

12-11-47

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SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE AGAINST

HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

I Charges against HASHIMOTO

1. In counts 1 through 5, HASHIMOTO is charged with others, in conspiring to wage wars of aggression in violation of international law, treaties and agreements with the object of obtaining for Japan, the military, naval, political and economic domination:

- (a) Of East Asia, the Pacific and Indian Oceans (Count 1)
- (b) Of Liaoning, Kirin, Heilungkiang and Jehol, parts of China (Count 2)
- (c) The Republic of China (Count 3)
- (d) East Asia and of the Pacific and Indian Ocean and of all countries bordering thereon (Count 4)
- (e) Of the world in conjunction with Germany and Italy, but having domination in its own sphere (Count 5)

2. In counts 6 through 17 it is charged that HASHIMOTO with others, between 1 Jan. 1928 and 2 Sept. 1945, planned and prepared a war or wars of aggression in violation of international law, treaties, and agreements:

- (a) Against the Republic of China (Count 6)
- (b) Against the United States of America (Count 7)
- (c) Against the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and all parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations (Count 8)
- (d) Against the Commonwealth of Australia (Count 9)
- (e) Against New Zealand (Count 10)
- (f) Against Canada (Count 11)
- (g) Against India (Count 12)

- (h) Against the Commonwealth of the Philippines (Count 13)
- (i) Against the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Count 14)
- (j) Against the Republic of France (Count 15)
- (k) Against the Kingdom of Thailand (Count 16)
- (l) Against the USSR (Count 17)

3. In count 18, HASHIMOTO and others are charged with initiating a war of aggression against China, in violation of treaties, agreements, etc., on or about 18 Sept. 1931.

4. In count 19 HASHIMOTO and others are charged with initiating a war of aggression against China, in violation of treaties, agreements, etc., on or about 7 July 1937.

5. In counts 27 to 32 inclusive and count 34 HASHIMOTO and others are charged with waging a war or wars of aggression in violation of international law, treaties, agreements and assurances against:

- (a) Republic of China between 18 Sept. 1937 and 2 Sept. 1945
(Count 27)
- (b) Republic of China, between 7 July 1937 and 2 Sept. 1945
(Count 28)
- (c) United States of America, between 7 Dec. 1941 and 2 Sept. 1945 (Count 29)
- (d) Commonwealth of the Philippines, between 7 Dec. 1941 and 2 Sept. 1945 (Count 30)
- (e) The British Commonwealth of Nations, between 7 Dec. 1941 and 2 Sept. 1945 (Count 31)
- (f) The Kingdom of the Netherlands between 7 Dec. 1941 and 2 Sept. 1945 (Count 32)
- (g) The Kingdom of Thailand, between 7 Dec. 1941 and 2 Sept. 1945 (Count 34)

6. HASHIMOTO is charged with others as a conspirator in formulating or executing a plan to permit murder on a wholesale scale of POW on land and sea, between 18 Sept. 1931 and 2 Sept. 1945 (Count 44)
7. HASHIMOTO is charged with others with ordering or permitting an unlawful attack and the unlawful killing of thousands of civilians and disarmed soldiers of Republic of China:
 - (a) On 12 Dec. 1937 at Nanking (Count 45)
 - (b) On 21 Oct. 1938 at Canton (Count 46)
 - (c) On or about 27 Oct. 1938 at Hankow (Count 47)
8. HASHIMOTO is charged with permitting violations of laws and customs of war as to POW and civilian internees in China from 18 Sept. 1931 to 2 Sept. 1945 (Count 53)
9. HASHIMOTO is charged with ordering violations of laws of war as to POW and civilian internees in China from 18 Sept. 1931 to 2 Sept. 1945 (Count 54)
10. HASHIMOTO is charged with deliberately and recklessly disregarding his legal duty to secure observance of the laws and customs of war as to POW and civilians in the power of Japan between 18 Sept. 1931 and 2 Sept. 1945, in China (Count 55)

II HASHIMOTO's military service

HASHIMOTO graduated from the Military Academy in 1911 and was appointed 2nd lieutenant of artillery. He served in the Army continuously, and reached the grade of Colonel in 1934. He was placed on the reserve list in August, 1936, and recalled to duty in 1937. He then was placed on the reserve list in March, 1939, after which he performed no active duty.

HASHIMOTO graduated from the Military Staff College in 1917, served on the General Staff in the War Office in 1921, and with the Kwantung Army Headquarters in 1922, and again from 1923 to 1925. From 1925 to 1927 he served with the General Staff Office and War Office. From September, 1927, through 1929, he served as Military Attache of the Japanese Embassy in the Turkish Empire. From January, 1930, to December, 1931, he served on the General Staff War Office. From 1937 to 1939 he served as Commander of the 13th Heavy Field Artillery Division.

He received several decorations - among them one in 1934 in recognition of his services during the disturbances from 1931 to 1934; another in April, 1940, when he received the 4th Class Order of the Golden Kite in recognition of his services in the China Disturbances.¹

III HASHIMOTO's political activities prior
to the Manchurian Incident

a. Views on USSR, Manchurian and Mongolian Problems

In April, 1929, while HASHIMOTO was Japanese Military Attache in Turkey, he attended a conference held in Berlin of Japanese Military Attaches in European countries which discussed items concerning the USSR. At this conference, conditions in the Soviet were appraised, both present and future; the policy Japan should adopt was discussed if any future change took place in USSR; a study of sabotage measures to be taken by various European countries was considered, in case of war with USSR; a survey was presented of the activities white Russians could engage in; and views were exchanged on the effect on Soviet-European relations, if Japan

1. Exh. 105, T. 699

should end friendly relations with the USSR. HASHIMOTO suggested that Trotsky and 60 of his associates who had arrived in Turkey might be used for espionage, and that reports should be bought from good spies whenever a "good spy" is found.¹

In a secret report of 15 Nov. 1929, HASHIMOTO recommended that the Caucasus should be seized for operations against Russia. He suggested to the Assistant Chief of the Army General Staff that this could be brought about by making all races in the Caucasus confront each other and thus bring about confusion in the area, by instigating either the idea of Greater Armenia, or an independent Georgia, or the Mussulman movement, or the Partisan movement of the mountaineers. He said that the idea of Greater Armenia would be most promising as a fuse to give rise to such a situation regardless of its success, as this would result in great confusion breaking out because of opposition on the part of Georgia and Azerbaijan, and Turkey.²

In 1930, HASHIMOTO returned to Japan after a three year stay in Europe. On his homeward voyage, he pondered on how to reform Japan, because he felt that Japan was the only country "within the whirlpool of world movement that stood within the bounds of liberalism", and he considered that if she went on under present conditions she would drop from the ranks in the community of nations and fall. Therefore, on his return to the General Staff Office, he "devised several schemes to put" his ideas into execution, and while he would not dare to say they were the only cause of such results, the Manchurian Incident, secession from the League of Nations, and renunciation of the disarmament treaty took place successively and within the

1. Ex. 732-A, T. 7658

2. Ex. 734-A, T. 7647

country the 5.15 incident, Shimpei Tai incident, and the 2.26 incident took place in succession.¹

KIDO records in his Diary on 7 Aug. 1931, that HASHIMOTO and SHIGEFUJI, backed a group of recent graduates from the Army Staff College, in the study of Manchurian and Mongolian problems.² These problems centered about the creation of a new regime³ following the killing of Marshal Chang Tso-lin, by getting rid of the war lords in Manchuria and separating Manchuria from the Nanking government.⁴ In fact an investigation by Mine, then Chief of the Tokyo MP unit, disclosed that the purpose of the killing of Chang Tso-lin was to create such new state, under Japanese control.⁵ TANAKA, Ryukichi, testified that after Chang Hsueh-liang succeeded Chang Tso-lin, the relations in Manchuria became extremely aggravated because Chang Hsueh-liang entered the Kuomintang and brought the Kuomintang flag into Manchuria.⁶ The Japanese army took a strong attitude, in view of the great sacrifice Japan had made in that area since the Russo-Japanese war,⁷ and took the stand that armed force should be resorted to in driving out the Chinese forces and setting up a new regime under Japanese control.⁸ Strong advocates of this procedure were HASHIMOTO and Captain CHO, Isamu.⁹

b. HASHIMOTO, an organizer of the Sakura-Kai

The Sakura-Kai, was formally organized in the spring of 1931, the first meeting being called by HASHIMOTO.¹⁰ All branches of the military establishments were active in this organization including the War Office, the General Staff, and officers from the Inspector General of Military Education. They ranked from Lt. Col. to Majors. The Navy also had several officers active in its affairs.¹¹ The purpose of the Sakura-Kai was two-

