

IPS EVIDENTIARY DOCUMENT NO. 1468 WAS REMOVED FROM THE
FILES, 18 MARCH 1949 FOR RETURN TO THE KONOYE FAMILY.

Removed for court use by

F. Kelly.

Exhibit - 1152

/ Edward. D. Montgomery

職務 國際檢察部 調査者

証人 WILIAM. C. PRUDT (署名)

/ William. C. Prudt

LETTER OF RESIGNATION AS PRIME MINISTER
BY PRINCE FUMIMARO KONOYE TO H. M. THE
EMPEROR

.....

By His Majesty's Humble Servant, Fumimaro

When I, Your Majesty's humble servant unexpectedly received an Imperial Command to organize a Cabinet for a third time, it was my firm conviction that, in order that we can manage the present political situation so as to enable future national expansion, we must find a speedy solution for the China Incident by adjusting relations with the United States on friendly terms. Therefore, I have expressed my wishes to the United States Government soliciting an opportunity for friendly parleys.

Recently, however, Army Minister TOJO, who judged that such negotiations could not possibly be materialized before the desired time (about the middle or latter part of October), and who believed the situation had come to a point "When no other means can be found to carry through our demands ..." found in the 3rd article of "An Outline of How to Execute the National Policies of Our Empire," which met Imperial sanction following the conference in the presence of His Majesty held on the 6th of September, this year, has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived to open war against the United States.

When I consider the matter carefully, however, I still believe that provided we have ample time, not only is it erroneous to think that all negotiations with the United States are hopeless but that even the most difficult question involved, the question of withdrawing our troops, can be settled if we take the attitude of yielding to her in appearance by keeping for us the substance and casting away the name. It is utterly impossible for Your Majesty's humble servant Fumimaro, who is feeling much responsibility ever since the outbreak of the China Incident, to endure plunging the nation again into a titanic war the outcome of which cannot be forecast when even the China Incident has not yet been settled.

For these reasons Fumimaro believes that now is the time for the Government and the military to cooperate in unity towards materializing our negotiations with the United States by exerting our very utmost, thus to bring about settlement with China, which is now urgent necessity from the standpoint of recovering national strength as well as stabilizing popular morale. And if we have any desire for advancing our national fortunes now is the very time for us to step back a bit to prepare for a forward leap, and to make the people struggle forward more bravely for the sovereign and the state enduring hardship and privation.

I, Your Majesty's humble servant, have done my best to prevail upon Army Minister TOJO by laying open to him my inmost feelings. However, the Army Minister persistently claimed that though he perfectly understood the toil and feelings of the Prime Minister, it was impossible to consent to the withdrawal of troops from the standpoint of maintaining their morale, and moreover, that once the United States was yielded to, she would apply still more overbearing measures and might even forget where to stop; and that even if the China Affair was settled, it was possible that a rupture might occur again in two or three years; and that as internal weaknesses were existent both in the United States and Japan we should not lose this opportunity for a war with her.

I, Fumimaro, conferred with him on four separate occasions but have failed to make him agree with me, and am now unable to carry on the grave responsibilities of assisting the Throne according to my own convictions, due solely to my want of abilities, for which I humbly beg Your Majesty's pardon.

I, Your Majesty's humble servant, beseech Your Majesty to release me from this important post.

October 16, 16th year of Showa (1941)
Prime Minister of Cabinet,
Prince Fumimaro KONOYE.

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. _____

I.P.S. No. _____

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Marquis YASUMASA MATSUDAIRA, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Imperial Household in the following capacity: President of the Peerage Bureau, Imperial Household, and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of two pages, dated 16 October, 1941, and described as follows: Letter of resignation as Prime Minister, by Prince FUMIMARO KONOE to H. M. The Emperor. I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Imperial Household, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): of the Board of Chamberlains, Imperial Household.

