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IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

Central Liaison Office

TO: Mr. A. F. Mignone, Document Acquisition, IFS
FROM: Mr. Ohta, Central Liaison Office
SUBJECT: Production of Document Requested

No 195-8

18 April 1946

With reference to your check sheet dated 30 March, I wish to submit herewith the required document compiled by the First Demobilization Ministry.

/s/ S. Ohta

SUBJECT: "Record of Conference in War Ministry", May 6, 1942, regarding decision not to apply the Geneva Convention, and orders issued in consequence thereof.

There is no data to confirm whether or not there was held any conference in the War Ministry on May 6, 1942. However, as regards the matter of non-application of the Geneva Convention the following decisions of the War Ministry may be cited:

1. The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs under date of January 13, and 16, transmitted to the War Ministry the inquiries of American, British and other governments. The Ministry, following several conferences, reached a decision (Annex I) and communicated the same to the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs on January 23. However, there are no records of the conferences.
2. On January 27, 1942, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs sent an inquiry regarding the application of the Prisoner of War Convention to non-combatant internees. As a result of a conference, the Ministry reached a decision (Annex II). The same was communicated by the Vice Minister of War to the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs under date of February 6, however, there is no record of the conference.
3. The Foreign Office, under date of December 12, 1941, transmitted to the War Ministry the communication of the International Red Cross Committee Chairman, Max Huder, concerning collection and transmission of information regarding prisoners of war. After a conference, the Ministry reached a decision (Annex III), which was communicated to the Foreign Office.
4. The above decisions being entirely in line with the fundamental principles and policy, according to which the War Ministry had always directed the conduct of the affairs relating to prisoners of war, no orders seem to have been issued in consequence of the decisions. (Existing data have been examined, but it cannot be ascertained whether any order was issued or not.)

Reply from Vice Minister of War to Vice Minister for
Foreign Affairs, January 23, 1942
(Translation)

"In answer to your inquiries in clear No. 52 and No. 53, dated January 13 and No. 85, dated January 16, the views of this Ministry are as follows:

I. Concerning No. 52:

1. In view of the fact that the Geneva Convention relating to prisoners of war was not ratified by His Majesty, we can hardly announce our observance of the same. But it would be safe to notify the world that we have no objection to acting in accordance with the Convention in the treatment of prisoners of war.
2. As regards providing prisoners of war with food and clothing, we have no objection to giving due consideration to the national or racial habits and customs of the prisoners.

II. Concerning No. 53 and No. 85, the above views will be applicable."

Application of the Prisoner of War Convention to
Non-Combatant Internees. (Army, Ordinary No. 753,
February 6, 1942) (Translation)

Referring to your communication, No. 149, dated January 27,
1942, on the above subject, the views of this ministry are as follows:

The 1929 Geneva Convention relating to Prisoners of
War has no binding power whatsoever on Japan. But this
ministry has no objection to applying the principles of
the Convention to non-combatant internees within such
limits as it is applicable, provided, however, that no
person be subjected to labor against his will.

Communication of the International Red Cross Committee
Chairman concerning collection and transmission of in-
formation regarding prisoners of war, dated December 28,
1941 (Army Ordinary 9392) (Translation)

Referring to your communication, No. 4585, dated
December 12, 1941, on the above subject, the views of this Ministry
are as follows:

The Ministry agrees to the proposal.

However,

- a. It is not that we "declare that we are prepared to
apply in practice" the provisions of the Prisoner
of War Convention of 1929, but that we "utilize them
for the convenience of transmission of information."
- b. Information is to be transmitted by telegram and
other means.

C E R T I F I C A T E

W. D. C. No. _____
I. P. S. No. 1465 A

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Yoza Miyama hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Chief of the Archives and Document Section and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 5 pages, dated April 18, 1946, and described as follows: Report from Imperial Japanese Government Central Liaison Office Forwarded to IPS by letter dated April 18, 1946, with five pages of Japanese Text attached.

I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): 1st Demobilization Bureau.

Signed at Tokyo on this
6 day of September, 1946

/s/ Yoza Miyama
Signature of Official

SPAL

Chief of the Archives
and Documents Section

Official Capacity

Witness: /s/ Keije Hashimoto

Statement of Official Procurement

I, John Curtis, 2d Lt., hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this
6 day of September, 1946

/s/ J. A. Curtis 2d Lt.

NAME

Investigator

Official Capacity

Witness: /s/ Eric W. Fleisher