this respect; furthermore, please state also the basis of your knowledge about this matter.

ANS ER: This is a general situation report which reflected the political pressure in Japan. The Cabinet was inefficient and was being attacked from various sides. The

opposition of Oshima and Shiratori was not a determining factor. I do not remember the details of their actions and the basis of my knowledge.

Question 2. On what occasion, or under what circumstances, did Oshima make the statement referred to in your telegram that: "still 2 or 3 more transition cabinets will be necessary in order to bring about a fundamental change of course"?

ANSWER: It was generally accepted that the Japanese Cabinet should follow a more conciliatory course. It was mentioned by Oshima in one of my personal unofficial discussions with him. The change of the Cabinet in Japan was a subject of common conversations at the time.

II. With respect to Paper No. 2 attached to the crossinterrogatory in behalf of the Prosecution (a telegram from Ott, dated 23 January 1940);

Question 1. You stated in this telegram with respect to the settlement of the question of Germans taken away from SS "Asama-Maru" by the British that: "Step by step tactics are, in view of the Japanese

mentality, the only ones with prospect of success; this is also in accordance with the strong advice by Ambassadors Oshima and Shiratori", on what occasion, or under what circumstances, was this advice of Oshima made?

II.

ANSWER: I asked the personal personal advice of Oshima in this matter, which was complicated and had to be handled under special consideration of the Japanese sensibility. For this purpose I expected Oshima's experience would be helpful.

III. With respect to Paper No. 3, attached to the cross-interrogatory in behalf of the Prosecution (a telegram from Ott, dated 26 January 1940);

Question 1. You stated in this telegram Oshima's opinion on the relations between the visit of Duke of Koburg to Japan and the anti-British movements in Japan; on that occasion, or under what circumstances, was this opinion expressed by Oshima?

ANSWER: I paid a visit to Oshima at his home in only to get his advice and to find a way out of the resistance of the Japanese Government against the

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mission of the Duke. I expected a more favorable reaction of Ribbentrop by expressing also the opinion of Oshima. I did not suggest to Oshima that I might quote him on the matter.