1. Ex. 177, T. 1918-21
2. Ex. 179-A to 179-R, T. 1928
3. T. 1943
4. T. 1953
5. Ex. 180, T. 1951
6. T. 1958

7. T. 1958
8. T. 1959
9. T. 1960
10. T. 1961
11. T. 1962

fold: one, to carry out an internal revolution, or renovation, and, second, to settle the Manchurian problem.¹ These purposes dovetailed into the plans of the army which desired a settlement of the Manchurian problem, bringing Manchuria under Japanese control, and if harmony and cooperation could be realized² to use this as a basis for eventually freeing Asia from white domination and bring about the "ideal of Asia for the Asiatics."³ Coupled with military action in Manchuria, the Sakura-Kai, the group led by HASHIMOTO sought to oppose the Japanese politicians and financiers who were extremely weak in their attitude toward various problems, and bring about their downfall and realize the "renovation of Japan."⁴ Such renovation was to be carried out by a "grand coup d'etat", by overthrowing the government, and then setting up a new and renovated government, to cleanse politics and political administration⁵ as well as rally public opinion and efforts of the people toward settlement of the Manchurian problem.⁶ That such plans were attempted is demonstrated by the March and October incidents, which will be mentioned later.

HASHIMOTO, the Sakura-Kai leader, in August, 1931, told FUJITA, a newspaper owner, that positive action should be taken in Manchuria⁷ and on Sept. 19, 1918, FUJITA saw HASHIMOTO and recalled saying to him, "I see you accomplished what you said should be done in Manchuria" or "At last you have done it, haven't you"⁸ to which HASHIMOTO replied, "Yes, things came to the pass where they should come."⁹

Thus the purposes and objects of the Sakura-Kai were put to practical use, in effecting one of its primary objects, namely, the solution of

1. T. 1963
2. T. 1986
3. T. 1987
4. T. 1982
5. T. 1982

6. T. 1983
7. T. 1464
8. T. 1474
9. T. 1466

the Manchurian problem, and in this, HASHIMOTO had a leading part. The interference in political matters or political activity by officers although prohibited¹ was flagrantly and openly espoused by HASHIMOTO and other army officers in the Sakura-Kai and in movements for renovation of the government and by their stimulation and direction of a military-political movement in Manchuria, which ultimately led to international condemnation of Japan by the League of Nations.²

IV HASHIMOTO's connection with the March, October, Manchurian and Shanghai Incidents.

a. The March Incident

In connection with the March incident, which was a plan to seize control of the government, OKAWA testified in the Tokyo Court of Appeals, that it was at the request of HASHIMOTO and Col. SHIGETO that he held his interview with UGAKI to learn his views. The result of OKAWA's conference with UGAKI was reported by HASHIMOTO and SHIGETO to Deputy Chief of Staff NINOMIYA and TATEKAWA.³ HASHIMOTO, in his testimony, named TATEKAWA, KOISO, NINOMIYA, SUGIYAMA, OKAWA and himself as conspirators.⁴

To effect the plot, HASHIMOTO obtained delivery of 300 bombs to SHIMIZU from the army⁵ with which to start a mass demonstration which would lead to martial law and overthrow of the Cabinet.⁶

b. The Manchurian Incident

In addition to what appears in par. III, showing HASHIMOTO's activities in preparation for a solution of the Manchurian incident, there is evidence that HASHIMOTO admitted to TANAKA, Ryukichi, in 1934, that he, HASHIMOTO, had assisted the Kwantung Army, in accordance with a plan to have

1. T. 32,210
2. Ex. 59
3. Ex. 2177, T. 15,580-83

4. T.28,820
5. Ex. 157, T. 1402-03
6. Ex. 157, T. 1402-03

such an incident. TANAKA testified that HASHIMOTO named himself and five others as conspirators and defined the purpose to be the occupation of Manchuria, destruction of the influence of the war lords, and to bring about economic development and army occupation.¹ Capt. CHO, another of the conspirators, in discussing the matter with TANAKA also named HASHIMOTO as a co-conspirator.²

c. The October Incident

As for the October incident which was also a plan to seize control of the government, HASHIMOTO admitted that he thought up the plan to bring about a Cabinet headed by ARAKI, as a result of a conversation with Capt. CHO.³ That HASHIMOTO was involved in this plot is also confirmed by testimony of OKAWA in the Tokyo Court of Appeals where he said that the aim of the October incident was to crush the WAKATSUKI Cabinet, which was dilly-dallying, and to set up a new and powerful party capable of solving important problems. OKAWA said he received his orders from HASHIMOTO, and that others involved were SHIGETO, ITAGAKI and DOIHARA.⁴ TATEKAWA also told TANAKA that HASHIMOTO, CHO and OKAWA planned the October incident to overthrow the government in power and to set up a new government which would support the Manchurian incident.⁵ The plan was to cleanse the ideological and political atmosphere of Japan and renovate Japanese politics by assassinating the leaders.⁶ After the plot was discovered, HASHIMOTO and others were arrested⁷ and HASHIMOTO was subjected to heavy disciplinary confinement for 25 days and relegated to the HIMEJI Regiment.⁸

1. T. 1968; 1978

2. T. 2014

3. Ex. 3195, T. 28,975

4. Ex. 2177-A, T. 15,585-87

5. T. 2013

6. T. 1973

7. Ex. 3195, T. 28,795

8. Wachi T. 19,667

d. The Shanghai Incident

Prior to military action at Lukouchiao, HASHIMOTO, Chief of Staff of the Japanese forces in China, demanded of General Ching the right to buy 6,000 mow of land between Fengtai and Lukouchiao. Since a purchase of the land would have been wholly contrary to the law of China and contrary to the desires of the individuals who owned the land, the demand was refused.¹ The only alternative remaining was to obtain it by military force. From the fall of 1936, the Japanese carried on maneuvers often and on a larger scale than those of other powers.² HASHIMOTO admitted that Japanese maneuvers were carried out intensively from April or May to Sept. and October.³ From June to the outbreak of the incident, night maneuvers were carried out nightly.⁴ These maneuvers were deliberately provoking because they were conducted in a place the Japanese had no right to be and were in violation of international law.⁵ Furthermore, the Japanese were required to give notice to the Chinese, of their intention to hold such maneuvers, but no notice was given. This was admitted by HASHIMOTO.⁶ As for the opening of hostilities on July 7, 1937, HASHIMOTO admitted that the Japanese had attacked the Chinese at Lungwangmiao.⁷ Thus it is clear that the Japanese opened hostilities. HASHIMOTO, as Chief of Staff of the Japanese forces, was in a position where he exercised, with his Commanding General, policy making powers, and his participation in this initial act starting the long China war is his responsibility.

e. Shelling of the Ladybird

On Dec. 11, 1937, in the course of the blockade of China, a Japanese artillery unit under command of HASHIMOTO shelled the British

1. Ex. 198, T. 2321-2
2. Ex. 248, T. 3320
3. T. 20,649-51
4. Ex. 2479, T. 20,529

5. Ex. 198, T. 2326
6. T. 2396-9, Ex. 2479, T. 20529, Ex. 2487,
7. Ex. 2487, T. 20,622 T. 20622-48

vessel Ladybird and took it into custody¹ and on Dec. 12, 1937, in the course of the same blockade the US Panay was machine gunned and bombed without warning and the vessel sunk.² The lame excuse given before the Tribunal that it was barely dawn and that a heavy fog lay over the river³ is inconsistent with Japan's acknowledgment of a wrongful act, as is shown by her payment of indemnity, and a disavowal of the incident by profuse apologies.⁴

V. HASHIMOTO's agitation for territorial expansion
and creation of a Greater East Asia

In October, 1936, after retirement, HASHIMOTO organized and was head of Dai Nippon Seinento,⁵ one of its aims being the renovation and making young men the framework of the "New Japan".⁶ The official organ of the Society was the Taiyo Dai Nippon, which was published three times per month. In the January, 1937, issue of the Taiyo Dai Nippon, HASHIMOTO advocated the dissolution of political parties and said that democratic government ignores the "TENNO".⁷

The following excerpt from an article written by HASHIMOTO and published in Taiyo Dai Nippon show his activities from 1936 through 1941 in propagandizing for expansion and war:

"How shall Japan be able to battle against the Soviet Union without making an invincible air force the mainstay of Japanese armament?"⁸

He wrote the following:

"It is a humiliation to have to talk with England."
"Define England as the enemy."
"Our way is one: Expulsion of England!"

