

D. P # 2279

I M T F E

United States Of America, et al
~~Prosecutors~~

— V. —

ARAKI, Sadao, et al
~~Defendants~~

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent : YONAI, Mitsumasa

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 am Ex-Admiral YONAI, Mitsuomasa.

The ^{relationship} connection between ^I and ^{ARAKI} Mr. Araki is that, at the time of the First Kono Cabinet, ^{where} ~~while~~ ^{when} I was the Minister of the Navy, ^{ARAKI} Mr. Araki ^{was} ~~took up~~ ^{as} the post of Cabinet Councilor ^{from} on the 15th ~~of~~ ⁱⁿ October of the 12th year of Showa (1937), and then joined the Cabinet as the Minister of Education ^{from} at the end of May in the 13th year of Showa (1938) ^{when he joined the cabinet and then} continuing in the ^{same} office in the Hiranuma Cabinet. ^{He also} I had him take office ⁱⁿ as a cabinet councilor of my Cabinet.

The Councilor is a nominal position in itself and it is a ^{post} ~~existence~~ with no ~~recognized~~ authority ~~of its standing~~ in institutionally. I was opposed ~~of~~ to ~~the~~ founding ~~of~~ such a ~~post~~ institution, for, in case the Councilors should go too far beyond ~~its~~ ^{their} authorized ~~limit bounds~~, ~~it~~ ^{they} would ^{act as a} check to the cabinet and become detrimental to the Constitution.

However, as Prince ~~Kono~~ KONOE said ^{that} ~~it would be~~ ^{he} ~~merely~~ ^{at} hearing each Councilor's opinion in order ~~that he might~~ to broaden his ^{own} ~~vision~~, ^{the Councilor} ~~it~~ was temporarily established for ^{dealing with matters concerning} ~~executing~~ the China ^{Incident} Affairs.

At the time of its foundation ~~an~~ earnest efforts were ~~was~~ made by each Councilor for the earliest termination of the China Affairs, ~~but this was~~ ^{Incident} ~~but quite apart from~~ ^{but} ~~the Cabinet~~. Being extremely anxious about the China Affairs, ^{Incident} Mr. Araki ^{also} ~~per~~ exerted his utmost efforts as a Councilor.

but did not ^{succeed in getting} gain any notable results.

~~A little~~ Over half a year later he joined the Cabinet as ~~the~~ Minister of Education. At that time, ^{however,} ~~the~~ issue of the China ^{Incident} ~~Affair~~ was discussed chiefly ^{by} at the Five Ministers Council consisting of ^{the} Premier, and the Ministers of War, Navy, Foreign Affairs and Finance ~~where~~ who were ^{the heads of the} ~~Ministries~~ ^{concerned} ~~directly in the~~ ^{Incident,} ~~the~~ ^{no relationship} ~~with~~ it ~~and~~ ^{outside} so long as it was not placed on the procedure of a special cabinet meetings. ^{Even in HIRANUMA} ~~In~~ the Hiranuma Cabinet just as in the ^{KONOE} ~~KONOE~~ Cabinet Mr. ^{ARAKI} ~~Araki~~ did not take part in the discussion of the current problems at all. ~~As~~ Since the "Tripartite Pact" issue occupied the predominant ^{some} ~~matter~~ ^{item} of this Cabinet's work, its basic matters were discussed among the five Ministers. But ~~as~~ ~~Minister of War~~ ~~ITAGAKI~~ ^{stand} ~~was~~ ^{for} ~~the~~ ~~con-~~ ~~clusion~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Pact~~ ^{as settlement could not readily be} there was a diversion of opinion ^{accomplished} and the cabinet resigned en bloc.

When I was appointed Premier, I ^{tried to have} ~~wished~~ Mr. ^{ARAKI} ~~Araki~~ ^{but} to assume the ^{ship} ~~Minister~~ ^{of} Home Affairs, which he positively declined to ~~undertake~~. Therefore I requested

him to become a councillor and gained his acceptance.
The Councillor, as I stated before, had no particular
authority vested in ^{him to become one} ~~me~~, but I asked ~~his favor~~ ^{consider-}
^{as} ~~ing~~ that Mr. ^{ARAKI} ~~Araki~~ would surely ^{a good} ~~deserve~~ to be my
consultant. I do not know much about the details
of his reasons for his refusing the position of the Home
minister. ~~But~~ I supposed that he had little
confidence in himself as to his settling the
situation, partly because he knew ^{that} the situation
was too difficult for anyone to carry out the
^{national} ~~the~~ ~~hope~~ and foreign policies in a merely
ordinary way, and especially because he
differed in opinion ^{was} ~~and estranged~~ ~~→~~
~~estranged~~ from the then central authorities
of the Army, ~~having a different opinion~~
~~differing from them in opinion~~, and
~~estranged from them~~

During the 1st KONOYE and the HIRANUMA
cabinets the CHANG KU FEN and NOMONHAN Incidents
broke out. The cabinets considered them ^{would be}
as ^{on the spot} ~~accidental events on the spots~~ and ~~to be settled~~ ^{easily}
to be settled. Counter-measures were not
seriously debated at cabinet conferences.
Information of their developments reached
post factum.

