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ERRATA SHEET

HIRATORI

Page 6: line 21, delete "(strongly in deed,
gently in manner)".

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, etc.

AGAINST

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

AFFIDAVIT

Deponent, MISHIMA, Yasuo

I, MISHIMA, Yasuo, hereby make affidavit as hereunder

mentioned, after taking an oath as appended herewith following the established form in our country.

I was born on March 15, 1896, in Yamanashi Prefecture. After graduating from the Keio University in 1920, I was employed by the Jiji Shimpo Newspaper. In October, 1932, I left the Jiji Shimpo and entered the Manchukuo News Agency. I came back to Tokio in October of the next year and took to writing in newspapers and magazines as a free lance. At the end of the year of 1940, while continuing my activities as a writer and commentator, I established a special feature news agency on my own account. Since the termination of the war, I have given up all these activities and am now engaged mainly in reading and study at home.

1. I became acquainted with Mr. Shiratori, Toshio, in 1930 when he was Chief of the Information Bureau of the Foreign Office and I a staff member of the Jiji Shimpo newspaper. From then until now, I have

remained one of his closest friends.

Early in 1941, Mr. Shiratori borrowed from an acquaintance quite a number of voluminous works on Japanese national polity and Shinto mythology, which had not been published before or had been prohibited by the authorities concerned. He became so deeply absorbed in the study of these books that he not infrequently sat up all night. Partly on account of this overwork and partly as a result of a bad cold he had contracted in February, he became afflicted with an obstinate insomnia. In spite of that he continued his study with unabated zeal until about the 20th of March when he was seized with what apparently was an acute case of nervous debility accompanied by somewhat alarming indications of mental abnormality. I requested Professor Dr. Miyake Koichi of the Medical Department of the Tokio Imperial University, to accept the treatment of Mr. Shiratori about the beginning of April, 1941, but being himself too occupied at the time, Dr. Miyake left the care of Mr. Shiratori to his trusted friend, Dr. Muramatsu, Tsuneco, Vice-President of the Matsuzawa Psychiatric Hospital. The patient's condition steadily worsened until it became apparent that his was a very serious case indeed. Dr. Muramatsu therefore made arrangements for the accommodation of Mr. Shiratori in the Komine Hospital, No. 889, Takinokawa, Tokio, where he entered in the middle of April, 1941. I learned from Mr. Shiratori afterwards that he had completely lost consciousness from the 9th of April and that it was only on the 28th of April that he awakened to find himself in bed in an unknown hospital. He left

the hospital in the middle of May, 1941, and Dr. Muramatsu resumed his charge.

service as his physician-in-charge. At the advice of the doctor, Mr. Shiratori removed in the middle of June, 1941, to a seaside cottage at Hayama, where he remained convalescing until April of the next year.

During most of that period, he was strictly prohibited by the doctor from receiving visitors or reading books, magazines and even newspapers.

To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Shiratori faithfully observed this injunction, especially for the first six months of his retired life.

In these circumstances and seeing that his condition was still far from satisfactory, it is unthinkable that so early as July 1941, Mr. Shiratori should have had interviews with a foreign ambassador and engaged in a serious conversation on the international situation. (IPS Doc 4062-K, Exhibit 1113 and IPS Doc 4025-D, Exhibit 800.)

2. About the time of the general election of April, 1942, Mr. Shiratori was not yet completely recovered from his illness. He had little intercourse with the outside world and rarely saw anyone beside his relatives and close friends. He was mostly engaged in the study and practice of Shintoism. One day, however, a number of young men from his native province came to his house and asked him for permission to use his name as a candidate in the coming election, expressing their ardent desire to sweep away the long-standing abuses of their constituency and by conducting a model campaign, set an example to the whole nation. Mr. Shiratori did not take the matter seriously at first, and flatly told the youngsters that he felt no longer any interest at all in politics.