1. Ex. 258, T. 3466-7

2. Ex. 263, T. 3517; Ex. 964, T. 9418

3. Ex. 2521, T. 21,346-7

4. Ex. 2522; Ex. 2523, T. 21,350, 21,353

5. Ex. 2188, T. 15,677

6. Ex. 2185, T. 15,648

7. Ex. 2185, T. 15,649

8. Ex. 2185, T. 15,661

"Arm the Axis!"
"The enemy that blocks our way to the south is England."¹

Again he wrote: "If it had not been for the support of England, the Chiang Government would be already destroyed. It is clear that if we attack England, the incident will be brought to an end immediately. * * * We have no choice. Fight England!"²

"Now our real opponents are England and the Soviet Union. When there is only one way ahead of us, why are we hesitating? What we need now is a war time Cabinet with the highest authority."³

HASHIMOTO was one of those who moulded the plan for Japanese aggression, by expounding the theory that Japan must have territorial expansion north, south, east and west, where Japanese could freely develop their powers.⁴ He demanded lands, new lands, to develop "the riches now lying idle". He particularly mentioned the South Seas Islands⁵ and argued that the Netherlands had its hands full with Java, and had left Borneo, New Guinea and the Celebes almost untouched.⁶ He gave the Netherlands a back-handed slap by saying that the actual power protecting the South Seas Islands was the British Empire⁷ and although Japan could not extol its past rule of Korea and Formosa, people under Japanese rule were fortunate compared to those "under the tyrannical rule of the white men".⁸

In 1939 he engaged in prolific writings, all directed at stimulating aggressive warfare. He wrote that England was the enemy blocking Japan's "way to the south"⁹ and he urged an attack on England,¹⁰ saying that Hongkong should be occupied as well as the English concession in Shanghai.¹¹ He urged the strengthening of the Tri-Partite Alliance¹² and said Japan

1. Ex. 2185, T. 15,659-60
2. Ex. 2185, T. 15,660
3. Ex. 2185, T. 15,661
4. Ex. 1290-A, T. 11,692
5. T. 11,691
6. T. 11,692

7. T. 11,693
8. T. 11,694
9. T. 15,660
10. T. 15,660
11. T. 15,659
12. T. 15,660

should attack the foreign concessions in Tientsin "instantly".¹ He said England must be expelled,² and that it would be very "easy to beat England";³ that the time was opportune to start the attack.⁴ In January, 1941, before a large audience at Kyoto, he continued exhorting the Japanese to overthrow England and America, saying that Japan should advance southward and construct a Greater East Asia under the Imperial Sphere as soon as possible.⁵ On 30 Jan. 1941 he published a work entitled "The Second Creation", in which he proposed absolute war preparations so as to enable Japan to crush, at any time, countries which may interfere with Japan;⁶ also he urged the expulsion of all British influence from China first and gradually to exclude British influence from the East Asiatic united zone.⁷

As for Greater East Asia, HASHIMOTO took the view that this should include Japan, Manchukuo, China, the Soviet Far East, French Indo-China, Burma, Malay, the Dutch East Indies, India, Afghanistan, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Philippines, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, all in the sphere of Japan's influence.⁸

The plan HASHIMOTO suggested for Japan's influence to be made manifest was as follows: "Territories incorporated into Japan should be administered by Governor-Generals, while Japanese advisers should be appointed for independent states. Military and diplomatic affairs should be placed absolutely under Japanese guidance. Other matters also should be controlled by Japan."⁹

In 1938 he dissolved the Dai Nippon Seinento and instantly established the Dai Nippon Sekiseikai, whose policies were:

- (1) Restoration of the nation.

1. T. 15,660
2. T. 15,659
3. T. 15,659
4. T. 15,660
5. T. 15,666

6. Ex. 2187-A, T. 15,670
7. T. 15,672
8. Ex. 675-A, T. 7349; T. 23,377
9. Ex. 675-A, T. 12,023

- (2) Stronger armament for the defense and liberation of the Asiatic nations.
- (3) Asiatic autarchy.
- (4) Attack Britain and her dominions.
- (5) Imperialization of East Asia.
- (6) Establishment of a state union in Asia.¹

He was a leader and permanent director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and was responsible for the publication of *Taiyo Dai Nippon*.²

It is apparent that in the critical years between 1936 and 1941, HASHIMOTO was urging the use of force to destroy the status quo; recommended resort to force to create for Japan more territory (similar to Hitler's seizure of so-called "Lebensraum"), and stimulated lawless and aggressive prosecution by force of Japan's desire for world leadership. His pronouncements were inflammatory and wilfully calculated to arouse the fighting spirit of those who read or listened. The demands made by HASHIMOTO were in total disregard of Japan's obligations as a member of the community of nations, and in disregard of her duties under international treaties, agreements and assurances to which she was a party. It can be said that HASHIMOTO directed public opinion to violate such treaties, agreements and assurances, and that his previous conduct fitted into the character he assumed as one of the conspirators to wage unlawful wars of aggression, for the purposes of military, naval, political and economic domination by Japan.

VI. Defense Testimony

The Defense testimony may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. T. 15,680-1
2. Ex. 2188, T. 15,674

The witness OBATA attempted to show that the shelling of the "Ladybird" in December, 1937, was a mistake due to foggy weather conditions. This testimony is negated by the testimony given by HASHIMOTO himself¹ in which he stated that his orders were to sink all vessels proceeding toward Nanking without regard to nationality.

The testimony of witness OGAWA as to the pure purposes of the Dai Nippon Seinento and the Dai Nippon Sekisekai, is negated by the avowed purposes of these societies, as appears hereinbefore in this analysis.²

The testimony of SUZUKI is a weak attempt to deny the testimony of the witness TANAKA, Ryukichi.³

The testimony of HASHIMOTO amounts to a general denial by the accused of having any part in the Manchurian incident or of planning or fomenting aggressive war. His testimony is negated, as appears from his actions, his writings and speeches extending through the period from 1929 to 1941, as appears from specific references to the exhibits and pages of the transcript.

VII. HASHIMOTO's guilt under the charges.

As for HASHIMOTO's guilt under counts 1--5, inclusive, 6--17 inclusive, 18, 19 and 27--32 inclusive, which generally embrace the waging of wars of aggression, pars. III, IV and V herein show how he was an instigator of plans and schemes for the renovation of Japan for the purpose of using a revitalized military power for purposes of aggression and expansion. It was no coincidence that the policies he so strenuously advocated, namely, war with Britain and America, a movement south, having in view a Greater

1. T. 15,678-79
2. T. 15,674, Ex. 2188
3. T. 2056

East Asia under Japan's domination, an alliance with Germany, and extinction of Chinese sovereignty by destruction of the Chiang government, were in fact carried out or attempted. These policies were likewise the policies of the other conspirators, who to a greater or lesser degree participated in the plan to impose its will by force, on those who refused to consent.