On this 7th day of March, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT YONAI, Mitsumasa (seal)

I, TOKUOKA, Jirō, 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) TOKUOKA, Jirō (seal)

OATH

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

YONAI, Mitsmasa (seal)

D. D. # 2279



極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫 其他

宣誓供述書

供述書

朱内光



自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シ

タル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス

1681

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私は元海軍大将米内光政であります

私と荒木氏との関係は第一次近衛内閣当時私は海軍大臣として荒木氏は昭和十二年十月十五日内閣参議として次で昭和十三年五月末文部大臣として入閣以来平沼内閣に留任閣僚として知つて居る又私の内閣に参議に就任して世貝つた

参議は元来有名無実の役割で制度上は何の權威もない存在であつた参議が権限を越へて行動すれば内閣を制肘して憲法上有害となるから私は如此制度を設ける事には反対して居たが近衛公が自分の識見助長の為の單なる各人の意見を向くに過ぎないといふので支那事変又處理の為に臨時的に設けられた

✓ 創立の当時各参議は支那事変を急速に終結せしむるため熱心に活動せられたがそれは内閣とは全く別箇のものであつた

荒木氏も支那事変を極度に憂へて参議として盡力したが効果を見るに至らなかつた

其後半年餘を経て文部大臣として入閣されたが当時支那事変問題を中心として内閣閣僚たる總理陸、海、外、大藏の五相會議に於て相談せられて文部大臣は特別閣議にかけられる以外は内閣に入る事はなかつた

平沼内閣に於ても近衛内閣と同様荒木氏は全然時局問題の討議には参画して居なかつた同内閣は三國同盟問題を中心であつたので五相に於て基本を討議したが、政局の不安定の爲め容易に議は纏はずに内閣は辞職した

私が總理大臣を拜命した時内相として荒木氏を迎へんとしたが固辞したので参議として特に懇請し受諾されたが参議は前記述べた如く別に権能はないが荒木氏も理想も政權も中正である事を承知して居たから

相談相手

相談相手 ~~知~~ ^{なる} 思つて要望したのである内相を受けなかつた理由は詳しく

は判らぬが時局は尋常の事では内外政策の收拾は困難であり特

に当時氏は陸軍中央部のものと意見を見を異にして居て疎くなつて居

た ~~時局~~ 時局の收拾に自信を有していなかつたものと推測した

第一次近衛及平沼内閣の時に張鼓峰及ノモンハン事件があつ

たが内閣では出先に偶発した事件で容易に片附くもの

として其處理は閣議には八ヶ向敷向題として出なかつた

経過は爾後報告があつた位のものである



昭和二十二年(一九四七年)三月七日於

東京都目黒区富土見台一五四五

供述者

米内光政



右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證

明シマス

同日

於同所

立會人

徳岡二郎



Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAFI, Sadat, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: YONAI, Mitsumasa

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 am Ex-Admiral YONAI, Mitsumasa.

The relationship between Mr. ARAFI and I is that,
at the time of the First FOUZE Cabinet when I was Minister
of the Navy, I know Mr. ARAFI as a Sub-Cabinet Council member of the 15th

of October in the 12th year of Showa (1937) and Minister of Education from the end of May in the 13th year of Showa (1938) when he joined the cabinet and then continuing in the same office in the HIRANUMA Cabinet. He also served as a cabinet councillor in my Cabinet.

The position of Councillor is a nominal position in itself and is a post with no authority institutionally. I was opposed to the founding of such a post, for, in case Councillors should go beyond their authority, they would act as a check to the cabinet and become detrimental to the Constitution. However, as Prince KONOE said that ^{he} aimed merely at hearing each Councillor's opinion in order to broaden his view, the post was temporarily established for dealing with matters concerning the China Incident.

At the time of its foundation earnest efforts were made by each councillor for the earliest termination of the China Incident but this was done, independently of the Cabinet. Being extremely anxious about the China Incident, Mr. RAKI also exerted his utmost efforts as a councillor but did not succeed in getting results.

Over half a year later he joined the Cabinet as Minister of Education. At that time, however, the China Incident was discussed chiefly at the Five Ministers Council consisting of the Premier, and the Ministers of War, Navy,

Foreign Affairs and Finance who were concerned directly with the Incident. The Minister of Education himself had no relationship with it outside of special cabinet meetings. Even in the HIRANUMA Cabinet just as in the KONOE Cabinet Mr. ARAKI did not take part in the discussion of current problems at all. Since the "Tripartite Pact" issue occupied the predominant item of this same cabinet, its basic matters were discussed among the five Ministers. But as settlement could not readily be accomplished the cabinet resigned.

When I was appointed Premier, I tried to have Mr. ARAKI assume the ministership of Home Affairs but he positively declined. Therefore I requested him to become a councillor and gained his acceptance. The Councillor, as I stated before, had no particular authority but I asked him to become one as Mr. ARAKI would be a good consultant. I do not know the details of his reasons for refusing the

position of the Home Minister but. I supposed that he had little confidence in himself as to his settling the situation, partly because he knew that the situation was too difficult for anyone to carry out the national and foreign policies in a merely ordinary way, and especially because he differed in opinion and was estranged from the

then central authorities of the Army.

During the 1st FONOYE and the HIRAYAMA Cabinets the CHANG KU FENG and NOMONHAI Incidents broke out. The Cabinets considered them as on the spot accidental events and would be easily settled. Countermeasures were not seriously debated at cabinet conferences. Information of their developments reached post factum.

On this 7th day of March, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT YONAI, Mitsumasa (so 1)

I, TOKUOKA, Jiro, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and thereto in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: (signed) TOKUOKA, Jiro (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ YONAI, Mitsumasa (seal)