

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

COUNTY OF BARNSTABLE

On this day personally appeared before me, an officer duly authorized to administer oaths in the State of Massachusetts, JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, who being by me first duly sworn, desposes and says:

That during 1939 and 1940 he was Ambassador from the United States of America to the Court of St. James's and was in residence at the American embassy in London during this period.

That during the above-mentioned period, one Mamoru Shigemitsu was the Japanese Ambassador to the Court of St. James's and was likewise in residence in London during this period. That during this period of time the affiant had a number of conferences with Mamoru Shigemitsu in his official capacity and also met him on several occasions at social events; the affiant on all these occasions discussed general world conditions with Mamoru Shigemitsu and heard him discuss such matters with others in the affiant's presence. That said Mamoru Shigemitsu in such conversations expressed a very sincere desire of avoiding war between Japan and the Allied Powers and, in fact, expressed generally opposition to war and favoring a policy of peace. That said Mamoru Shigemitsu in such conversations expressed his intense desire to have his country cooperate with Great Britain and the United States in an effort to avoid war, and he did not favor Japanese collaboration with the Axis Powers. He also expressed a sincere desire for a peaceful settlement of the China Incident and general desire for peaceful settlements of disputes and against war. The affiant from these many conversations and official and social contacts with Mamoru Shigemitsu came to know him well and from his observation of Mamoru Shigemitsu at these conferences and from his observations of his actions as Ambassador, obtained the distinct impression that he was sincere in such statements and worthy of belief. His reputation in diplomatic circles in London and in the Foreign Office at Whitehall, the affiant knows from talks with other heads of diplomatic missions, officials of the Foreign Office, and diplomatic correspondents of leading journals was that of a man of truth and veracity.

Examples of such conversations are as follows:

On March 3, 1939, Mamoru Shigemitsu called on the affiant and told him that the Japanese people were very appreciative of President Roosevelt's order to send the body of Saito, the Japanese Ambassador to Washington, back to Japan on an American cruiser. Shigemitsu told the affiant that this action of the President might open the way to solve a lot of Far Eastern problems. He said that he and the then Prime Minister were hopeful that some sort of trade agreement could be worked out with the United States, no matter how small, because it might be the entering wedge which would help in solving the Chinese problem and restoring peaceful relations once more between the United States and Japan.

On June 24, 1940, Leith-Ross, Economic Advisor to the British government, in a conversation with the affiant told him that he believed the Japanese Embassy in England was not being kept fully informed by the Tokyo government, nor being empowered to act. He said that for example the Japanese Embassy was asking for 7,000 tons of nickel during the current year, but that he, Leith-Ross, had been telling the Japanese in London directly that only two or three thousand tons would be available after the requirements of the Allied Governments and the United States had been met.

On October 15, 1940, the affiant went to see Mamoru Shigemitsu at the Japanese Embassy. He said that he was very much upset about the course his country was taking in tying up with Germany, the fact that he was upset was evident from his manner. He said that he had always belonged to the school that believed that their tendency should be to work with the United States, not against them. From his manner it was obvious that he was sincere in his statements.

On October 19, 1940, the affiant had a conversation with William Hillman, one of the closest friends of the affiant, at that time head of the International News Service in Europe. Hillman told the affiant of a conversation which he had had with Mamoru Shigemitsu on the day after the pact was signed. Hillman said that he found the Japanese Ambassador decidedly annoyed and depressed by the conclusion of this pact of which he said he had not been given more than half a day's notice. Shigemitsu, Hillman said, told him it was one of the worst blows which he had suffered in his career as it threatened to kill the object of his mission in London which was Anglo-Japanese reconciliation. Shigemitsu told Hillman that he had been tempted to resign on the first impulse, but then on second thought decided to remain in London as long as it was possible in order to mitigate the effects of the conclusion of the pact and by diplomacy to prevent its being implemented. Hillman said that he told Shigemitsu that he felt very doubtful about this and that he was sure that the British Government would find it difficult to see his standpoint. Hillman told Shigemitsu that he was of the opinion that this pact had been negotiated under the pressure of the militarists.

/s/ Joseph P. Kennedy
Former Ambassador to Great Britain

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this 17th day of November
1947.

/s/ William J. O'Neil Jr.
Notary Public

My Commission Expires
June 20, 1952