The absurdity of the claim by HASHIMOTO that Japan needed more and more living space for its millions is shown, when Japan, from 1929 to 1941, already had possession of Korea, Formosa, and also had control of Manchuria. It was not territory the Japanese militarists were after. It was enslavement of the Asiatic world for Japan's announced destiny to bring the whole world under one roof, the roof of Japan (Hakko Iohiu explained by HASHIMOTO¹ by MATSUOKA² by TOJO³ referred to in connection with the Tri-Partite Pact;⁴ referred to in connection with the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere⁵ and defined.)⁶

As for HASHIMOTO's guilt under counts 44--47 inclusive, and 53--55 inclusive, relating to murder and mistreatment of POW and civilians, outside of the shelling of the Ladybird and Panay, it can only be said that by his inflammatory language in the incitement of violence, he helped produce the mental state in those who fought the "holy war", to resort to any extreme to bring about the much desired victory. Cruelty can well be said to be a by-product of the campaign of hatred against Britain and the United States, fomented by HASHIMOTO, and having as its objective contempt for those who stood in the way. Viewed from that angle, HASHIMOTO is responsible on the theory prevailing in torts, that he who is the proximate cause

1. T. 3535-6
2. T. 3491
3. T. 10,306

4. T. 6409
5. T. 12,215
6. T. 9645

is responsible for all damages normally arising therefrom. The murders, the mistreatment of POW and civilians were incident to HASHIMOTO's challenge to Japan to fight a war for supremacy. The crimes that resulted were a concomitant of the drastic actions he recommended.

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

14 November 1947

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SUMMARY OF PROSECUTION EVIDENCE AGAINST HASHIMOTO, KINGORO

HASHIMOTO, Kingoro is charged on all counts of the Indictment except Counts 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 48, 49, 50, 51 and 52.

HASHIMOTO graduated from the Military Academy in 1911 and was appointed 2nd lieutenant of artillery. He served in the Army continuously, and reached the grade of Colonel in 1934. He was placed on the reserve list in August, 1936 and recalled to duty in 1937. He then was placed on the reserve list in March, 1939, after which he performed no active duty.

HASHIMOTO graduated from the Military Staff College in 1917, served on the General Staff in the War Office in 1921, and with the Kwantung Army Headquarters in 1922, and again from 1923 to 1925. From 1925 to 1927 he served with the General Staff Office and War Office. From September, 1927 through 1929, he served as Military Attache of the Japanese Embassy in the Turkish Empire. From January, 1930 to December, 1931, he served on the General Staff War Office. From 1937 to 1939 he served as Commander of the 13th Heavy Field Artillery Division.

He received several decorations - among them one in 1934 in recognition of his services during the disturbances from 1931 to 1934; another in April, 1940, when he received the 4th Class Order of the Golden Kite in recognition of his services in the China Disturbances. (Exhibit 105).

I. ACTIVITIES WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMY

In 1929 while HASHIMOTO was Japanese Military Attache in Turkey, he attended the Conference of Military Attaches in Berlin and discussed sabotage measures to be taken against the U.S.S.R. (Exhibit 732-A, Record page 7,658).

In a secret report of November 15, 1929, HASHIMOTO recommended that the Caucasus should be seized for operations against Russia. (Exhibit 734-A, Record page 7,647).

He admitted that in 1930 after his return from Turkey and while in the General Staff Office, he advised various schemes for the reform of Japan and stated, "Although I dare not say it was the only cause of such results, however, the Manchurian Incident, secession from the League of Nations and denunciation of the disarmament treaty took place successively; and within the country, the May 15, Shimpei Tai Incident, the February 26 Incident took place in succession." (Exhibit 177, Record page 1,918-21).

He organized the Sakura Kai (Cherry Blossom Society) in October, 1931, the purpose of which was to carry out internal revolution and control the Manchurian Incident. (Record pages 1,961-3), and the Society was ready to use armed force to effect its purposes. (Exhibit 183, Record pages 2,188-9).

He admitted plotting with General TATEKAWA, General KOISO, General NINOMIYA, General SUGIYAMA, Dr. OKAWA, and others, to bring about the March, 1931 Incident and the October, 1931 Incident, in which it was planned to do away with the high Government officials and put in a new group. (Record page 15,676-7).

In August, 1931, he stated that positive action should be taken in Manchuria. (Record 1,464), and on 19 September, the day after the Manchurian Incident occurred, he stated, "Yes, things came to pass as they should come." (Record pages 1,465-6). HASHIMOTO was one of the leaders who planned the Manchurian Incident, the objective of which was to set up a new country under the control of Japan. (Record page 1,965-7).

HASHIMOTO admitted shelling the British ship, "Ladybird" near Wuhu in December, 1937. (Exhibit 2188, Record page 15,678-9).

II. ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE HIS ARMY SERVICE

In October, 1936, after retirement, HASHIMOTO organized and was head of Dai Nippon Seinento. (Exhibit 2188, Record page 15,677), one of its aims being the renovation and making young men the framework of the "New Japan." (Exhibit 2185, Record Page 15,648). The official organ of the Society was the Taiyo Dai Nippon, which was published three times per month. In the January, 1937 issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon, HASHIMOTO advocated the dissolution of political parties and said that democratic government ignores the "TENNO." (Exhibit 2185, Record page 15,649).

The following excerpts from articles written by HASHIMOTO and published in Taiyo Dai Nippon, or in books written by HASHIMOTO, show his activities from 1936 through 1941 in propagandizing for expansion and war:

"How shall Japan be able to battle against the Soviet Union without making an invincible air force the mainstay of Japanese armament?" (Exhibit 2185, Record page 15,651).

He wrote that the key to the solution of the China problem lay in the destruction of England and the Soviet Union, and that Japan would expel those countries from Asia which were founded upon communism and democracy. (Exhibit 2185, Record page 15,657).

He advocated the acquisition of Hong Kong and British concessions in Shanghai. (Exhibit 2185, Record 15,659).

He wrote the following remarks:

"It is a humiliation to have to talk with England."

"Define England as the enemy."

"Our way is one: Expulsion of England!"

"Arm the Axis!"

"The enemy that blocks our way to the south is England." (Exhibit 2185, Record pages 15,659-60).

Again he wrote: "If it had not been for the support of England, the Chiang Government would be already destroyed. It is clear that if we attack England, the incident will be brought to an end immediately. ***** We have no choice. Fight England!" (Exhibit 2185, Record page 15,660).

"Now our real opponents are England and the Soviet Union. When there is only one way ahead of us, why are we hesitating? What we need now is a war time Cabinet with the highest authority." (Exhibit 2185, Record page 15,661).

In July, 1939, he wrote that thorough destruction of the old order in China is necessary, together with the influences of England and Russia, and that China and Manchukuo should organize a state union with Japan as its leader. (Exhibit 2185, Record page 15,661).

He wrote that while Great Britain was occupied in Europe was the best time to overthrow Great Britain and expel her influence from Asia, take over control of the continent of Asia and seize control of the Pacific Ocean. (Exhibit 2187-A, Record page 15,670).

Again he wrote advocating that the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere should include the islands extending to the east from Hawaii and New Zealand and from the west from the Persian Gulf eastward, and in the north, possession of the Aleutian Islands, and Manchuria and China and other countries on the Continent should be added, and that great naval ports should be prepared in Singapore, India, Sydney and Davao. (Exhibit 2185, Record page 15,652).

A report from the Home Ministry in 1941 shows that in speeches made by HASHIMOTO as President of the Sekiseikai at meetings at various places in Japan, he advocated the overthrow of England and America and southward advance, and caused to be transmitted the following command throughout the country: "Rise up resolutely - time approaches. ***** Instigate at once a powerful national movement, using every kind of method **and begin a sweeping campaign against sympathizers of England and America and at the same time start a movement to inspire moral support of 'Advance Southward' program throughout the country."

He was in favor of the expedition into Manchuria (Record page 15,686) and advocated the unification of the world under the Emperor, with Japan the leader, and including Manchukuo, China, the far eastern part of Soviet Russia, French Indo-China, Burma, Malaya, Dutch East Indies, British East India, Afganistan, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Philippines, and islands on the

Pacific and Indian Oceans, and that plan had been in his mind for a long time. (Record page 15,686-7).

In 1938 he dissolved the Dai Nippon Seinento and instantly established the Dai Nippon Sekisekai, whose policies were:

- (1) Restoration of the nation,
- (2) Stronger armament for the defense and liberation of the Asiatic nations,
- (3) Asiatic autarchy,
- (4) Attack Britain and her dominions,
- (5) Imperialization of East Asia,
- (6) Establishment of a state union in Asia. (Record page 15,680-1).

He was a leader and permanent director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association and was responsible for the publication of Taiyo Dai Nippon. (Exhibit 2188, Record page 15,674).

Record pages 15,682-6, show that HASHIMOTO purged himself when questioned by one of the prosecutors prior to trial.