But by sheer force of zeal and importunity, they finally prevailed upon him to comply with their desire. It was on condition, however, that he was not himself to take part in the election campaign, make no speech nor even put in an appearance in his constituency, and that moreover, being a man of scant means, he could not bear any part of the expenditures involved. It was only when rival candidates contended that Mr. Shiratori was so ill that he could not even come down to his native place, that his friends requested him to make a speech or two if only to counter this hostile propaganda. He had to consent although with much reluctance. He was then very weak but somehow managed to address several gatherings. He mainly talked about Shintoism and national polity, dwelling almost in passing on current questions of diplomacy and of war. As election speeches in war time, they were rather uncommon and quite a surprise to many among his hearers. Having been myself in charge of his election business at that time, I am very well aware of all these facts.

3. At this general election, Mr. Shiratori was one of the so-called recommended candidates, but it was a matter arranged between his supporters and the prefectural branch of the Recommending Body, and he was not himself concerned in it at all but only learned about it afterwards.

When he got elected, Mr. Shiratori, as a "recommended" member of parliament, almost automatically became a member of the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society and was also nominated a member of the Board of Directors of the Society. Mainly for reasons of health, he did not engage himself in any political activities either as a director of the IRAPS

or as a member of parliament. In the early summer of 1943, he was relieved of his seat in the directorate of this political society from which he completely withdrew soon afterwards.

4. It may be ^a said in sum that the serious illness with which he was seized in the spring of 1941, brought about a marked change in Mr. Shiratori's character and outlook, drawing him more deeply into a domain of spirituality and religion. He gradually ceased to have anything to do not only with government and general political circles, but with most of his friends of many years' standing. I can bear testimony, as one of the few friends remaining close to him to the last, that during the entire period of World War II, Mr. Shiratori concerned himself very little with affairs of this workaday world.

5. Lastly, I may be permitted to give a brief account of Mr. Shiratori's activities as a writer and lecturer. Having undertaken from time to time the task of putting in order and compiling the writings and lectures of Mr. Shiratori, I am well acquainted with the circumstances under which he wrote or made speeches. He contributed articles to journals or delivered lectures at public gatherings only after being repeatedly and urgently requested by people concerned. I do not recollect a single instance of his doing these things unsolicited or of his own accord. He made his speeches invariably without a manuscript. When their stenographic records were presented to him afterwards for publication, he usually made ample corrections. As for his articles appearing in journals, it was very seldom if ever that he wrote anything himself.

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He would generally dictate or just freely talk to representatives of newspapers or magazines who called on him with stenographers. In most cases the records were presented to him for correction and amplification before being printed for publication. Mr. Shiratori was not, properly speaking, a writer or lecturer nor was he ever known as such. His writings and lectures, however, seemed to enjoy a certain amount of popularity and were therefore sought after by journalists, mainly because he was generally considered as one of the most outspoken and perhaps indiscrete of our bureaucrats and diplomats. After coming home from Sweden in 1936, he held no responsible position in the government at Tokio, having been placed on the waiting list for several years except for a brief space as Ambassador to Rome.

He used to say in those days that he could give utterance to his own thoughts all the more freely because, although nominally still a diplomat, he was not admitted into knowledge of state secrets or government policies.

In reply to the criticism expressed in some quarters about some of his utterances being too outspoken, Mr. Shiratori once told me as follows: "In these days of dictators everywhere who do not believe in mincing words, the diplomatic axiom of fortiter in re, suaviter in modo (strongly ⁱⁿ deed, gently in manner) will perhaps have to be reversed. On the eve of the Russian War of 1904-1905, Foreign Minister Mr. Komura asked the opinion of his American adviser, Mr. Dennison, about a draft of Japan's answer to a stiff Russian note.

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Mr. Dennison said that if Japan meant war, the language must be soft and mild. Mr. Komura told him to tone down the Japanese note as far as possible. This has become almost a classic in the Japanese Foreign Office. Since, however, we do not today want war with any country, it might be permissible or even advisable to indulge in outspoken language every now and then."

In the Building of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo, on May 28th, 1947, the 22nd year of Showa (1947).

I
Deponent MISHIMA, Yasuo (seal)

I hereby certify that the aforementioned person took an oath, deposed and affixed his signature and seal in my presence.

On the same day, at the same place,

Witness SAKUMA, Shin (seal)

OATH

I swear according to my conscience to state the whole truth, reserve ~~nothing~~ that I know, nor add anything that I do not know.

MISHIMA, Yasuo (seal)