

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al.

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: FURUNO, Inosuke

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

- 1). I, FURUNO, Inosuke, was formerly President of the Domei News Agency. As the corporation was dissolved after the close of the War, I left the aforesaid position and am now living at Tamagawara, Chofu-machi, Kita-Tama-gun, Tokyo.
- 2). It was shortly after the end of Great War I, 1921 or 1922 that I first became acquainted with Mr. ITAGAKI. At that time I was staying at Peking, serving as Chief of the Peking Bureau of the Kokusai News Agency, and Mr. ITAGAKI was also there serving as assistant officer to the military attache to the Japanese Embassy at Peking.
- 3). In April, 1938, -- I was then one of the Executive Directors of the Domei News Agency at Tokyo --, I was preparing for a business trip to Peking when Premier KONOYE asked me to have a talk with him and I met him at his official residence. The



Premier said to me, "The Sino-Japanese Incident has unexpectedly assumed serious proportions, as you know, in spite of the Government's localization policy, and there is no sign of its end. Now I think it is an urgent necessity to change our present policies so as to cope with the situation as soon as possible. To achieve it the cabinet must be reformed. The successor to SUGIYAMA, the present War Minister, must be such a man as can carry our localization policy with enthusiasm for the peaceful settlement of the Incident. Lt. Gen. ITAGAKI, I think, is well-qualified for the post. I know privately that the military also seem to be in favor of the appointment of ITAGAKI. As I know you (FURUNO) are well-acquainted with ITAGAKI, I ask that you visit him where he now is, at the front in North China, and hear his frank and full opinion about the settlement of the China Incident, sound him as to his intention in case of his being recommended for the post of War Minister." Perceiving that the premier was eager for the peaceful settlement of the Incident and had made up his mind to appoint ITAGAKI as successor to SUGIYAMA if possible, I consented to his request.

4). After that, I left Tokyo and went by way of Tsingtao to Ihsien, Shantung, the advance line in North China at the time. I met ITAGAKI who was then staying there.

I talked with him several times very confidentially. First when I asked his opinion as to the settlement of the Incident, he held very earnestly that we must reach a peaceful conclusion, withdrawing the entire forces from China as soon as possible.



Next, as to his intention of taking the post of War Minister, he stated that he was not qualified for the post as he was a junior in the Army and there would be not a few persons fit for the position, and moreover, as he had long been serving in the line of supreme command, he was uninformed as to matters involved in military administration.

I thought however, that his acceptance or refusal would depend chiefly on the attitude of the Army and the Premier's enthusiasm.

5). Leaving Ihsien I reached Peking by way of Tsinan. and sent a telegram to Premier KONOYE from Peking, reporting the purport of my talk with ITAGAKI.

Having my business over at Peking, I returned to Tokyo at the end of May, spending two or three week's on the trip. On reaching Tokyo I met Premier KONOYE at the Tekigaisō, his private residence, and gave him a full account of my interview with ITAGAKI. I suggested that ITAGAKI had a strong desire for the entire withdrawal of the military forces from China and the peaceful settlement of the Incident.

On this 12th day of Sept., 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT FURUNO, Anosuke (seal)



Def. Doc. No. 2580

I, BANNO, Junkichi, 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 the same place

Witness: (signed) BANNO, Junkichi (seal)

OATH

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

FURUNO, Inosuke (seal)