III. DEFENSE TESTIMONY

The defense testimony may be briefly summarized as follows:

The witness OBATA attempted to show that the shelling of the "Lady-bird" in December, 1937, was a mistake due to foggy weather conditions. This testimony is negated by the testimony given by HASHIMOTO himself at Record page 15,678-9, in which he stated that his orders were to sink all vessels proceeding toward Nanking without regard to nationality.

The testimony of witness OGAWA as to the pure purposes of the Dai Nippon Seinento and the Dai Nippon Sekisekai, is negated by the avowed purposes of these societies, as appears hereinbefore, in this analysis, and Exhibit 2188.

The testimony of SUZUKI is a weak attempt to deny the testimony of the witness TANAKA, Ryakichi, appearing at Record page 2,056.

The testimony of HASHIMOTO amounts to a general denial by the accused of having any part in the Manchurian incident or of planning or fomenting aggressive war. His testimony is negated, as appears from his writings and speeches extending through the period from 1929 to 1941, as appears from the foregoing synopsis which makes specific references to the exhibits and pages of the record.

Furthermore, as hereinabove mentioned, the accused is a self-confessed perjurer so that little credence may be given to his affidavit in his own behalf.

page

28790

Direct Examination of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro by Mr. Hayashi

28791

* The accused identified and verified Exhibit 3195 as his affidavit. * The affidavit stated that the accused began army services in December 1911. In August 1934 he was a colonel and became commander of a field artillery regiment and was transferred to the reserve in August 1936.

He was called to the colors in August 1937 and sent to North and Middle China as an artillery regiment commander until April 1939 when he again went to the reserve list. Except for these two periods of active duty, the accused had never been in government service and was at all other times an ordinary civilian. He had never occupied any official position of sufficient importance to have entitled him to take part in any planning, preparing, or conspiring with relation to the Manchurian Incident, China Incident, or the Pacific war.

28792

Nor did he participate in any of these. He had never been on friendly terms with any of the defendants. At the time of the October Incident, he was severely reprimanded by ARAKI and confined by order of MINAMI. Certain named publications * and essays which appeared in the "Taiyo Dai Nippon" were all written and published when he was an ordinary civilian. In them he described only his personal opinions and they represented no plan. While a civilian he had made public speeches but they conveyed only personal convictions arrived at independently and not through any plan or conspiracy with others.

28793

In September, 1927 the accused was appointed military attache to the Embassy in Turkey and served there until June 1930. Nov. 15 1929 he sent to Deputy Chief of Staff OKAMOTO a report entitled "Situation in the Caucasus and Its Strategic Utilization". This report was made in the course of his duties. In it the phrase "Subject to change, of course, with the then existing world situation" and "in case trouble should arise between Russia and Japan" should be interpreted to mean that Japan's attitude had to be altered in accordance with international relations * and if unfortunately war should break out with Russia. From this report and examination of other evidence it was obvious that he never plotted, prepared or conspired to wage aggressive war against Russia.

page

In October 1930 he inaugurated, with a view to national reform, a study and discussion group called "SAKURAKAI" or Cherry Blossom Society whose members consisted of officers under the rank of Lt. Col. The society was not secret and had no regulations and no fees were charged. It had no connection with the Kwantung Army or its officers. Discussions were not held relative to the Manchurian problem nor did it have any connection with the Manchurian Incident.

28794

He did not form any research group on Manchu-Mongolia issues nor join or back incognito any such groups. He had never even heard of the existence of such groups. In March 1931 he participated in the March Incident plotted by OKAWA * with the aim of reorganizing the cabinet headed by Gen. UGAKI. The plan was not realized because of UGAKI's disapproval. The Incident was not linked with the Manchurian Incident.

28795

* The accused thought up the October Incident in October 1931 to bring about a cabinet headed by ARAKI for national reform and urged ARAKI to accept. ARAKI severely reprimanded the accused who was arrested on the orders of War Minister MINAMI. After twentyfive days confinement he was relegated to the post of regimental officer. This Incident had no connection with the Manchurian Incident. It was first thought of in the course of a conversation with Capt. CHO, Isamu in the first part of October 1931 after CHO returned from Peking. The plan never materialized and no civilians joined in it. The accused KOISO was not related in any way to the Incident.

The accused had never had a chance to talk to TANAKA, Ryukichi concerning the Manchuria Incident. In August, 1934, the accused commanded a military regiment at Michima City. He knew nothing of the meeting sponsored by SUZUKI, Takashi at the Akebonoso restaurant. He had never been there and did not know its whereabouts.

28796

* In April 1931 as Chief of the Russian section of the 2nd Dept. of the General Staff at the meeting for Estimation of Situation he advanced the opinion that Headquarters should recommend that the government take a firm attitude toward settling the Manchurian question. Other than this he had nothing to do with the Manchurian Incident or the founding of Manchukuo.

page

At the time of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, July 1937 he was living in Tokyo as reserve officer on inactive duty and had nothing to do with it. While at the front, pursuant to order of Gen. YANAGAWA the accused at Wuhu fired on ships fleeing from Nanking which were carrying retreating Chinese soldiers. The British Gun Boat "LADY BIRD" which was among the Chinese ships, was struck and an incident created. The fact that the shooting was a mistake due to dense fog which made him take it for a Chinese ship was brought to light and the accused was set free from responsibility. He had nothing to do with the PANAI Incident.

28797

* Neither he nor the officers under his command had ever been at Nanking, Hankow or Canton. He had never ill-treated POWS nor committed inhuman acts against others. He had never permitted those under him to do such acts. He had never been in a position where he could have performed such acts. After leaving active service he founded in October 1936 for national reform the Great Japan Youth Party of which no soldier on active duty nor any distinguished persons were members. It was supported by one yen entrance fee and one yen annual membership fee, paid in by less than 20,000 members. It was never subsidized by the army or from any other quarter. It did not aim at aggressive war.

After its dissolution in October 1940, the accused established the Great Japan Loyalty Society, consisting of some members of the former. No soldiers on active duty nor distinguished personages were members and it was maintained by about 5000 members entrance fees of two yen each and an annual fee of one yen. It was not subsidized from the army or from any other quarter. It did not aim at aggressive war and was dissolved in September 1944.

28798

* "Taiyo Dai-Nippon" was the official publication of the Youth Party and then of the Loyalty Society. Its circulation was limited to members. In the fall of 1940 the accused was appointed a director of the IRRA from which he resigned in February, 1941. The association's object was the practice of the Way of the Subject, and was not a body formed for aggressive war, nor did it work toward such end.

In September 1944, he was appointed Headquarters Director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Adult Assn. which was a part of the IRRA. He resigned from that in February 1945. After joining his only

page

work was the barley crop increase campaign. The association was not formed with aggressive war as its aim nor did it work toward such end.

28798

*The accused stated that Gen. YANAGAWA was dead.

CROSS-EXAMINATION by Mr. ITO,
Counselor for MATSUI

28799

*The witness stated that he had attended a meeting in 1929 of the Japanese military attaches in Berlin which MATSUI also attended. When asked if either he or MATSUI made any plans or decisions against the USSR, the accused stated that no decisions were made at that time. The meeting was in April 1929. The military attaches received an invitation saying that since MATSUI, former head of the Second Dept of the General Staff was coming to Europe it would be a good idea to have a meeting at Berlin attended by all European * attaches. At the meeting MATSUI talked to them on the situation at home while they talked to MATSUI about the situation in the countries in which they were stationed. That was all that transpired.

28800

It goes without saying that no particular measures were taken with regard to plans against the USSR or of defense against them. No documents were made regarding the decisions at that meeting.

28802

Cross Examination by Mr. Tavenner.

* The accused stated that he assumed his position with the General Staff in Tokyo after arriving from Turkey in May 1930. He held this position until the end of November 1931 and was chief of the Russian section. His duties were to collect information regarding Russia. He was required to become familiar with Manchurian conditions so far as they concerned Russia. He knew nothing about the operations of the East Asia Economic Research Institute. He knew the institute was the one of which OKAWA was director.

