

THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL OF THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ET AL

vs.

ARAKI, SIDAO ET AL

Affidavit of

UGAKI, Kazushige

I was the War Minister of the Kiyoura, Kato, Wakatsuki, and Hamaguchi Cabinets. When I was the War Minister in the Kato Cabinet (1926 - 1928) I carried out the readjustment of the numerical strength of the Japanese Army. My plan met with the severest opposition in certain army circles but in the face of this great opposition I succeeded in pushing through the plan. At that time, General Hata, then a colonel was Chief of the Second Section (Operational Section) of the General Staff, which Section was responsible for the execution of my program. It was in this Section that the work, the plans, and the operations for my readjustment program had to be carried out. Hata supported me wholeheartedly and earnestly worked for the success of the plan. In the Japanese Army, the Section Chiefs did most of the work and were of the utmost importance in this sense as they were the driving force of all programs which had to pass through their sections. Without the earnest support and the extraordinary endeavors of General Hata, however hard I may have tried to realize the plan, the readjustment plan could not have been accomplished at that time.

When, in 1937, I tried under command of the Emperor to form a Cabinet, I met with the strongest opposition from a part of the army circles. This opposition came as a result of the antipathy which still existed against me because of my execution of the readjustment plan when I had previously been War Minister. The Three Chiefs' Council according to tradition recommended three candidates as War Minister for my Cabinet but each of these candidates submitted to me a note stating that he declined to act in such a capacity under my premiership. So I proposed to recommend one who would desire to work in my Cabinet and one who I know would support me and my policies as my War Minister. As a matter of fact, there were hundreds of generals in the Japanese Army eligible to become War Minister and the number was not necessarily limited only to three. I tried to offer my own recommendation for the person whom I desired to be my War Minister but the Three Chiefs' Council would not allow me to make any nomination for this post, saying that under the circumstances, there was no suitable candidate to be my War Minister. As a result, I was unable to form a Cabinet. Had I been allowed to name my preference for a War Minister, I would have nominated and asked for General Hata, Shunroku, who was one of the candidates I had in mind.

When the Yonai Cabinet resigned, I heard a rumor that the army had forced Hata to resign from the Cabinet in order to force the Yonai Cabinet out of office. I think that the nature of that action, the way Hata was overthrown and kicked out of the Cabinet was in the same nature as when in a previous year I had tried and failed to form a Cabinet because of being boycotted by the army.

Because he had so earnestly cooperated with my army readjustment program when I was War Minister, he had incurred a strong antipathy in certain army circles and this antipathy followed him throughout his career. In all my years of knowing General Hata, I came to respect him greatly because of the manner in which he became Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor and later War Minister, because he always adhered strictly to military traditions, refrained from engaging in politics at any time, never went to one extreme or the other, but always followed the middle road as a true soldier.

Once in 1944 when I went to China trying to bring about peace between China and Japan, Hata learned of my arrival in China and he sent me a letter encouraging me in my efforts to bring about peace between the two countries. ~~It was ever thus. Hata, while a military man, in all the years I knew him always strove earnestly to maintain peace and I think he was most greatly distressed when the war did break out.~~

OATH

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

UGAKI, Kazushige (Seal)

On this 24th day of August, 1947, at Izu, Nagaoka

Deponent: UGAKI, Kazushige (Seal)

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

On the same date,
at Izu, Nagaoka

Witness: KOKUBU, Tomoharu (Seal)