

*Not used 6-B-1
18 Nov.
Withdrawn 34,347*

Excerpts from Interrogation of MATSUOKA Yosuke

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- Q. Who was the Japanese Ambassador at Berlin at the time of the conclusion of the Tri-Partite Pact?
- A. Mr. Kurusu.
- Q. Do you know, as a matter of fact, that Mr. Oshima worked diligently to conclude the Tri-Partite Pact or alliance, even before this time we are speaking of now?
- A. I heard about it, but not in my time. He was not consulted at all by me.

Q. Now, you visited Berlin, didn't you, and talked with Ribbentrop and Hitler, didn't you? Was that after the conclusion of the pact?

A. Yes, it came about this way - on the day we concluded that pact, I spoke over the telephone with Von Ribbentrop and with Count Ciano. They both invited me to visit them, and I said if the conditions were right, I may do so. So, later on I went out to visit Europe. But that again - in proper place I will explain.

Q. Did you go first to Berlin, or first to Moscow?

A. I passed through Moscow, and so I stopped one day and paid my respects to Mr. Stalin, and then went to Berlin.

Q. In Berlin did you have conversations with Oshima?

A. Some casual conversations, but not on business.

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Q. So that if there is documentary evidence in the nature of dispatches between Berlin and Tokyo requesting such action, to wit: the going to war by Japan against Russia, they are either mistaken or false?

A. Fabrications. Of course, OSHIMA, our ambassador, sent a wire (asking) what Japan will do. So we considered and decided not to join the war.

Q. Reading further, "The Japanese Government replied through Mr. Matsuoka that it did not contemplate an attack against Soviet Russia. Indeed, with the exception of a few military hotheads, nobody in Japan wanted war against Russia. Press and public opinion were puzzled and confused by the sudden German attack on the Soviet especially after the much-advertised German-Russia non-aggression pact of October 1939. The Japanese Government itself had just concluded a neutrality pact with the Soviet. They had no actual conflict with Russia and considered Japan not prepared for such a war. Furthermore, it hoped to find an agreement with the United States in the China question which would be impossible in case of a Japanese

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attack upon Soviet Russia". Do you recall making such a reply to _____ well, obviously, if no such request was ever made of you, you never made such a reply?

- A. No, when Oshima wired out inquiring what should Japan do, I think he had it in his telegram that Hitler said whether Japan would join or not all depends on Japan and he is not asking for Japan to decide either way. So Germany, as I said yesterday, questioned Japan's help.

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- Q. Well, as Foreign Minister, didn't you usually take the advice of your Ambassador in these foreign cabinets, on matters like that?
- A. That depends upon the question. It is my principle not to discuss with Ambassadors anything he presents.
- Q. Well, he was sent to Berlin as a member of your Foreign Ministry when you were Foreign Minister.
- A. Yes.
- Q. But in any event to sum up the purpose of this question - Germany may have known in April when you were talking to them about concluding this non-aggression pact, that they had every intention of going to war with Russia.
- A. I doubt it very much.
- Q. But they did not raise any objection when you suggested you were about to conclude a non-aggression pact?
- A. No.
- Q. And you did conclude such a pact?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Now I assume that in your deliberation for the conclusion of this non-aggression pact with Russia, you were advised by other members of the cabinet?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you discuss the matter with other members of the cabinet?
- A. Not with all.
- Q. Did you discuss it with any of the members of the cabinet?
- A. With the Premier, Konoye, the Minister of War, Minister of Navy, and I think it included the Chief of Staff and Chief of Naval Operations.

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Q. Was the Finance Minister in on the discussion?

A. I don't remember.

Q. What was the nature of your discussions with these members of the cabinet?

A. I don't exactly discuss, but I told them that I was going to, and none raised any objection. In fact, they knew it was being discussed at Moscow between our Ambassador and Mr. Molotov for some time.

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The Prosecution objects to the introduction of this excerpt from the interrogation of MATSUOKA.

A similar excerpt from the interrogation of MATSUOKA (Def. Doc. 613-A-10-13 and 2) was offered on 17 June 1947 and rejected (R. 24,570-2). The ruling of the Court at that time was as follows:

"MR. COMYNS CARR: Your Honor, the position as far as I recollect it is, certainly on the first occasion, when an excerpt from MATSUOKA's interrogation was tendered the Tribunal rejected it on my objection that the only basis or justification for using a part of this interrogation could be that the prosecution had used a part of it and therefore that the defense was entitled to do so; and, as the prosecution did not use any part of MATSUOKA's interrogation, I successfully objected to the defense doing so.

"THE PRESIDENT: We have fully considered that matter, and by a majority we came to the conclusion that the interrogation of any of the accused can be used for or against himself only. That is what it amounts to. Of course, where one of the other accused heard what he said and admitted its truth, it could be used against him. But, we know of no such case yet.

"MR. COMYNS CARR: MATSUOKA no longer being amongst the accused I assume the ruling means that his interrogation cannot be used by either side.