28803

* He was well acquainted with OKAWA and met him about ten times at various restaurants. He became acquainted with OKAWA at the end of 1930 and the meetings with him continued spasmodically at restaurants.

page

- 28804 * He met OKAWA spasmodically between the end of May 1930 to the end of November 1931 when he was transferred to Himeji.
- 28805 * The accused stated that he was chief of the Russian section before he became acquainted with OKAWA and met him off and on while holding that position. He did not know whether OKAWA was engaged in propaganda work or not but he did know that he made speeches on several occasions. Since he had only heard his speech on one occasion he did not know how many hundreds of speeches OKAWA may have made.
- 28806 * He did not know that OKAWA was at that time engaged in fomenting the Japanese for the so-called Manchurian Incident. He had never talked to OKAWA on political subjects and met him only in restaurants, although there was no reason why politics could not be discussed in restaurants. He had never talked with OKAWA on specific political questions. He had often talked with him on political corruption in Japan. He had talked to him about fomenting a disturbance in Tokyo.
- 28807 * He participated with OKAWA in the March Incident. The accused
- 28808 KOISO was concerned in it as OKAWA was given bombs by the accused and KOISO took them away.* OKAWA never told the accused that he advocated reformation of the government to settle the Manchurian problem. He did not know that that was the doctrine OKAWA stood for and which he preached. The accused could hardly believe that OKAWA had such power and ability that he could stir up the people and rouse dissatisfaction to such an extent that the army fell in line with him.
- During the accused's term in the General Staff it was far from the facts that after the dissatisfaction of the people became so great after OKAWA's propaganda missions, even the General Staff began to send out lecturers.
- 28809 * The suggestions the accused made about settling the Manchurian problem were made at the occasion of a conference on the estimate of the situation, in April 1931. At that time repeated Incidents were breaking out in Manchuria threatening Japanese lives and property. Their right to live and engage in business and railway rights were threatened. The foreign office protested only once and tried to settle the Incidents on the spot. The incidents amounted to over three hundred. The accused advocated that it was the General Staff's duty to strongly urge the government to take firm line toward the Central Government of China and carry out negotiations firmly.

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DEFENSE

HASHIMOTO (cross-exam)

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28810

He said that positive action must be taken * to settle these questions. His plan with OKAWA to stir up a mass demonstration was altogether separate from the Manchurian question.

OKAWA once told him that he had a plan to make UGAKI premier and through him reform the corrupted political parties. To this proposition HASHIMOTO said he was in complete agreement. They should go ahead. But if OKAWA wanted to make UGAKI premier he must first find out what UGAKI thinks of the plan. He told OKAWA he had better go to UGAKI and ask him. OKAWA returned and said that after talking with him UGAKI was not reluctant. In order to carry it out a disturbance must be created in Tokyo.

28811

*He asked HASHIMOTO if he had bombs which would make some kind of noise. The accused gave OKAWA such bombs * but two or three days later UGAKI said he had no such desire and was against the whole thing. Thereupon the plan fell flat. When asked if it was the purpose to stir up this demonstration so that martial law would be declared and the army put in control of the government, the accused stated he had nothing to do with the plans after giving the bombs to OKAWA.

He had not gone to OKAWA and advised him that the upper class of the army was burning with indignation at the Diet and that the Diet should be crushed. All OKAWA told him was that UGAKI seemed willing to go on with the think and asked him for bombs. When asked if his position was that he meekly followed the dictates of OKAWA, the accused replied that OKAWA thought up the plan, that he agreed to it and gave him the bombs.

28812

*After giving the bombs he had nothing further to do with it, and did not know anything more. He did not think the plan involved such a big thing as having the army called out. He believed that Vice Chief of Staff NINOMIYA knew about the plan. He did not know whether Gen. TATEKAWA was a party to the scheme.

OKAWA asked him for paper bombs and he had difficulty in finding them so he consulted TATEKAWA about the problem and TATEKAWA told him he would give him a letter of introduction to the Infantry School Commandant and thereupon the accused obtained the bombs there. That was the extent of TATEKAWA's participation.

page

28813

*TATEKAWA was chief of the First Dept of the General Staff which dealt with operations. Gen. NAGATA was not involved. When asked about his saying it was a very small affair and not agreeing that the very top notch ranking officers of the Japanese army were involved, the accused stated the question depended on the meaning of the term "involved". He did not think it could be said that it went as far as that the upper crust of the army was involved.

The bombs were taken away from him by an officer and another one wrote him a letter of introduction when he had trouble in obtaining the bombs. That is as far as the matter went and he did not think he could say they were connected with the incident.

28814

* The accused KOISO took the bombs which he had given to OKAWA. The accused KOISO was chief of the Military Affairs Bureau.

28815

The witness was quoted part of OKAWA's testimony at his trial in 1934 in which OKAWA stated that KOISO taking charge of everything told him that since there was danger of discovery if too many fussed about it they should pretend to have it suspended on the surface and that OKAWA should represent the civilians and KOISO the army. The accused stated he did not recall this and did not believe those were the facts. He had not heard * OKAWA testify that their idea was to set up a new political power and form a cabinet centering around the army.

The accused stated he was not present at such trial. He stated he was the originator of the October Incident which occurred shortly after the Manchurian Incident but OKAWA did not assist him. In the March Incident OKAWA and the accused participated. However, the accused began to feel that if civilians were let in on such plots matters were apt to leak out and it would be difficult to carry them out. They came to the decision not to let civilians in on their plans.

28817

*The witness was handed excerpts from his interrogations. He was asked what official position he held with the Sakura Kei and he stated that the Sakura Kei had no chairman and the leading members were called sponsors. However the fact of the matter was that he was practically running the whole show.

page

28818 In October 1930 Sakura Kai commenced its researches. It was not given that name until April 1931. He controlled the society from October 1930 to the end of November 1931. During that time he belonged to no other society. The next society he formed was in 1936 after * he had been relegated to the reserves. This society was the Great Japan Youth Party. He belonged to no societies between 1931 and 1936. He organized the Youth Party on Oct. 17 1936 and was its head until October 1940.

In October 1940 the Youth Party was reorganized as the Great Japan Loyalty Society and he was president until September, 1944.

28819 The accused was asked to examine a part of his interrogation and to state whether he made the answered attributed there. He stated there was a big error in the text. The question in the interrogation was if he had admitted certain plots, the last being whether he denied knowledge of complicity in the February 26 affair. His reply was that was correct meant that he had nothing to do with the February 1926 affair.

28820 * The first part of the question reads that the way it stood he admitted plotting with TATEKAWA, KOISO, NINOMIYA, SUGIYAMA and OKAWA to bring about the March and October Incidents. When his answer was taken in conjunction with the question as a whole it would seem as if he was accusing them of plotting with him in the October Incident but he had no such intention. If the questions before this question were read it would be found that a question was asked who was connected with the March and October Incidents, and it follows that TATEKAWA, KOISO, NINOMIYA, SUGIYAMA and OKAWA had nothing to do with the October Incident. The October Incident involved himself alone.

26821 The witness stated that subject to that exception the answers attributed were correct. (The questions and answers referred to begin with the fourth line at top of page 15676 and extend to the seventh line from the bottom of the following page).

26822 *Another excerpt from his interrogation was shown the accused where he was asked under whose orders he acted when he shelled the LADY BIRD. He stated the phraseology might be somewhat different but there was no mistake in the meaning. He said this was on the understanding that reference was made only to the one question and

page answer regarding under whose orders he acted.

28823 In the order itself it was stated that Nanking was in a state of seige, that should be corrected to read their troops were now attacking Nanking. (This reference is at page 15678 beginning four lines from bottom and extending to fourth line from top of the next page).

28824 Another excerpt from the interrogations (p.15675) was pointed out to the witness. * He was asked whether he made the answers attributed to him. With reference to the question whether he wanted to get the British out of this sphere, to which he answered ye, the accused stated he did not know exactly what the prosecutor meant by the question. Since he did not want to bother asking him he just got impatient and replied yes. When asked if he wanted to get Britain out of India, Philippines, China, Burma and Asia he stated he wished to get the British out of political domination of these areas. Asked if he meant to expel them by force, he stated there might be occasions when force might be necessary. But he was hoping this would not arise. He felt it would be fortunate if they would get out without the use of force. He was not thinking at the time of Japan immediately declaring war to get them out by force.

