

Exhibit 2678

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: HANAWA, Gikei

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:

During the four years from the time I arrived at Hsinking as counsellor of the Japanese Embassy in Manchoukuo, on 12 November 1940, until the time when General UMEZU, appointed Chief of the General Staff, left for Tokyo at the end of August 1944, I worked under him. I believe that I am one of those who best know his character and his political ideas.

Ambassador UMEZU's first principle was maintenance of peace and order in Manchoukuo; he adopted the policy of having no trouble with the Soviet for the sake of the healthy progress of Manchoukuo; he instructed the Chief of General Affairs Board TAKEBE, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs SHIMOMURA, and myself who was in charge of the Japanese Diplomatic Mission. This principle of his was strengthened after the outbreak of the Pacific War. The fact that he decided all questions according to this principle is clearly demonstrated by the following examples:

In the middle of December 1942, as Japanese Ambassador and Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army, UMEZU went to Tokyo to report on Manchoukuo's general condition and at this occasion he reported to the Emperor that he was devoting his utmost efforts to keeping peace with the Soviet. After he came back to Hsinking he told me that his report satisfied the Emperor, as His Majesty was also worried about Soviet relations, and that the Emperor instructed him to see that all instructions regarding this matter reach thoroughly to his subordinates.

Immediately after I arrived at Hsinking at the end of 1940, I heard the report that ISOMURA, who was in charge of information (Kwantung Army) told a member of the Embassy staff that UMEZU, in settling the Nomonhan Incident, strictly instructed his men that any border incident be settled by consultation with Tokyo. Following the outbreak of the Pacific War, his ideal, as he became more careful, found expression in many ways in Manchoukuoan politics; for example, in 1943 a Public Administration Order was issued to frontier officials to the effect that when floating timber on border rivers reached Manchoukuo territory, it should not be dealt with directly but instructions from the central government in Hsinking must be waited.

In Dairen, in 1943, he invited the Dairen police chief to visit him and advised him to be careful as to activities against personnel of the Soviet Consulate by way of prevention of espionage, due to the complicated international relations and such people's status as foreign diplomats. As a result, if I remember correctly there was no trouble concerning relations with the Soviet in Dairen.



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Shortly after his visit to Dairen, he visited Harbin and gave the same advice to the Chief of the Special Services Section, Major General Doi. In Harbin there were minor troubles--what might be considered as the revenge for Soviet pressure on Japanese Consulate personnel in Chita and Blagoveshchensk. It was, however, all settled by Manchoukuo's compliance.

About July 1942, when the German Minister Wagner visited him to sound the intention of the Kwantung Army concerning Japan's joining the Russo-German War, he expressed his opinion that it would be most advantageous for Japan to concentrate on the Greater East Asia War even though the question of Japan's joining the Russo-German War was a matter for Tokyo to decide, and thus he gave him indirectly the impression that he was against it.



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OATH

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

/s/ Hanawa, Gikei (seal)

On this 25th day of April, 1947

At TOKYO

DEPONENT HANAWA, Gikei (seal)

I, ONO, Kisaku 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) ONO, Kisaku (seal)