

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATE OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al



SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: GOTO, Ryunosuke

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.

AFFIDAVIT OF TAKANOSUKE GOTO

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EXHIBIT # _____

1. I, TAKANOSUKE Goto, upon graduation in 1919 from a law class of the Imperial University engaged in the activity of Nippon Seinenkan, a foundation of which the late Prince Konoye was chairman. I also participated in the organization of the Association called Dai Nippon Rengo Seinenkan (The Japanese Federation of Young Men's Associations) and undertook the management of this Association.

In 1932 I toured Europe and America and upon my return to Japan and with the assistance of liberals and people with socia-

listic thinking established a society named Showa Kenkyukai (Showa Research Society) for the purpose of achieving political renovation; and, in furtherance of this purpose, I engaged in research concerning various political, economic and cultural problems facing this country. After the outbreak of the China Incident in 1937 with the belief that the only way toward a speedy settlement of the Incident lay in the formation of a political party powerful enough to hold down the military in this country and in the hope of obtaining the good cooperation of the Nationalistic Party in China, I rendered assistance to Prince Konoye in the creation of Taisei Yokusan-Kai (The Imperial Rule Assistance Association).

After its establishment, however, this Association drifted away from the course which we originally planned for it and because of this I severed my connection with it six months after its inauguration.

2. Mr. KAYA and I attended the First High School together and after our graduation from the University. We continued to have friendly relation. Because of this I have come to have a real knowledge of his character and personal and of his business life.

a. Mr. Kaya has spent his entire adult career as a civil servant until finally by advancement he became the administrative

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head of one of the Government departments. His career has been that of a public official developed through civil service who had devoted the majority part of his business life in its service in the field of finance.

b. He had no association with the military clique, the Rightists, or the Leftists and he was recognized by the Japanese people solely as a distinguished financial expert and not as a political figure.

3. I know that he was very indifferent to his personal affairs in official life and never once sought to gain a high position such as Finance Minister. I was a classmate of the late Prince Konoye and since graduation from the University maintained constant contact with him. We were on such friendly terms that from time to time I expressed freely to him my views on political affairs and he on his part often consulted me on state affairs and discussed his unreserved opinions. Aside from secret state affairs I was fairly well posted with back stage political information centering around him.

a. In June 1937 when Prince Konoye was in the task of forming his first Cabinet I knew that he recommended Mr. Kenji Kodama as the first candidate for Finance Minister. But as Mr. Kodama refused to accept the office, his thoughts turned

to the selection of Mr. KAYA, whom I had strongly recommended.

b. While Prince Konoye recognized the ability and talent of Mr. KAYA as a financial administrator he was aware of the fact that Mr. KAYA was a man who was not well considered in military circles because of his persistent objection for many years to increases in military budgets. And therefore Prince Konoye was very hesitant in naming Mr. KAYA for Finance Minister.

However, since he failed to locate any other deemed suitable and also because he wanted to infuse some freshness into the lineup of his new Cabinet he eventually recommended Mr. KAYA for the position notwithstanding the latter's unfavorable standing in military circles. This is what I heard personally from the late Prince Konoye at that time.

4. In May 1938 when the first Konoye Cabinet was reorganized, as had been anticipated Mr. KAYA resigned his position due to the pressure of opposition to his retention of the office exerted by Army circles. Prince Konoye asked me to call on Mr. KAYA and request his resignation as the Army was strongly opposed to his continuance as Finance Minister. I conveyed to Mr. KAYA Prince Konoye's wishes. As the result, Mr. KAYA resigned his post and Mr. Seihin Ikeda entered the Cabinet in his place.

5. Toward the advent of 1941 there existed grave concern over the American Japanese relations. Both Mr. KAYA and myself feeling it to be a vital necessity to maintain a peaceful relation with America, had on several occasions exchanged views on this crucial matter.

When Mr. KAYA assumed the Finance portfolio in the Cabinet succeeding the Third Konoye Cabinet, which was formed by General TOJO who was regarded by the people as one holding the strongest attitude toward America I was struck with surprise and felt some displeasure. But when I saw Mr. Kido, the then Keeper of the Privy Seal, he explained the situation thusly: "General TOJO has no mind to start a war with America as you think he does. Following faithfully the wishes of the Emperor of amicable settling the issue between the two countries he is endeavoring to do his best in the conduct of the negotiations with America." I felt that I had misunderstood Mr. KAYA's mind in his affiliation with the TOJO Cabinet therefore, I called on Mr. KAYA at his office and talked with him on his decision to Join the Cabinet. This was about 10 days after the TOJO Cabinet was formed. Mr. KAYA replied to me to the following effect: "I would not have joined the Cabinet if it had already been decided to make war. I asked General TOJO about this and he told me that he wanted to continue negotiations with America and was endeavoring to settle

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the issue with diplomatic negotiations. So I accepted the post in his Cabinet. This dispelled my concept of Mr. KAYA's mind and I left his office encouraging him to exert his best effort toward an amicable settlement of the American Japanese party.

On this 16th day of July, 1947
at Tokyo.

DEPONENT GOTO, Ryunosuke (seal)

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

On the same date
at Tokyo.

Witness (signed) TANAKA, Yasumichi (seal)

OATH

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

GOTO, Ryunosuke (seal)