22825 * asked if he did not advocate it later the accused stated that the point of his argument in his writings was that the China Incident was still unsettled and the reason why was that Britain was backing China. Unless accounts were settled with Britain, the Incident would never be settled.

He preached to the members of his society which aggregated 20,000 people advocating an attack on the British and driving them out of Asia completely. His ideas were published in books published by himself of articles originally in the Taiyo Dai Nippon.

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28829

* The accused stated that it was true that in an article entitled "Short-cutting Remarks on the Present Situation" which appeared in the 1 June, 1939 issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon, he had stated that the enemy that blocked their way to the south was England.

28830

The accused stated that on January 11, 1941, he had publicly declared that they should rise up resolutely. The time approached. They should begin a sweeping campaign against sympathizers of Britain and U. S. and at the same time start a movement to inspire moral support of the advance southward program through the country. It was true that he also stated publicly on 30 January, 1941, * that Japan embrace the continent of Asia and seize control of the Pacific, and that Britain and the Soviet would account for nothing. By these moves to the south and the seizure of the Pacific, he meant the seizure of Singapore, the extension of control to the Persian Gulf, establishment of naval bases in Australia, and extension of control to New Zealand, the Aleutians, and parts of the Soviet. He did not include the seizure of Burma. He advocated the inclusion of a part of the territory of the Soviet in Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. He also included the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands.

28832

* When handed exhibit 2188, the interrogation of the accused, it was pointed out to the accused that part where he had said he published the book entitled "Inevitability of the Renovation", he agreed that book was

28833

published by him. * When he was asked whether that book was published while he was an officer of the IRAA, he replied "Yes". The contents of the essay were from essays published by the Japan Loyalty Society regarding the answers he gave to interrogations in exhibit 2188, which were pointed out to him. (Page 15695).

28835

* He stated that, generally speaking, with the exception of the interrogators opinions, he had written all the other things himself. The answers to the questions were true. When asked whether a question was asked and whether he answered as appeared in another part of the exhibit (page 15703), he stated that the interrogators interpretations of the contents of the essay were not correct, but what he personally wrote was. Generally the substance was correct, but he could not vouch for the accuracy of the English.

23836

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28837

* The prosecutor read his essays and asked him about them, but what he asked were not based on a literal translation. The contents were generally as he wrote them, although he was unable to say just where the differences lay in the contents of the questions referring to his essay and his essays themselves.

28838

When shown prosecution exhibit 675, a newspaper file from the Taiyo Dai Nippon, the accused stated that he wrote in the 5 December 1939 issue, an article entitled "Forge Ahead Towards the Formation of East Asia Bloc, Guide for Solution of Japanese-American Issue, President HASHIMOTO, Kingoro. * This excerpt stated that the open door and equal opportunity should be permitted only outside the pale of achievement of Japan-Manchukuo-China Bloc Economic Self-Supply and Self-Sufficiency to the minimum. If their policy ran counter to the 9 Power Pact, it should be disavowed as a shackle obstructing the existence of East Asia.

28839

The accused stated that he was one of the managers of the IRAA. He was one of the numerous organizers who participated on the invitation of KONOYE. He was director of the headquarters of the Manhood Corps, which was a subsidiary of the IRAA. He was also for a brief time a manager in the IRAPS. The IRAPS was established in July, 1942, and continued until some time in 1944. He was connected with it during that time.

28840

It was not the case that at the conference of military attaches in Berlin that the first item on the agenda was devoted to sabotage and espionage against the Soviet, but the topic did come up. * Attaches attended from the 8 embassies in Europe.

28841

Reference was made to exhibit 732-A, an excerpt from "Items Concerning the U.S.S.R.," presented at the conference of attaches. When asked if he addressed the conference proposing that the White Guard Emigrant Press be used for intelligence activities against the USSR, the accused stated that he may have, but didn't recall. He had no recollection of proposing that exiled Trotskyites be used for espionage against the USSR.

* When he had stated that "we" decided that civilians were not to be employed in the October Incident, he referred to himself, ISAMU, and about ten others who were apprehended. These included MANAGI, TANAKA, Wateru, AMANO, all of the General Staff, NEMOTO, Chief of the China Section, and NODA, a regimental officer. All had rank of

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28842 lieutenant or captain. When asked if TANAKA, Wataru, was the same TANAKA who prepared the secret report of the operations of the Sakura Kai, the accused stated "no".
* The TANAKA who made that secret report was TANAKA, Kiyoshi.

28843 In regard to section 9 of the affidavit, the attention of the Court was called to exhibit 183 and testimony at 1963, 1966, and 1978. As to section 11 and 12, exhibit 2177-A, 2178-B, and exhibit 183. As to section 16, exhibit 954-C. * Section 6 and 7, exhibits 177, 264, 675-A, 1290-A, 2185, 2187 and 2188.

28844 The accused declared that TANAKA, Kiyoshi, was a captain at the time of the organization of the Sakura Kai. He did not know when he became major. The accused stated that he had never said to TANAKA, Kiyoshi, on 4 August 1931, that about the middle of September a plot was about to be expected to be laid by the Kwantung Army, and that an opportunity of solving the Manchurian-Mongolian problem should be made and the country should be radically reformed. * As to the reform of the country, the brains of the General Staff had reached a thorough understanding.

28845 * The witness was asked whether his being decorated, as shown by exhibit 105, in recognition of service during disturbances from 1931 to 1934, was for his contribution to the Manchurian Incident. He stated that he received it because he went to Manchuria as a member of the garrison there in 1932.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BROOKS,
Counsel for KOISO.

Reference was made to exhibit 2188, to show that KOISO's part in the March Incident was merely to arrange to getting the bombs back to put an end to the plot.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. HAYASHI.

28849 * Reference was made to the question of the prosecution asking the accused to confirm a question and answer pertaining to YANAGAWA's orders in exhibit 2188. The accused was asked if at any other time he had been asked by the prosecution questions regarding the "Ladybird". He stated that he had explained to the prosecutor that shelling of the gunboat was a mistake, caused by thick mist. He gave additional explanation of the general situation by illustrating with a map.

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28850 The mist on the day of the shelling was peculiar to the winter, and made a heavy overcast over the Yangtze. It appeared as if steam were arising out of the river. The mist over the land was not so dense. Dawn was about 0800, * and when the attack began it was slightly dark because of the mist.

28851 * When he had testified that TATEKAWA was Chief of the First Division of the General Staff, he had made a mistake. He was Chief of the Second Division, whose duties were the collection of intelligence. None of the accused's books were written while he was manager of the IRAA.

Among those who were connected with the October Incident was WACHI, Takaji, who was apprehended with the accused.

Ret. to Mr. Sutton

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

27 August 1947

STATEMENT OF DEFENSE EVIDENCE RE HASHIMOTO, KINGORO

1929-1931 Sakura-Kai was concerned with reformation of domestic affairs. It had no connection with the "Manchurian Incident" nor with the Kwantung Army. Its membership was young officers below the rank of Lt. Colonel. The aim of the October Incident was to remove corrupt politicians from political parties and to have General ARAKI head a new government. HASHIMOTO and WACHI both were arrested and punished for their part in the affair. (Exhibit 2434, Record 19,665-7, WACHI).

HASHIMOTO did not communicate with ISHIHARA, ITAGAKI or DOHIRARA at the time of the Manchurian Incident or the October Incident. (Record 19,682-3).

1937 On December 11th HASHIMOTO, Commander of the 13th Artillery Regiment received an order by telegram from Lt. General YANAGAWA, "Regardless of nationality, carry out bombardment." On 12 December, HASHIMOTO saw several vessels in thick mist and instantly fired on them. (Record 21,910)

The "Ladybird" was bombarded under orders of Lt. General YANAGAWA and HASHIMOTO was not responsible for this accident. (Record 22,003).

1942 Views of HASHIMOTO published in 1942 are not reflected in operations plan of the General Staff as HASHIMOTO had no position of leadership at that time. (Record 23,377-8).

HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

- 6 -

in Singapore, India, Sidney and Davao. These would be to insure the safety of the Greater East Asia Sphere of Imperial Influence. (Exhibit 2185 - Record Page 15,652).

