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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- V S -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Affidavit of Isono Yuzo

I, Isono Yuzo, after having been duly sworn according to the Japanese formula, make the following statement of my own free will

1. I am 44 years old and reside in Tokyo, Shinagawa-ku, Nishi-Nakanobu, 5 Chome, 1213 banchi.
2. I am, at present, director of the Repatriation Division, Central Liaison Office of the Japanese Government.
3. I was, from June 1945 through July 1946, chief of the Archive Section of the Secretariat of the Japanese Foreign Minister and as such had custody of all documents and archives of the Japanese Foreign Office.
4. The buildings housing the Foreign Office were partly destroyed by fire on 7 January 1945 and many documents were destroyed as a result of said fire.
5. The remaining buildings housing the Foreign Office were almost entirely reduced to ashes as a result of the air raid by Allied Planes on the night of 23 - 24 May 1945 and all but one of the vaults containing documents and archives were destroyed by the fires. Among the offices which were totally destroyed were offices occupied by the 3rd Section of the Political Affairs Bureau. This section, formerly called the 1st Section of the Euro-Asiatic Bureau, had charge of all matters relating to Soviet Russia, including the Changku-Feng and Nonmenhan or Khalkin-Gol Border Incidents. It was the practice of that section, as well as some others, to retain all originals, copies and drafts, of telegrams, letters, messages and other communications, memoranda of conversations and opinions, and manuscripts relating to matters under its jurisdiction. The fires destroyed all such papers.
6. During the last week of June in contemplation of a landing of Allied Forces and moving the capital away from Tokyo, it was decided to burn papers of comparatively recent dates which in our opinion at that time were of a confidential character. All originals, copies and drafts of top secret, secret and coded telegrams, letters, messages and other communications, memoranda of conversations and opinions, and manuscripts were burned under my supervision during the last week of June and the first week of July which had not been destroyed by the previous fires. I do not remember burning documents relating to the Changku-Feng and Khalkin-Gol incidents at that time. I believe that there were none left to burn. If any were there, however, they were in the class which it was decided to burn and I am sure they were burned.

/S/ ISONO YOZO

On this 19th day of May, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT ISOBE, Yuzo (seal)

I, MIURA, Waichi 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)

MIURA, waichi (seal)

OATH

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

ISONO, Yuzo (seal)