

DEF. DOC. #2054

EX 3187

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al,

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

AFFIDAVIT OF SANADA, Joichiro.

Having first duly executed an oath, in accordance with the custom and procedure in my country, I depose as follows:

That my name is SANADA, Joichiro, and that I served as Chief of the Military Section of the Military Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry from February 5, 1941, (16th year of Showa) to April 20, 1942 (17th year of Showa) and that during my tenure of office I became thoroughly familiar with the Supreme War Council, its functions and operations, and desire to make the following statement concerning the same.

The Supreme War Council was an advisory body to the Emperor on important military affairs, but did not have the authority to independently advise the Emperor on such matters. In other words, it only advised or gave its opinion to the Emperor upon his request. Accordingly, when there was no draft of a subject for a consultation presented by the Emperor, there could be no official Supreme War Conference.

The meeting of the Supreme War Council referred to in Appendix E of the Indictment as having been held on

DEF. DOC. #2054

June 30, 1941, and which was attended by the accused DOHIHARA was not an official conference of that body because there was no draft of a subject by the Emperor; consequently there was no matter for consultation whatever and the members of the Supreme War Council were not called upon to make any sort of decision.

I have personal knowledge of what occurred at this meeting because the then Director of the Military Affairs Bureau, MUTO, Akira, was ill and I, as Chief of the Military Section, attended the meeting in his behalf.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. War Minister TOJO made an opening address and was followed by General SUGIYAMA, Chief of the General Staff, who spoke on the conditions and prospects of the war in Europe during the period of a week since the outbreak of hostilities between Germany and Soviet Russia, which had started June 22, 1941. (Details were furnished by OKAMOTO, Seifuku, Chief of the Second Section). The meeting ended at 2:30 p.m..

As stated above, in the meeting of that day there was only the explanation of the international situation created by the outbreak of war between Germany and Russia, and there was no statement of opinion whatever by the war councillors. There was no discussion at all concerning the Greater East Asiatic war; that is, the outbreak of a possible war between Japan and America.

DEF. DOC. #2054

The names of the councillors and associates who attended the meeting are as follows:

Marshal, PRINCE KANIN.

General, PRINCE ASAKA

General, PRINCE HIGASHIKUNI

Generals, TERAUCHI, DOHIHARA, OKAMURA

War Minister, TOJO.

Chief of the General Staff, SUGIYAMA.

Inspector General of Military Training, YAMADA.

Associates:

Vice War Minister, KIMURA.

Vice Chief of the General Staff, TSUKADA.

and other officials concerned.

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Chief of the General Staff, SUGIYAMA.

Inspector General of Military Training, YAMADA.

Associates:

Vice War Minister, KIMURA.

Vice Chief of the General Staff, TSUKADA.

and other officials concerned.

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On this 11 day of March 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT SAWADA, Joichiro (seal)

I, KATO, Takahisa 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) KATO, Takahisa (seal)

OATH

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

Former Major-General /s/ SAWADA, Joichiro (seal)

On this 11 day of March 1947