

EXHIBIT No. 3226

(8)

Def. Doc. # 2420

Exh. No.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

I, Major-General Francis Stewart Gilderoy Piggott,
C.B., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Royal Engineers, of
Rapsley, Ewhurst, in the County of Surrey, England, having
been first duly sworn, make oath and say that the attached
photostatic copy marked "1" is a true copy of a statement
dated December 26, 1946, given by me for use in the
trial of major war criminals before the International
Military Tribunal for the Far East now sitting in Tokyo,
and that such statement is in all respects true.

F. S. G. Piggott (signed)

SUBSCRIBED and sworn to before me)
at Cranleigh in the County of)
Surrey, England, this 24th day)
of July, 1947.)

Basil C. W. Hart (signed)
A Commissioner for Oath

Baron Kiichiro HIRANUMA.

Statement by Major-General F.S.G. Piggott, Military
Attache to the British Embassy, Tokyo, 1921-1926 and 1936-1939.

I had met the Baron at social and official functions in Tokyo on many occasions during my various tours of duty in Japan, but I had no personal intimate association with him until 1939.

In June of that year, when the "Tientsin crisis" was at its height, I was approached by a confidential agent of the Baron (then Prime Minister) at the instance of Mr. Dooman, American Charge d'Affaires, to convey certain suggestions from Baron Hiranuma to the British Ambassador, having as their object the peaceful settlement of the Tientsin problem, and consequentially many other outstanding difficulties. The name of the agent was Mr. Minoru FUJII, a retired Foreign Office official who had been Consul-General in Singapore during the 1914-18 War. (we spoke English and Japanese alternatively)

The reason for this extra-ordinary approach was that the Japanese Army Command in North China, who were practically independent of the Ministry of War in Tokyo, were so incensed at the alleged un-neutral attitude of the British authorities in Tientsin that they were determined to settle the matter there, on the spot. Baron HIRANUMA,

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on the other hand, wished to have a conference held in Tokyo in a calmer atmosphere; and it would have been impossible for Mr. Arita, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to make such a proposal to Sir Robert Craigie without the consent of the Army authorities in North China.

The Baron felt that a conference in Tientsin would be useless, as there could be no British representation with powers and prestige equal to those of Army Headquarters; obviously the British Ambassador could not attend. In order to solve this grave problem to the mutual advantage of both countries he was going behind the back of his own Minister of Foreign Affairs in order to obtain, if possible, British consent to a conference in Tokyo. With this information, i.e. British consent, in his possession, he felt confident of being able to arrange matters satisfactorily with the Ministries of War and Foreign Affairs, and also with the Army in North China.

It was my privilege to conduct the negotiations between the British Ambassador and the Prime Minister, through the above-named intermediary, successfully, and Mr. Arita informed Sir Robert Craigie on the evening of June 23 that the Japanese Government were ready to have a conference in Tokyo. The major credit for this happy outcome was of course due to the Prime Minister himself, and to the goodwill of his trusted emissary, Mr. Fujii.

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Before leaving Japan in November of the same year I dined and spent the evening with Baron Hiranuma at his private residence (he was no longer Prime Minister) and learnt something of his hopes for the future, based on solid friendship with England and America. we spoke in Japanese.

Not only had he prevented a clash between England and Japan in the summer, but his influence had been thrown in the scales against a formal Alliance with Germany which had been urged by Germany and certain quarters in Japan; the Minister of Marine (Admiral Yonai) had supported him. On account of the services I had rendered in the Tientsin matter I was kept informed of the progress of the abortive negotiations with Germany. The idea that Baron Hiranuma planned aggressive war against either Great Britain or the United States is fantastic; the exact opposite is the truth.

26. 12. 1946.

/S/ F.S.G.Piggott