Signed at Tokyo on this2nd day of July, 1946./s/ Y. MATSUDAIRA
Signature of OfficialWitness: /s/ M. KURODASEAL
President of the Peerage Bureau
Official CapacityStatement of Official Procurement

I, EDWARD P. MONOGHAN, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this3rd day of July, 1946/s/ EDWARD P. MONOGHAN
NAMEWitness: /s/ WILLIAM C. PROUTInvestigator, I.P.S.
Official Capacity

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I am conversant with both
the Japanese and English languages and that the above
is a true and exact copy of the original document

Letter of Resignation from Premiership

submitted to H. M. the Emperor of Japan,

by Prince Fumimaro KONOYE.

/s/ TOSHIO TOMISHIGE

/s/ WARREN H. WAGNER

WITNESS:

/s/ EDWARD P. MONOGHAN

Tokyo

July 3rd, 1946.

CHARGE OUT SLIP
I P S

DATE 29 Mar 1948

EVIDENTIARY DOC. NO. 1468
TRIAL BRIEF _____
EXHIBIT NO. _____
BACKGROUND DOC. NO. _____
FILE NO. _____
PRESS TRANS. _____
U.S S.B.S. _____
DEFENSE SUMMATION _____
PROSECUTION SUMMATION _____
DEFENSE DOC. NO. _____

*Misc. papers
only*

SIGNATURE Gordon W. Prange
POOL NO. _____

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

File No. 59-4
Re: Prince Konoye
Date: 21 Feb. 46

Translated by: S. Taniguchi
Checked by: T. Nishioka
Status Pending.

The following is a translation of Document No. 59-4, obtained from the Tokyo residence of Prince Konoye by Maj. L.H. Barnard and Lt. Col. B.E. Sackett on 16 Dec. 45. Translation by S. Taniguchi was requested on 30 Jan. 46 and completed by S. Taniguchi on 31 Jan. 46.

By His Majesty's Humble Servant, Fumimaro.

When I, Your Majesty's humble servant unexpectedly received an Imperial Command to organize a Cabinet for a third time, it was my firm conviction that, in order that we can manage the present political situation so as to enable future national expansion, we must find a speedy solution for the China Incident by adjusting relations with the United States on friendly terms. Therefore, I have expressed my wishes to the United State's Government soliciting an opportunity for friendly parleys.

Recently, however, Army Minister Tojo, who judges that such negotiations cannot possibly be materialized before the desired time (about the middle or later part of ~~August~~^{October}), and who believes the situation has come to a point "when no other means can be found to carry through our demands....." found in the 3rd article of "An Outline of How to Execute the National Policies of Our Empire," which met Imperial sanction following the conference in the presence of His Majesty held on the 6th of ~~August~~^{September}, this year, has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived to open war against the United States.

When I consider the matter carefully, however, I still believe, provided we have ample time, that not only is it erroneous to think that all negotiations with the United States are hopeless but that even the most difficult question involved, the question of withdrawing our troops, can be settled if we take the attitude of yielding to her in appearance by keeping for us the substance and casting away the name. It is utterly impossible for Your Majesty's humble servant

COPIES: 3 File 59
1 Lt. Col. Sackett
1 CIC (through Lt. Waldorf)
1 Lt. Alexander.

Serial No: _____

File No: 59
Re: Prince Konoye (cont'd).

Fumimaro, who is feeling much responsibility ever since the outbreak of the China Incident, to endure plunging the nation again into a titanic war the outcome of which cannot be forecast when even the China Incident has not yet been settled.

For these reasons Fumimaro believes that now is the time for the Government and the military to cooperate in unity towards materializing our negotiations with the United States by exerting our very utmost, thus to bring about settlement with China, which is now urgent necessity from the standpoint of recovering national strength as well as stabilizing popular morale. And if we have any desire for advancing our national fortunes now is the very time for us to step back a bit to prepare for a forward leap. Thus the people will learn to overcome the greatest hardships for the sake of his country.

I, Your Majesty's humble servant have done my best to prevail upon Army Minister Tojo by laying open to him my inmost feelings. However, the Army Minister persistently claims that though he perfectly understands the toil and feelings of the Prime Minister, it is impossible to consent to the withdrawal of troops from the standpoint of maintaining their morale, and moreover, that once the United States is yielded to, she will apply still more overbearing measures and may even forget where to stop; and that even if the China Affair is settled, it is possible that a rupture might occur again in two or three years; and that as internal weaknesses are existent both in the United States and Japan we should not lose this opportunity for a war with her.

