

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

RAKI, Sadao, et al

INTERROGATORY FOR MR. EUGEN OTT

By Tatsuki Shimanouchi
Counsel for Defendant Oshima

Question 1. Please state your name, address and nationality.

Answer: Eugen Ott.

Question 2. Please state your official positions in Japan, and the periods during which you held each of these positions.

(When you answer in affirmative the following questions whether there was a fact or not, please state concretely and the circumstances how you learnt of it, namely, the basis of your knowledge.)

Answer: Please refer to curriculum vitae given in Shiratori interrogation.

Question 3. Please read the attached document No. 1, which is a copy of the Prosecution's Exhibit 503, tendered to the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE).

Is it a telegram dated 27 October 1939, and addressed from Woermann to you as the German Ambassador in Tokyo?

Answer: Yes.

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Question 4. According to this telegram, "the Reich Foreign Minister requests to support in all respects Ambassador Oshima, who after his return, will work further for German-Japanese friendship."

During Mr. Oshima's stay in Japan after his return (from December 1939 until January 1941), did you or the German Embassy render any help or support to Mr. Oshima in the sense of this telegram?

Answer: None whatever.

Question 5. During the above mentioned period, did Mr. Oshima ask you or the German Embassy for any help or support in the sense of this telegram?

Answer: Never.

Question 6. According to this telegram, the Reich Foreign Minister requested you "to transmit in code /and/ without changes telegrams, delivered there by Mr. Oshima to the Reich Foreign Minister personally and to take care of the forwarding of letters addressed to the Reich Foreign Minister, unopened insofar as they are sealed, by sure and speedy route."

Did Mr. Oshima, during the above mentioned period of his stay in Japan, hand to you or the German Embassy any telegrams or letter addressed to the Reich Foreign Minister?

Answer: none at all.

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Question 7. Please read the attached document No. 2 which is a copy of the Prosecution's Exhibit No. 511 tendered to the IMTFE. Is this a telegram dated 23 February 1940 and addressed from Stahmer and Ott to the State Secretary?

Answer: Yes.

Question 8. In this telegram it is stated that:

"After my arrival here I found such Japanese already known to me as Oshima, Shiratori, Terauchi, Ishii, etc., in an unchanged friendly attitude and ready for every support." I wonder why in this telegram, which was signed jointly by Stahmer and you, the singular personal pronoun ("I", "my" "Me") was used. Please explain the reason. (Please state what part you played in the drafting of this telegram).

Answer: Drafted exclusively by Mr. Stahmer and has my name attached only according to the official regulations, in order to secure transmission chiffre telegram by the Japanese postal authorities.

/s/ Eugen Ott

/s/ Eugen Ott

Question 9. If you played a material part in drafting this telegram, please answer the following questions. (If this telegram was in fact one of Mr. Stahmer's you need not answer.)

(a) When you wrote "Oshima was in an unchanged friendly attitude and ready for every support," what concrete fact did you mean?

Answer:

(b) Did you mean that Oshima said to endeavour for bringing about the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact?

Answer:

(c) From what source did you get your information (or, on what basis did you form your opinion?)

Answer:

Question 10. Did Oshima, after this visit of Mr. Stahmer to Japan, actively work for a closer relation between Japan and Germany under the influence of Mr. Stahmer?

ANSWER: No active work by Oshima in this respect as a result of Stahmer's influence.

Question 11. Please read the attached document No. 3, which is a copy of the Prosecution's Exhibit No. 516 tendered to the IMTFE.
Is this a telegram dated 12 June 1940 and address from you to the German Government?

ANSWER: Yes.

/S/ Eugen Ott

Question 12. In paragraphs 2-4 of this telegram you stated that: "each German and Italian move which reveals the concern over American attitude in the near future would only be a cue to the government and the press which is close to it to make new courtship of America. The government would further try, as in the case of the Asama Maru, to impute to us the intention of using Japan as a tool of our policy, an argument which would not be ineffective with the known suspicion of the Japanese. The Embassy is still endeavouring to stir up Japanese ill feeling against America by influencing the press and leading political personalities in a way deemed proper. I myself have expressed the thought in many discussions with leading political personalities as for example Kenoye, Suotsugu, and Kuhara that the interests and activity of America..... in the Pacific Area and therefore a conflict between Japan and America is in the long run unavoidable.

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In confidential cooperation with the Embassy, ambassadors Shimada and Shiratori and circles closely connected with them are operating in the same direction."

With reference to this telegram, you answered in May 1947, to the questions by Mr. Charles B. Caudle, counsel for defendant Shiratori, as follows:

"Question: I now hand you copy of Exhibit No. 516, dated 12 June 1940, from you to your government, wherein you speak of Japanese-American relations among other matters, and call your special attention to the second, third and fourth paragraphs thereof. Will you please explain in detail just what you mean by the same concerning historical background, Japanese psychology and existing conditions at the time the communication was sent (copy handed to witness).

