

(Translation)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al.

A F F I D A V I T

Deponent: ISHII, Itaro.

Date of birth: February 2, 1887.

Domicile: 1072 Nishigahara-cho, Takinogawa-ku, Tokyo.

Having first duly sworn an oath as on the attached sheet in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

(1) I entered the Diplomatic Service on November 11, 1915. After holding posts at various places in China, Europe and America as well as in the Foreign Office at Tokyo, I assumed the office of the Director of the Bureau of East-Asiatic Affairs on May 11, 1937, and remained in that office till November 8, 1938. After that, I successively filled the posts of Minister to Thailand, Ambassador to Brazil and Ambassador to Burma, and retired from office on August 7, 1946.

(2) On July 7, 1937, about two months after I was appointed Director of the Bureau of East-Asiatic Affairs, the incident of Marco Polo Bridge broke out. Our forces made a triumphal entry into Nanking about December 13. Following that, our acting Consul-General at Nanking (Mr. FUKUI, Makoto) returned to his post there from Shanghai. His first report to the Foreign Office from Nanking was about the atrocities of our troops there. This telegraphic report was transmitted without delay to the Director of the Bureau of Military Affairs, War Office. At that time, the Foreign Minister, being alarmed and worried about the matter, urged me that some step or other should be taken quickly to suppress such disgraceful deeds. I told him in reply that a copy of the telegraphic report had already been transmitted to the War Office, and that I intended to warn the military authorities against the deeds at the coming liaison conference of the War Office, the Ministry of the Navy and the Foreign Office.

Immediately after that, the liaison conference was held in my official room. (The conference was held as occasion called, in the official room of the Director of the Bureau of East-Asiatic Affairs. It was originally attended by the Directors of the Bureaus of Military Affairs of the War Office and the Ministry of the Navy, and the Director of the East-Asiatic Affairs of the Foreign Office. At that time, however, it was customary that the Chief of the First Section, Bureau of Military Affairs, War Office, the Chief of the First Section, Bureau of Military Affairs, Ministry of the Navy, and the Chief of the First Section, Bureau of East-Asiatic Affairs, Foreign Office, sat at the conference for their respective superiors, and the Director of the Bureau of East-Asiatic Affairs took the chair.) On that occasion, I brought forward the problem of atrocities, reminded the Chief of the First

Section, Bureau of Military Affairs, War Office, of the high ideal of "Holy War" and the glorious name of "Imperial Army", and demanded to take strict measures to stop them immediately. The military delegate shared my feelings and acceded to my demand. Shortly after that, a written report of the acting Consul-General at Nanking reached the Foreign Office. It was a detailed account, typewritten in English, of the atrocities of our troops, drawn up by an international security committee consisting of representatives of the residents of the third Powers in Nanking. Our Consulate-General at Nanking had obtained a copy of it, and sent it to the Foreign Office. I read the report through closely, and reported the outline of the matter to the Foreign Minister. On the occasion of the following liaison conference, I showed the report in question to the Chief of the First Section, Bureau of Military Affairs, War Office, and repeated my demand, in compliance with the will of the Foreign Minister. The military delegate told me in answer that a strict warning had already been given to the Nanking Occupation Force. From that time onward, the cases of atrocities grew less.

About the end of January of the following year, 1938, if I remember right, the central leaders of the Japanese Army sent a special envoy to the Occupation Force at Nanking. We learned afterwards that the envoy was Major-General HOMMA. After that, the atrocities in Nanking were exterminated.

(3) The telegrams and written reports referred to in the present affidavit are not found now in the files of the Foreign Office, the originals as well as the copies of which having been lost in the fire during the war.

(4) Foreign Minister HIROTA, as I was told, requested War Minister SUGIYAMA to take strict measures promptly with regard to the case of Nanking atrocities; I was informed of the fact by Foreign Minister HIROTA at that time. At the same time I made the same request to the competent authorities of the War Office.

On this 25th day of January, 1947, at Tokyo.

(Signed) ISHII, Itaro (Seal)

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above-mentioned date and place.

(Signed) MORISHIMA, Goro (Seal)

Witness

O A T H

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

(Signed) ISHII, Itaro (Seal)