I, Fumimaro, conferred with him on four separate occasions but has failed to make him agree with me and is now unable to carry on the grave responsibilities of assisting the Throne according to my own convictions, due solely to my want of abilities for which I humbly beg Your Majesty's pardon.

I, Your Majesty's humble servant beseech Your Majesty to release my from this important post.

Prime Minister of Cabinet,
Prince Fumimaro Konoye.

P E N D I N G.

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I, Your Majesty's humble servant, beseech Your Majesty to release me from this important post.

October 16, 16th Year of Showa (1941)
Prime Minister of Cabinet,
Prince Fumimaro Konoye.

P E N D I N G.

Suggestions for revision

-1-

- ① "judges" should be "judged"
- ② "provided we have ample time" should follow, not precede, "that."
- ③ After "a forward leap," the full stop should be changed to a comma, and the next sentence, "Thus the people:--- country," had better be, "and to make the people struggle forward more bravely for the Sovereign and the State, enduring hardship and privation."
- ④ "Claims" should be "claimed."
- ⑤ "understands" should be "understood."
- ⑥ "it is impossible" should be "it was impossible."
- ⑦ "is yielded to" should be "was yielded to."
- ⑧ "she will apply" should be "she would apply."
- ⑨ "may even forget" should be "might even forget."
- ⑩ "China Affair is" should be "China Affair was."
- ⑪ "it is possible" should be "it was possible."
- ⑫ "has failed" should be "have failed."
- ⑬ A comma should be put between "me" and "and."
- ⑭ Inverted commas before "Throne" should be taken away.
- ⑮ A comma should be put between "abilities" and "for."

- ⑫ A comma should be put between "servant" and "beseech."
- ⑬ "my" should be "me." - L.H.K.
- ⑭ The date "October 16th of Showa (1941)" should come under the line "me from this important post" and above the line "Prime Minister of Cabinet."

Additional suggestions for revision

- ⑮ "who believes" should be "who believed."
- ⑯ "has come" should be "had come."
- ⑰ "can be found" should be "could be found."
- ⑱ "cannot possibly" should be "could not possibly."
- ⑲ "are existent" should be "were existent."

Contained in a quotation - original probably better - L.H.K.

Judging by my humble ability, the rest is very correctly and ably written.

14. Ito

Room 365-

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 1468

27 April 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

Title and Nature: Handwritten request to throne made by Prince KONOYE, to be relieved of post of Prime Minister

Date: July 41 Original (x) Copy () Language: Japanese

Has it been translated? Yes (x) No ()

Has it been photostated? Yes () No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of:

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Prince KONOYE's home.

PERSONS IMPLICATED: TOJO, Hideki; The Emperor

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: War of aggression.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

Here KONOYE places blame for war with the U.S. directly on TOJO. In this plea to the throne, he states that while he advocated negotiating with the United States, "Army Minister TOJO, who judges that such negotiations cannot possibly be materialized before the desired time (about the middle or later part of August), and who believes the situation has come to a point 'where no other means can be found to carry through our demands,'.....has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived to open war against the United States."

KONOYE thought this stand erroneous, and said even the withdrawal of troops could be managed, Japan "keeping the substance.....yielding in appearance."

Since even after four conferences with TOJO, he could not make him agree, KONOYE says he could not "endure plunging the nation into a titanic war, the outcome of which cannot be forecast," he asked the throne to be relieved of his post.

Flea is signed by KONOYE.

Analyst: W. H. Wagner

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Analyst: W. H. Wagner

Doc. No. 1468

17 June 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Comyns Carr
Mr. Fihelly

RE : Documents Nos. 1468 - 1587 - 3

A. Document No. 1468

A revised translation of this document has been put into the file. This corrected version shows that it was signed under the date October 16, 1941. The context of the writing fully bears out the fact that it was written at that time.

Of the several copies IPS has in its possession, none is the copy actually presented to the Emperor. This would be written upon finer paper - parchment, perhaps - and presumably kept by the Emperor.

