

3670

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

- Defendants -

A F F I D A V I T

SAKAYA TADASHI

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

1. I entered the Foreign Ministry in March 1921 and, after serving at various posts, became Minister to Finland in September 1940, remaining in that position until my retirement from the Foreign Ministry in April 1945.
2. From December 1937 to October 1938 I served in Berlin as First Secretary of the Embassy under Ambassador Tōgō. Being the senior secretary, and consequently in charge of the telegraphic code of the Ambassador, I came to be directly acquainted with such questions as the strengthening of the Anti-Comintern Pact, that is, the German-Japanese Alliance, and the change of Japanese ambassadors to Germany which arose during the above-mentioned period. From the knowledge so officially gained I give the following testimony.
3. As I had in July 1938 an inkling of the fact that General Ōshima, Military Attaché to the Embassy, had been negotiating with Ribbentrop for the strengthening of the Anti-Comintern Pact, and that Major-General Kasahara had hurriedly returned to Japan, taking a German proposal on the subject, I submitted this report to Ambassador Tōgō, who cabled toward the middle of August to the Foreign Minister, saying that a German-Japanese-Italian alliance would not contribute to the solution of the China Affair, as argued by those who supported the strengthening of the Anti-Comintern Pact, and that it would be foolhardy for the Japanese nation, which had a history of more than two thousand years behind her, to cooperate with Hitler, who was convinced that the rise of Germany was mainly attributable to him and was therefore prone to risk everything in a game of hazard for his ambition. A tripartite pact, he urged, contained the possibility of being abused to bring about a European war in which Japan also might become involved; therefore the pending negotiations for the alliance should be abandoned as the establishment of any closer relation with Germany and Italy, or the contracting of any bond of alliance with them, would threaten great dangers to the future of Japan.
4. The Foreign Minister cabled, however, at the end of August, that the cabinet ministers concerned in Tokyo had decided to have the Military Attaché keep in touch with Ribbentrop on the question of strengthening the Anti-Comintern Pact. The Ambassador strongly urged the Foreign Minister's reconsideration, insisting that the German-Japanese relation should not be drawn any closer

than it then existed, and that, moreover, it was not proper for a military attaché to be charged with matters other than military affairs. Within a few days after the dispatch of this message, Ambassador Tōgō received a cable from the Foreign Minister requesting his agreement to his transfer to Moscow.

Ambassador Tōgō refused to assent to the Foreign Minister's request, answering him that he would rather remain in Berlin to work on German-Japanese affairs, which just then required the most careful attention. The response was another telegram from the Foreign Minister urging the Ambassador's assent, which he then gave. Ambassador Tōgō left Berlin in October for Moscow.

5. On 9 April 1945, Mr. Tōgō was appointed by His Majesty as Foreign Minister in the Suzuki Cabinet. Prior to this, toward the end of March of the same year, I had had a talk with Mr. Bagge, the Swedish Minister, with whom I had been on friendly terms for a long time. He was leaving Japan for home shortly, relieved of his office, and told me that, since he had served in Japan for so long a time as twenty years, he wished he could be of some service to Japan. He set forth his views that the Allies, though they had avowed that they were determined to force Japan to surrender unconditionally, would not necessarily adhere to that if Japan proposed to conclude peace, and that the question of the Imperial Household, which Japan took the most serious view of, would not come into question in that case. He further suggested that the Swedish Government could sound the intention of the American Government, and asked me if Mr. Shigemitsu, the then Foreign Minister, would agree to it. I thereupon conveyed his views and suggestion to Foreign Minister Shigemitsu confidentially. Later, when the Swedish Minister made a call upon the Foreign Minister the matter was brought into the conversation. Mr. Shigemitsu stated on that occasion that it would greatly oblige him if the Swedish Government would, at its own instance, take the trouble of sounding out the intention of the American Government in connection with the peace terms. I was informed of the fact by both Mr. Shigemitsu and Minister Bagge.

6. After Mr. Tōgō was appointed Foreign Minister, I called on him on 11 April to make a report of the above details, and asked his intention in this connection. The Foreign Minister replied that he had not yet received any report of the matter, but he referred to his eager desire for prompt restoration of peace, and requested me to ask the Swedish Minister to bring his suggestion to realization. Thereupon on the following day, 12 April, I called on Minister Bagge who was then waiting for the plane to carry him home, and told him that Mr. Tōgō was of the same opinion as the former Foreign Minister, asking if he had any desire to see the new Foreign Minister in this connection. The Swedish Minister looked very much delighted, and promised to set about bringing the above project to realization. He also expressed his desire to see the Foreign Minister if possible. However, he was compelled to leave Tokyo without seeing the Foreign Minister, as the plane left on the following morning.

O A T H

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

Sakaya Tadashi

On this 6th day of October, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent: Sakaya Tadashi (seal)

I, Nishi Haruhiko, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to by the deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: Nishi Haruhiko (seal)

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the Defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko

Tokyo
6 October 1947