

3671

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

ITŌ NOBUFUMI

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

1. In 1939 I was serving in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, with the rank of minister. In January 1939 I left Tokyo under instruction of the Government to convey to the Japanese Ambassadors to Germany and Italy the Government's intentions relative to the question of a Tripartite Alliance. I arrived in Berlin on this mission in February.

2. While I was in Berlin exchanging views with Ambassador Oshima in conformity with my instructions, I developed neuralgia and was confined to bed in the Hotel Bristol. During that period Mr. Tōgō Shigenori, then Ambassador to the U S S R, called on me and we had a conversation regarding the subject of my mission. The substance of the conversation is as follows:

3. I explained to Ambassador Tōgō that although there were various views in Tokyo concerning a Tripartite Alliance, the Government could conclude the alliance if it were to be understood that the measures to be taken in various eventualities would be decided independently by each signatory, with possible agreement for an exception in the case of the U S S R. Ambassador Tōgō said that Japan should not adopt such a policy even against the Soviet Union. He expressed himself as opposed to a Tripartite Alliance for the reasons which he had given to Tokyo when he was Ambassador to Germany; that it would not contribute to the solution of the China Affair, as asserted by its proponents; and that it would increase the danger of a European war and of Japan's being entangled in such a war. Mr. Tōgō expressed his desire that I should promptly return to Tokyo and endeavor to prevent the conclusion of the alliance.

O A T H

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

ITŌ Nobufumi (Seal)

On this 30th day of September, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT: ITŌ Nobufumi (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  
30 September 1947