USHIBA, one of the Prince's secretaries, has stated that the handwriting in which two of our copies are written, is not familiar to him, although he can recognize the Prince's handwriting and that of his other three secretaries, AMYA, HOSOKAWA and KOMURA, as well as his own.

USHIBA did not see the copy actually handed to the Emperor and cannot say whether the IPS copies are identical to it, although they are identical one to each other. TANAKA, Ryukichi, has told H. ITO, who revised our preliminary translation, that our copies are at least substantially the same as the true instrument, but it should be noticed that two other versions of this note by KONOYE, found attached to two versions of KONOYE's memoirs as appendices (see Doc. Nos. 570 and 570-A) vary considerably from this one, particularly in regard to the line "yielding to her in appearance", etc.

At the date of this memorandum there are no provisions for comparing our copies with the Emperor's original, but an attempt to obtain permission to do so is being initiated.

B. Document No. 1587

The exact date of the writing of this document has not as yet been determined. The last date mentioned is June 4, 1937, but there is reason to believe that this forms a part of a history of the KONOYE Cabinet begun by BABA after the war with the United States had already started.

*See
attached
memo*

JUN 17 1946

Re: Documents Nos. 1468 - 1587 - 3

BABA is to be interviewed as soon as possible - it is hoped, this week. USHIBA states only that he believes the document to be BABA's work and that it was not written by either himself, the Prince, ANYA, HOSOKAWA or KOMURA.

The reference made by the analysis sheet to the Big Three and KAYA are slightly misleading. The original translation should be inspected with close attention to page 6, second paragraph, and the bottom of page 7. The Big Three of the Army are not named but were presumably SUGIYAMA, KANIN and TERAUCHI, not TOJO and UMEZU as stated in the analysis.

C. Document No. 3

USHIBA has stated that he does not recognize the handwriting of this document but that the matter it contains appears to consist of extracts from Prince KONOYE's memoir on the Japanese-American negotiations.

This memoir seems to have been first drawn up shortly before December 7, 1941, but was revised at least twice after that before the Prince committed suicide. The complete history of these revisions has not yet been clearly determined and no comparison of these extracts with the originals has been made to date. The only originals in the hands of IPS at present are Documents Nos. 570 and 1467. Document No. 570 is now being processed for the Russians and Document No. 1467 is being translated for us in full by Technical Intelligence. Another original is being tracked down by Technical Intelligence in G-2. Still another, which is like our Document No. 1467 is at the Asahi Newspaper Office.

LEE M. KENNA
Pfc, Inv. Div.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I am conversant with both
the Japanese and English languages and that the above
is a true and exact copy of the original document

Joshio Tomishige

Warren H. Wague

WITNESS:

Tokyo

July _____, 1946.

1468A-4

證 明 書

小官ハ日本語及ビ英語ノ兩國語ニ通曉セルコト並ニ上記ハ

日本天皇陛下ニ公使近衛文磨ガ上奏セル内閣總理大臣辭職願

ノ原文書ノ眞實ニシテ正確ナル寫シタルコトヲ證ス。

證 人 ト シ

ワアレン・ニイテ・ワグナア

證 人 エドワード・ビー・モネハン

一九四六年（昭和二十一年）七月三日、東京ニ於テ

出所及ビ確實性ニ關スル陳述

余、侯爵松平康昌ハ余ガ宮内省宗秩寮總裁トシテノ資格ニ於テ職掌上宮内省ニ關係アルコト、茲ニ添附セラレタル一九四一年（昭和十六年）十月十六日附ノ二頁ヨル成ル文書即チ公使近衛文磨ヨリ天皇陛下ニ上奏セル内閣總理大臣辭職願ト記

1468A-5

送セラレタル文書ヲ前述ノ官吏トシテ保官シ居ル
コトヲ證ス。

猶添附セラレタル記録及ビ文書ハ日本宮内省ノ
公文書ニシテ左記ノ省又ハ部（綴リ番號或ハ若シ
アラバ引用、又ハ官文書類又ハ憲法ニ於ケル該文
書ノ保存箇所ノ公式名稱ヲ詳記スベシ）ノ官文書
類及ビソノ綴リノ一部タルコトヲ證ス