Answer: The background of this report of June 12th, 1940, is as follows:

The collapse of France was obviously by imminent, and the British situation was very precarious, centering around Dunkirk. The only effective relief which might keep up the resistance power of England, and work against the early settlement of the war, could come from the United States of America, and was asked from them very urgently. Therefore the German Government endeavored to hamper such a relief, and considered as a useful way a continued tension in the Pacific area, which might prevent the United States from removing their attention and fighting forces from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

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It was a complicated matter to advance such a policy upon Japan because the Japanese attitude was much divided, as it is given in the first part of my report. In this situation I got instructions to back an Italian protest obviously against a Japanese measure in favour of the United States and contrary to the Italian interests - I do not recall the case exactly. When I present my objections to the Reich Government's intentions I had to avoid the permanent distrust of Ribbentrop that I was inclined to block his aims. Therefore I stressed in paragraphs Nos. 3 and 4 of my report that I was working in my own way and pointed to the cooperation of Shiratori and other Japanese persons known to Ribbentrop in order to impress him and to succeed in my objections.

Question:

Did you mean, in the fourth paragraph of this document that the Embassy, Oshima and Shiratori worked together in a common programme, based upon a mutual understanding and common agreement, and if so what was the aim?

Answer:

No, I did not mean that because there was no such agreement.

Question:

What, if anything did Shiratori do in this regard?

Answer:

Shiratori, as far as I know, warned by private talks, and sometimes by the Press, against the courting of the United States, after they had enforced hard economic measures upon Japan.

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Question 12 - Continued (2)

Question: Was this a part of a concerted plan taken by him, Oshima and you?

Answer: No, it was not a common plan, I had only private talks with each of them separately, and Oshima kept himself much apart from political activities during his stay in Japan.

Question: Were you ever in the company of Shiratori and Oshima at the same time for the purpose of carrying out this so-called political cooperation?

Answer: No, I was not.

Question: Then why do you state that there was close cooperation between you?

Answer: As I stated before, I used this expression in order to give weight to the message, and to carry through my objections. I might add that I used the names of Konoye and Suetsugu for the same reason."

Can you make for Mr. Oshima the same statement as the one you made in Peking in May 1947 for Mr. Shiratori, with reference to your telegram dated 12 June 1940 (Exhibit No. 516)?

Answer: Yes, I do so.

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Question 13: Did Oshima, or did he not, tell you that he was doing actively something for stirring up ill relations or feelings against America?

Did Oshima, or did he not, do something for stirring up ill feeling against America?

Answer: He did nothing but to share the suspicions of the Japanese press concerning the sincerity of the Anglo-Saxon Powers.

Question 14: Whom do you mean concretely by "Oshima, Shiratori and circles closely connected with them?"

Answer: Groups of politically interested individuals with whom they were associated.

Question 15: Please read the attached document No. 4, which is a copy of the Prosecution's Exhibit No. 560 tendered to the IMTFE. Is this your telegram, dated 13 December 1940, sent to the German Govt. ?

Answer: Yes.

Question 16: In this telegram it is stated that "For the Previous history, I know that Foreign Minister has repeatedly offered the Ambassadorial post in Berlin to Oshima, who, however, declined it in order to be able to continue his politically active work for the Tripartite Pact in Japan.

Did Oshima, or did he not, during the period from December 1939 until 27 September 1940 (namely, from Mr. Oshima's return to Japan until the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact) work actively for promoting the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact?

Answer: No. he did not have any part in the preliminary negotiations or the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact. He was not consulted. I am sure of this.

Question 17: During or prior to the negotiations for the Tripartite Pact in September 1940, did you (or Mr. Stahmer), or did you (or Mr. Stahmer) not, ask Mr. Oshima for his advice or opinion?

Answer: I did not. Neither did Mr. Stahmer.

Question 18: Did Oshima during the period from 28 Sept. 1940 until January 1941 (namely, from the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact until Mr. Oshima's departure for his post in Germany) work politically for the Tripartite Pact.

Answer: The only thing I can recall was an interview with the press on the subject.

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ARAKI, Sadao, et al

CROSS-INTERROGATORY FOR MR. EUGEN OTT

IN BEHALF OF THE PROSECUTION

Question 1: Attached hereto is Paper No. 1 consisting of a photostatic copy of a telegram in the German text bearing frame numbers 136212 to 136215, inclusive, signed OTT, and sent from Tokyo on 31 December 1939, the copy of the affidavit of W.P. Cumming, bearing date the 23rd day of April 1946, showing the telegram to be a captured German document, and the certificate of Yale Maxon that the said telegram and affidavit are true and accurate copies of the original documents now in his possession. Will you please examine this telegram and state whether or not it was sent by you, or under your direction, to the German Foreign Ministry or any other division or officer of the German Government in Germany.

Answer: I sent this telegram to the German Foreign Ministry.

Question 2: Will you please state whether copies of the said telegram were sent to Shanghai and Hsingking by you or under your direction, and, if so, to whom was the said telegram sent at these places?

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Answer: I sent copies of the said telegram to the German Charge
d'affairs in Shanghai and Minister in Hsingking.

Question 3: Please file said Paper No. 1 evidence as a part of your
testimony and mark it "Eugen Ott, Exhibit No. 1." (In filing
Paper No. 1 as an exhibit please state for the record:

"I herewith file in evidence Paper No. 1, consisting of a
photostatic copy of a telegram dated 31 December 1939, the
affidavit of W. P. Cumming bearing date 23 April 1946, and
the certificate of Yale Maxon bearing date 15 August 1947,
marked by me, Eugen Ott, Exhibit No. 1.")

Answer: I herewith file in evidence Paper No. 1, consisting of a
photostatic copy of a telegram dated 31 December, 1939, the
affidavit of W. P. Cumming bearing date 23 April 1946 and the
certificate of Yale Maxon bearing date 15 August 1947, marked
by me Eugen Ott, Exhibit No. 1.