

Def. Doc. No. 2087

Exh. No. 3178

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al
-vs-
ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition (Translation)

Deponent: SHIBAYAMA, Kaneshiro

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.

I, SHIBAYAMA, Kaneshiro, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, in accordance with the customs of my country, depose as follows:

I have been asked if I am acquainted with the accused, DOHIHARA, Kenji, and if I were familiar with his activities during the time immediately preceding and following the Mukden Incident. Also, I have been asked if I am acquainted with one General Ching Teh-Chen, a Chinese general who was a witness for the prosecution, and as to whether I ever had a conversation with him concerning the accused DOHIHARA at Chungshan Park in Peking. I do have knowledge of these facts and desire to make the following statement concerning them.

From December, 1928, until October, 1931, I served under General Chang Hsueh-Liang of Manchuria as a military advisor. For about eight months in the beginning; that is, from December 1928, I was assistant to General DOHIHARA, who was for that period of time military advisor to Gen. Chang Hsueh-Liang. During that period of time I became well and personally acquainted with him, knew his policies and often discussed them with him. On many occasions he emphasized that the secret of friendly relations between Japan and China was for the Japanese to study more deeply the state of affairs in China and to carry on friendly relations between the two peoples in good faith, discarding the Japanese superiority complex, and to refrain absolutely from enforcing our will by unilateral force.

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In my association with General DOHIHARA, I came to learn that he was sincere in his efforts and firmly believed in dealing with the utmost sincerity with anything and everything that called for his attention. He is good natured and studious, and I can state as a fact that it is no mere coincidence that he should have held such high educational posts as President of the Military Academy and Inspector General of Military Education. Not only did General DOHIHARA advocate his policies, but in territories under his command he required a strict observance of those policies. I know this to be a positive fact because in January, 1938, I accompanied Lt. Gen. Umezu, Yoshijiro, the then Vice Minister of War, on a tour of inspection of the battle lines of North China. On this tour we visited Tsoushieng, which was the headquarters of General DOHIHARA. I was greatly surprised to learn that tranquility prevailed throughout the city and that it was at the height of prosperity. It was hard for me to realize that this was actually the base of military operations nearest the front line of battle.

In 1937, prior to the tour of inspection which I have just mentioned and at the time of the occurrence of the China Incident, General DOHIHARA was Commander of the 14th Division at Utsunomiya, Japan, and was ordered to go to North China. It is a fact that the masses of the people of North China were deeply impressed by his policy and actually crowded to areas under his control because they knew they would be able to pursue their callings in peace and contentment, without undue interference from the Japanese military. Our inspection tour confirmed everything we had heard concerning the situation in the territories under the command of General DOHIHARA.

On September 9, 1931, immediately prior to the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident, by order of General Chang Hseuh-Liang I was sent to Tokyo in connection with the murder of Captain Nakamura, Shintaro, and returned to Peking on September 24th of the same month. While I was in Tokyo, Gen. DOHIHARA was there to make his report as Chief of the special military organ at Mukden on the progress being made in the Captain Nakamura case. I met him and talked with him in Tokyo on September 14th.

During the presentation of the prosecution's case, General Ching Ten-Chin, with whom I am well and personally acquainted, appeared before this Tribunal as a prosecution witness and testified that five days before the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident General Ching met a friend of

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his by the name of SHIBAYAMA, who was also a mutual friend of the defendant DOHIHARA, in Chungshan Park in Peking. At this meeting General Ching stated that the Shibayama with whom he conversed said in substance: "DOHIHARA is about to go to Manchuria to embark on some big project." General Ching has always been friendly with me and I have been friendly with him and consider him as my friend, and while he was in Tokyo, and after his testimony, I was contacted by him and he stated that he had used my name before the Tribunal and also told me in what connection. I was surprised at the General's carelessness in using my name in such connection because I know that I am the only Shibayama who is a friend of both General Ching and General DOHIHARA.

As shown by my previous statements concerning my whereabouts on the date referred to by General Ching, it would have been quite impossible for me to have discussed General DOHIHARA at that time and place, and, in fact, I have never at any time told General Ching anything about the foregoing affair, much less mentioned the name of General DOHIHARA in connection therewith. In his conversation with me General Ching told me he had used my family name, Shibayama, but not my given name.

Due to the fact that I was engaged in work in the Captain NAKAMURA case, and I know General DOHIHARA was spending most of his time on the case, and knowing his whereabouts just prior to the outbreak of the Mukden Incident in September, 1931, I was very greatly surprised to learn that anyone could seriously consider he had any connection with it.

On this 15th day of August, 1947
At Tokyo

Deponent: /S/ SHIBAYAMA, Kaneshiro (seal)

I, OHTA, Kinjiro, 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 the same place.

Witness: /S/ OHTA, Kinjiro (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ SHIBAYAMA, Kaneshiro (seal)