宮内省侍從職

一九四六年（昭和二十一年）七月二日、東京ニ於テ
署名ス

公職 宗 秩 寮 總 裁

松 平 康 昌

證人 エ ム、 黒 田

公式入手ニ關スル陳述

余、フエドワード・ピー・モネハンハ余ガ聯合
國最高指揮官總司令部ニ關係アルコト、且上記ノ
文書ハ余ガ職務執行上前記署名ノ日本政府官吏ヨ
リ入手セルモノナルコトヲ證ス

1468A-6

一九四六年（昭和二十一年）七月三日、東京ニ於テ

公職 國際檢察部調査官

エドワード・ビー・モネハン

ワイリアム・シー・グライナー

プラウット

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. _____
 I.P.S. No. _____

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Marquis YASUMASA MATSUDAIRA, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Imperial Household in the following capacity: President of the Peerage Bureau, Imperial Household, and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of two pages, dated 16 October, 1941, and described as follows: Letter of resignation as Prime Minister, by Prince FUMIMARO KONOYE to H. M. The Emperor. I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Imperial Household, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): of the Board of Chamberlains, Imperial Household.

Signed at Tokyo on this

2nd day of July, 1946.

/s/ Y. MATSUDAIRA
 Signature of Official

Witness: /s/ M. KURODA

SEAL
President of the Peerage Bureau
 Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, EDWARD P. MONOGHAN, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

3rd day of July, 1946

/s/ EDWARD P. MONOGHAN
 NAME

Witness: /s/ WILLIAM C. PROUT

Investigator, I.P.S.
 Official Capacity

C E R T I F I C A T E

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is a true and exact copy of the original document

Letter of Resignation from Premiership

submitted to H. M. the Emperor of Japan,

by Prince Fumimaro KONOYE.

/s/ TOSHIO TOMISHIGE

/s/ WARREN H. WAGNER

WITNESS:

/s/ EDWARD P. MONOGHAN

Tokyo

July 3rd, 1946.

1468

p. 2.

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KONOYE thought this stand erroneous, ~~the possibility of war catastrophic,~~ and said even the withdrawal of troops could be managed, Japan "keeping the substance... yielding in appearance."

Since even after four conferences with Tojo, he could not make him agree, KONOYE says he could not "endure plunging the nation into a titanic war, the outcome of which cannot be forecast," he ~~beseeched~~ ^{asked} the Throne to be relieved of his post. Plea is signed by KONOYE.

No. 1468 A

證明書

Translated by
WAKABAYASHI Yukio
Checked by
M. SABAYASU

小官ハ日本語及ビ英語ノ兩語ニ通

曉セルコトヲ證明書トシテ上記ハ

公爵近衛文麿

日本天自王陛下ニ提呈セル内閣總理大臣ノ
上奏セル

辭職願

原文書ノ正確ナルヲ爲シタルコトヲ證ス。

富成 トシオ

フアレシ、エイチ、ワグナアー

證人 エトワード・ピー、モネハン

一九四六年七月三日 (昭和二十一年) 東京ニ於テ

No. 1468 A.