"THE PRESIDENT: That is the Court's decision and we will hear no discussion about it."

not used

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辯護國側書證六一三一A一十四號（大島被告）

松岡洋右訊問調書から抜粋 昭和廿一年三月六日（四頁）

問 三國同盟締結當時のベルリン駐劄日本大使は誰でしたか、

答 來栖氏です。

問 實際問題として貴方は大島氏が今私達が話題にしてゐる當時以前に

三國同盟若しくは盟約を締結しようとする努力をしたことを知つてゐますか。

答 その事について聞いた事はありますが私の在任中にはありませんで

した。私は全然彼に相談しませんでした。

問 さて貴方はベルリンを訪問しましたね、そしてリッツベントロツプヤ

ヒットラーと會談しましたね。それは同盟締結の後でしたか。

答 さうです。こんな具合でした。その同盟を締結した日に私は電話で

フォン、リツベントロツプとチアノ伯と話をしたのです。二人共私が訪問す

る際にいはれ、そして私は事情が許せばさうするかも知れぬと言つた

のでした。そこで後になつて私はヨーロッパを訪問しました。しかし

この事については適當な所でもう一度説明したいと思ひます。

問 貴方は第一にベルリンに行きましたか、それともモスコイに行きま

したか。

答 モスコイを通過したので私は一日滞在してスターリン氏に敬意を表

し、それからベルリンに向ひました。

問 ベルリンで貴方は大島と會談しましたか。

答 その場で思ひついた會話はしましたが事務上の事にはわたりませんでした。

昭和廿一年三月七日（六頁）

問 若しもこんな行動、即ち日本がロシヤに戦争をしかけるなどといふ事を要求したベルリン東京間の電報といふ證據書類があるとしたらそれは間違ひか虚偽でせうか。

答 作り事です。勿論大島大使は電報で日本の將來の行動方針についてたゞして來ました。そこで吾々は考慮した結果戦争に参加しない事に決したのです。

問 續けて讀みます。「日本政府は松岡氏を通じて對ソ攻撃など考へてゐないと答へて來た。事實少數の性急な軍人を除いて日本の誰も對ソ攻撃を欲してゐない。新聞や輿論はドイツがいきなりソ聯を攻撃した事に味にそれがあの非常に宣傳された昭和十四年十月の獨ソ不可侵條約締結のあとに行はれただけに當惑し擾亂された。」

日本政府自体はソ聯と中立條約を締結したばかりだつた。ソ聯との紛争は實際なかつたし又彼等はそんな戦争に對する用意が出來てゐるとも考へてゐなかつた、更に日本政府は支那問題に關して米國との間に意見の一致を見出さんと望んでゐたのでありそれは日本がソ聯を攻撃

した場合には不可能となるのであつた。」「
貴方は貴方にそのやうな質問がなされない時に（大島に）さういふ答
をした事をはつきりおぼえておますか。それともそんな答は全然しま
せてしたか。

答 記憶がありません。大島が日本の今後の方針を電報でたゞして来た
時、その電報の中にヒットラーが日本の戦争参加不参加は日本の決す
る所で彼はどつちにせよといふのでもないと言つたといふ事があつた
と思ひます。で昨日も申した通りドイツは日本の援助が可能であるか
どうかを聞いて来たのです。

昭和廿一年三月十二日（七頁）

問 さて外務大臣として貴方はかういふ問題に在外大使の意見をいつも
求めなかつたのですか。

答 それは問題によります。私は大使選がさし出したものについてその
人選と討論しないのを原則にしてゐます。

問 さて、彼は貴方が外務大臣在任中に外務省の一員としてベルリンに
派遣されたのですね。

答 さうです。

問 所で鬼に角この尋問の目的を要約する意味で、ドイツは四月に貴方
がこの不可侵條約の締結について彼等に話をしてゐた時彼等がソ連に

戦をしかけるあらゆる計畫をもつてゐた事を知つてゐたかも知れませ
んね。

問 答 非常に疑はしいと思ひます。

問 しかし彼等は貴方が不可侵條約を結ばうとしてゐるといふ事を示唆
した時に別に反對しなかつたのですね。

問 答 しませんでした。

問 答 それで貴方はその條約を締結したのですか。
しました。

問 させてソ聯とのこの不可侵條約の締結を考慮する際に貴方は他の關係
に助言されたと思ひますがどうですか。

問 答 いゝえさういふ事はありませんでした。

問 答 貴方はその問題について他の關係と討議しましたか。
皆とではありませんでした。

問 答 では關係の誰かとは討議しましたか。

問 答 近衛首相、陸相、海相とそれから參謀總長や軍令部總長ともしたと
思ひます。

問 答 大藏大臣もその討議に参加しましたか。
記憶してゐません。

問 答 これらの關係と他の討議はどうかいふ性質のものでしたか。

答

精密には前識しませんでした。しかし私の彼等に私が條約を締結
せんとしてある事を告げた所誰も反対しませんでした。事實彼等はそ
の問題がモスコイで日本大使とモロトフ氏の間で相當期間検討されて
ゐた事を知つてゐました。