Translated by
WAKABAYASHI Yoko
Checked by M. SADAYASU

出所及び内容の確實性を固る
備陳述

余カ

宗秩

總裁

余、侯爵松平康昌の宮内省御族寮長官

資格に於て

尚手

宮内省

二關

トレテノ職務及び於て

職務上

皇室ニ關

係アルコト、且並ニ

新官職ニ

茲ニ添

與セシメ、
昭和十六年十一月十六日附
二頁ニ成ル文書、即チ

公爵近衛

附セル一九四一年十月十六日附

文鷹ヨリ天皇ニ

呈上

電

内閣總理大臣辭

前述べ

職願

ト記述セラレタル

文書ヲ

保佐官トシテ
トレテ
ニ居ル
コトヲ
証ス

猶添附記録及び文書ハ日本宮内省
日本御族寮ニ

公文書ニシテ左

記

名稱

省

又ハ部

綴リ

若シテ引用

官文書

又ハ綴込

番號或ハ書名
又ハ
ニ於ケル該文書

保存箇所 ~~東京~~ ^{公式名簿} 詳記ス ^{官文書部及心ソノ}
~~東京~~ 書綴

一部タルコトヲ 證ス

宮内省

~~内務省~~ 侍從職

昭和廿一年

一九四六年七月二日

東京ニ於テ署名ス

公職

宗秩宗、總裁

松平康昌

証人

正々

黒田

— × × × —

公式 職務 入手 報告 陳述

余 エドワード・ピール・モネハン ^{余ガ} 聯合國 日取

揮官 總司令部ニ関係アルコト

高指 ~~余ガ~~ 勤務ナル者ナル事ヲ 證

上記ノ文書ハ余^余ガ職務執行上

前記署名ノ日本政府官吏ヨリ押収^{入手}セルモノナリ

コトヲ證明ス

一九四六年七月三日 東京ニ於テ

昭和廿一年

公職務
國際検査部
調査官

エドワード・ピー・モネハン

證人：ウィリアム・シー・グラント

1468

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No.

Date 25 April 46

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

Title and Nature: Handwritten Request to Throne
Made by Prince KONOYE, to be relieved of Post of
Prime Minister

Date: July 4, 1941 / Original (X) Copy () Language: Japanese

Has it been translated? Yes (X) No ()
Has it been photostated? Yes () No (X)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of _____:

Doc Dir

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Prince KONOYE's Home, ~~Tokyo~~

PERSONS IMPLICATED: To Jo, Hideki; The Emperor.

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:
War of Aggression.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

Here KONOYE places blame for war with the U.S. directly on TO JO. ~~In~~ this ~~specific~~ plea to ^{the} Throne, he states that which he advocated negotiating with the United States, "Army Minister TO JO, who judges that such negotiations cannot possibly be wateralized (cont p. 2)

Analyst W. H. Wagner

Doc. No.

7/12/46 talked to Kerma. He to get further data.

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 1468

27 April 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Wagner

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

Title and Nature: Handwritten request to throne made by Prince KONOYE, to be relieved of post of Prime Minister

Date: ~~July~~ Oct. 16 '41 Original (x) Copy () Language: Japanese

Has it been translated? Yes (x) No ()
Has it been photostated? Yes () No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of:

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Prince KONOYE's home.

PERSONS IMPLICATED: TOJO, Hideki; The Emperor

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: War of aggression.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

Here KONOYE places blame for war with the U.S. directly on TOJO. In this plea to the throne, he states that while he advocated negotiating with the United States, "Army Minister TOJO, who judges that such negotiations cannot possibly be materialized before the desired time (about the middle or later part of August), and who believes the situation has come to a point 'where no other means can be found to carry through our demands,.....has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived to open war against the United States."

KONOYE thought this stand erroneous, and said even the withdrawal of troops could be managed, Japan "keeping the substance.....yielding in appearance."

Since even after four conferences with TOJO, he could not make him agree, KONOYE says he could not "endure plunging the nation into a titanic war, the outcome of which cannot be forecast," he asked the throne to be relieved of his post.

Flea is signed by KONOYE.

Analyst: W. H. Wagner

Doc. No. 1468

8 July 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Conyns Carr
Mr. Fihelly
Mr. Humphreys

RE : Document #1468

The above-mentioned document has been compared with the original located in the Emperor's Archives and found to be word for word the same. Affidavits to that effect are on file with Document #1468.

Lee M. Kenna
LEE M. KENNA
Pfc., Inv. Div.

Major general TANAKA, Ryūkichī, who is now in this building as a witness in the trial, is of the opinion that none of these papers was actually presented to the Throne, because none of them is written on hōsho paper (very fine, thick, white Japanese paper), as is the case with any petition presented to the Throne. But the Major general is sure that a petition in similar wording (written on hōsho paper) was presented to the Throne, these papers being its copies. The translator humbly communicates the Major general's opinion for what it is worth.

EX 1152

LETTER OF RESIGNATION AS PRIME MINISTER
BY PRINCE FUMIMARO KONOYE TO H. M. THE
EMPEROR

.....

By His Majesty's Humble Servant, Fumimaro

When I, Your Majesty's humble servant unexpectedly received an Imperial Command to organize a Cabinet for a third time, it was my firm conviction that, in order that we can manage the present political situation so as to enable future national expansion, we must find a speedy solution for the China Incident by adjusting relations with the United States on friendly terms. Therefore, I have expressed my wishes to the United States Government soliciting an opportunity for friendly parleys.

Recently, however, Army Minister TOJO, who judged that such negotiations could not possibly be materialized before the desired time (about the middle or latter part of October), and who believed the situation had come to a point "When no other means can be found to carry through our demands ..." found in the 3rd article of "An Outline of How to Execute the National Policies of Our Empire," which met Imperial sanction following the conference in the presence of His Majesty held on the 6th of September, this year, has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived to open war against the United States.

When I consider the matter carefully, however, I still believe that provided we have ample time, not only is it erroneous to think that all negotiations with the United States are hopeless but that even the most difficult question involved, the question of withdrawing our troops, can be settled if we take the attitude of yielding to her in appearance by keeping for us the substance and casting away the name. It is utterly impossible for Your Majesty's humble servant Fumimaro, who is feeling much responsibility ever since the outbreak of the China Incident, to endure plunging the nation again into a titanic war the outcome of which cannot be forecast when even the China Incident has not yet been settled.

For these reasons Fumimaro believes that now is the time for the Government and the military to cooperate in unity towards materializing our negotiations with the United States by exerting our very utmost, thus to bring about settlement with China, which is now urgent necessity from the standpoint of recovering national strength as well as stabilizing popular morale. And if we have any desire for advancing our national fortunes now is the very time for us to step back a bit to prepare for a forward leap, and to make the people struggle forward more bravely for the sovereign and the state enduring hardship and privation.

I, Your Majesty's humble servant, have done my best to prevail upon Army Minister TOJO by laying open to him my inmost feelings. However, the Army Minister persistently claimed that though he perfectly understood the toil and feelings of the Prime Minister, it was impossible to consent to the withdrawal of troops from the standpoint of maintaining their morale, and moreover, that once the United States was yielded to, she would apply still more overbearing measures and might even forget where to stop; and that even if the China Affair was settled, it was possible that a rupture might occur again in two or three years; and that as internal weaknesses were existent both in the United States and Japan we should not lose this opportunity for a war with her.

I, Fumimaro, conferred with him on four separate occasions but have failed to make him agree with me, and am now unable to carry on the grave responsibilities of assisting the Throne according to my own convictions, due solely to my want of abilities, for which I humbly beg Your Majesty's pardon.

I, Your Majesty's humble servant, beseech Your Majesty to release me from this important post.

October 16, 16th year of Showa (1941)
Prime Minister of Cabinet,
Prince Fumimaro KONOYE.

巨 文 磨

義ニ固ラズモ三度大命ヲ辱ウシテ内閣ヲ組織スル
ヤ現下ノ國際政局ニ處シテ國家將來ノ存続ヲ期セ
ンガ爲ニハ速ニ米國トノ友好關係ヲ調整シ以テ支
那事變ノ急遽解決ヲ圖ラザルベカラズト確信シ米
國政府ニ對シテハ誠シク兩者會談ノ機ヲ與ヘラレ
ンコトヲ要望シ以テ今日ニ及ベリ然ルニ最近ニ至
リ東條陸軍大臣ハ右交渉ハ其ノ所望時期（滿ノ十
月中一下旬）迄ニハ到底成立ノ望ミナシト判断シ
乃チ本年九月六日御前會議ノ議ヲ遂テ裁裁ヲ仰ギ
タル「帝國國策遂行要領」中三ノ「我要求ヲ貫徹
シ得ル目途ナキ」場合ト認メ今ヤ對米開戦ヲ決意
スベキ時期ニ到達セリト爲スニ至レリ熟々惟ミル
ニ對米交渉ハ假スニ時日ヲ以テスレバ尙其ノ成立
ノ望ミナシトハ斷ズベカラザルト共ニ最モ難關ナ
リト思考セラルル衛兵問題ニ右ヲ捨テ實ヲ取ルノ
主旨ニ依リ形式ハ彼ニ讓ルノ態度ヲ採ラバ尙安
緒ノ望ミアリト信ゼラルルヲ以テ支那事變ノ末ダ
解決セザル現在ニ於テ更ニ前途ノ遠見スベカラザ
ル大戦争ニ突入スルガ如キハ支那事變勃發以來重
大ナル責任ヲ痛感シツツアル巨文磨ノ到底及ビ難

1468A-1

EX 1152

キ所ナリ因テ此ノ際ハ政府軍部協力一致共ノ最善
 ヲ盡シテ飽久迄對米交渉ヲ成立セシメ以テ一應支
 那事變ヲ解決セントスルハ国力培養ノ點ヨリ云フ
 モ將タ又民心安定ノ上ヨリ見ルモ現下良策ノ要事
 ニシテ口邊ノ發展ヲ望マバ寧ロ今日コソ大ニ伸ビ
 ンガ爲ニ善ク屈シ國民ヲシテ臥薪嘗膽益々吾國ノ
 爲ニ邁進セシムルヲ以テ最モ時宜ヲ得タルモノナ
 リト信ジ巨ハ哀情ヲ披瀝シテ東條陸軍大臣ヲ説得
 スベク努力シタリ之ニ對シ陸軍大臣ハ總理大臣ノ
 苦心ト哀情トハ深く諒トスル所ナルモ徵兵ハ軍ノ
 士氣維持ノ上ヨリ到底同意シ難ク又一度米國ニ屈
 スルトキハ彼ハ益々賠償ノ増量ニ出テ殆ソド底止
 スル處ヲ知ラザルベク假令一應支那事變ノ解決ヲ
 見タリトスルモ日支ノ關係ハ前三年ヲ出デズシ
 テ再ビ破綻スルニ至ルコトモ亦豫想セラル且國內
 ノ弱點ハ彼我共ニ存スルヲ以テ時期ヲ失セズ此ノ
 際開戦ヲ決意スベキコトヲ主張シテ已マズ懸談四
 度ニ及ビタルモ終ニ同意セシムルニ至ラズ是ニ於
 テ巨ハ遂ニ所信ヲ貫徹シテ前日ノ重責ヲ完ウス
 ルコト能ハザルニ至レリ是偏ニ巨ガ非才ノ致ス所
 ニシテ洵ニ恐懼ノ至リニ堪ヘズ仰ギ願ハクハ聖鑑
 ヲ乘レ給ヒ巨ガ重職ヲ解キ給ハンコトヲ巨文唐談
 僥談懇謹ミテ奏ス

3
JMT 29.7

1468A-3

日 本 十 六 年 十 月 十 六 日

内 閣 總 務 大 臣 公 署 近 衛 文 部

17 June 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Conyns Carr
Mr. Fihelly

RE : Documents Nos. 1468 - 1587 - 3

A. Document No. 1468

A revised translation of this document has been put into the file. This corrected version shows that it was signed under the date October 16, 1941. The context of the writing fully bears out the fact that it was written at that time.

Of the several copies IPS has in its possession, none is the copy actually presented to the Emperor. This would be written upon finer paper - parchment, perhaps - and presumably kept by the Emperor.

USHIBA, one of the Prince's secretaries, has stated that the handwriting in which two of our copies are written, is not familiar to him, although he can recognize the Prince's handwriting and that of his other three secretaries, ~~MINA~~ HOSOKAWA, ARAKI, and KONURA, as well as his own.

USHIBA did not see the copy actually handed to the Emperor and cannot say whether the IPS copies are identical to it, although they are identical one to each other. TANAKA, Fyukichi, has told H. ITO, who revised our preliminary translation, that our copies are at least substantially the same as the true instrument, but it should be noticed that two other versions of this note by KONOYE, found attached to two versions of KONOYE's memoirs as appendices (see Doc. Nos. 570 and 570-A) vary considerably from this one, particularly in regard to the line "yielding to her in appearance", etc.

At the date of this memorandum there are no provisions for comparing our copies with the Emperor's original, but an attempt to obtain permission to do so is being initiated.