Excerpts from the interrogations of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro, conducted from 17 January 1946 to 18 February 1946. In these excerpts, HASHIMOTO admitted being one of the founders of the Sakura Kai; founder of the Dai Nippon Seinento, and its successor, Dai Nippon Sekisekai, and admitted plotting to bring about the March, 1931 and October, 1931 Incidents. He admitted the shelling of the Ladybird in December, 1937; admitted the dissolving of the Dai Nippon Seinento and the establishing of Dai Nippon Sekisekai, among the policies of which were Asiatic Autocracy; attacking Britain and her dominions and imperialization of East Asia; he also admitted that he was a leader and permanent director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association; also that he was responsible for the publication of the Taiyo Dai Nippon, which was published three times monthly. (Exhibit 2188, Record Page 15,674).

7/25
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

20 June 1947

STATEMENT OF PROSECUTION'S EVIDENCE AS TO HASHIMOTO, KINGORO

Born: 19 February 1890
Residence: Fukuoka Prefecture
Rank: Commoner
1911 May 27 Graduated from the Military Academy
1911 June 6 Appointed Probationary Officer
1911 Dec. 26 Appointed 2nd Lt. of Artillery,
Attached to the 24th Field Artillery Regiment
1912 Mar. 1 Received the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade
1914 Dec. 15 Appointed Lt. of Artillery (Cabinet)
1915 Feb. 20 Received the 7th Court Rank, Junior Grade
1916 Jan. 21 Relieved of present duties; transferred to Battalion
Adjutant of the 24th Field Artillery Regiment
1915 Nov. 7 Decorated with the 6th Class Order of the Single Rays of
the Rising Sun
1916 Nov. 25 Relieved of present duties; transferred to the Artillery
Engineering School and attached to a Cadet Company with
additional duty as Instructor of said School (War Office)
1917 Dec. 10 Entered Military Staff College (War Office)
1917 Dec. 25 Relieved of present duties; transferred to the 24th Field
Artillery Regiment (War Office)
1920 Mar. 20 Received the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade
1920 Feb. 13 Relieved of present duties; Appointed Acting Captain attached
to the 24th Field Artillery Regiment
1920 Apr. 9 Attached to Staff of 24th Field Artillery Regiment (War Office)
1920 Oct. 22 Relieved of present duties; Transferred to Company Commander in
the 24th Field Artillery Regiment (War Office)
1921 July 20 Attached to the General Staff Office (War Office)
1921 Dec. 20 Relieved of present duties; transferred to the 24th Field
Artillery Regiment (War Office)
1922 Apr. 1 Relieved of present duties; transferred to the Kwantung Army
Headquarters (War Office)
1922 June 27 Decorated with the 5th Class Order of the Sacred Treasure
1922 Nov. 24 Detached from Kwantung Army Headquarters; attached to the
General Staff Office (War Office)
1923 May 22 Detached from the General Staff Headquarters; transferred to
the General Staff Office as Department member (War Office)
1923 Aug. 6 Detached from present duties; transferred to the Kwantung Army
Headquarters (War Office)
1925 Mar. 18 Detached from the Kwantung Army Headquarters; transferred to
General Staff Office as Department member (War Office)
1925 May 1 Received the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade
1926 Aug. 6 Appointed Major of Artillery (Cabinet)
1927 Sept. 28 Appointed Military Attache to the Japanese Embassy in the
Turkish Empire (Cabinet)

HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

1929 June 29 Decorated with the 4th Class Order of the Sacred Treasure
1930 Jan. 30 Detached from present duties; attached to General Staff
Office (War Office)
1930 Jan. 30 Relieved of present duties (Cabinet)
1930 May 16 Received the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade
1930 July 3 Appointed Department Member of the General Staff Office
(War Office)
1930 Aug. 1 Appointed Lt. Col. of Artillery (Cabinet)
1930 Nov. 27 Given additional duty of Military Science Instructor at the
Army War College (War Office)
1931 Dec. 12 Attached to the 10th Field Artillery Regiment (War Office)
1933 Aug. 1 Attached to the 2nd Heavy Field Artillery Regiment (War Office)
1934 Apr. 5 Decorated with the Third Order of Merit with the Cordon of
the Sacred Treasure
1934 Aug. 1 Appointed Colonel of Artillery (Cabinet)
1934 Aug. 1 Appointed Commander of the Second Heavy Field Artillery
Regiment (War Office)
1934 Sept. 15 Received the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade
1934 Apr. 29 Decorated with the Middle Cordon of the Rising Sun in
recognition of services during the disturbances from the
year 1931 to 1934
1936 Aug. 1 Placed on the waiting list (War Office)
1936 Aug. 29 Placed on the reserve list (War Office)
1936 Sept. 26 By Special Grace raised one rank; received the 5th Court
Rank, Senior Grade
1939 Mar. 9 Relieved as Commander of the 13th Heavy Field Artillery
Regiment; attached to Headquarters of the 12th Depot
Division (War Office)
1942 Aug. 18 Appointed Committee Member of the Horse Administration
Inquiry Board (Cabinet)
1940 Apr. 29 Decorated with the 4th Class Order of the Golden Kite in
recognition of services in the China Disturbances.

- 1929 While HASHIMOTO was Japanese Military Attache in Turkey he attended the Conference of Japanese Military Attaches in Berlin and discussed sabotage measures to be taken against the U.S.S.R. (Exhibit 732-A - Record page 7,658).
- 1929 On November 15th HASHIMOTO made a secret report to Lt. General OKAMOTO, Assistant Chief of the Army General Staff, in which he stated that the Caucasus "is surely an important area from the standpoint of strategems against Russia," and demanded that the Caucasus be seized, using the method of military occupation. (Exhibit 734-A, Record Page 7,647).
- 1930 HASHIMOTO admitted that on his return to Japan from Turkey he returned to the General Staff office and advised various schemes for the "reform" of Japan, and states, "Although I dare not say it was the only cause of such results, however, the Manchurian Incident, Secession from the League of Nations, and the denunciation of the disarmament treaty took place successively, and within the country the May 15th Incident, Shimpei Tai Incident and the February 26th Incident took place in succession." (Exhibit 177, Record Page 1918-21).
- 1930 HASHIMOTO organized the Sakura Kai (Cherry Blossom Society) in October, the purpose of which was to carry out internal revolution and settle the Manchurian problems. (Record Page 1961-3).
- 1930 The mission of the Cherry Blossom Society founded by HASHIMOTO in October was to obtain national reorganization, and for the attainment of this objective, the Society was ready to use armed force. (Exhibit 183, Record Page 2188-9).
- 1931 HASHIMOTO took part in the March Incident and furnished the bombs which were to be used (Record Page 1403-18).
- 1931 KIDO stated in his diary of 7 August 1931 that HASHIMOTO was a leader in the March Incident (Exhibit 179-B, Record Page 1928).
- 1931 Record of OKAWA testimony shows HASHIMOTO to have been involved in the March Incident (Exhibit 2177-A, Record Page 15,581-5).
- 1931 In August HASHIMOTO stated that positive action should be taken in Manchuria (Record Page 1464).
- 1931 On 19 September, when questioned concerning the Manchurian Incident, HASHIMOTO stated, "Yes, things came to pass as they should come." (Record Page 1465-6).
- 1931 The Manchurian Incident of September was a planned incident and HASHIMOTO was one of the leaders involved in this plan, and the objective of the plan was to set up a new country under the control of Japan (Record Page 1965-7).

- 1934 HASHIMOTO was decorated with the Middle Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun for meritorious service in the Manchurian Incident.
- 1936 In October HASHIMOTO organized the Dai Nippon Seinen To (Exhibit 2188, Record 15,677).
- 1936 Excerpts from "A Message to Young Men" by HASHIMOTO, Kingoro, published in the Taiyo Dai Nippon (official organ of the Dai Nippon Seinen To) 17 December, shows that he organized the Dai Nippon Seinen To and that one of its aims was renovation and to make the young men the framework of the "new Japan." (Exhibit 2185, Record Page 15,648).
- 1937 Excerpt from "The Reform of the Parliamentary System" by HASHIMOTO, Kingoro, appearing in the 17 January issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon, stated that party cabinet systems run counter to the constitution and that democratic government ignores the "TENNO" and advocated the dissolution of the political parties. (Exhibit 2185, Record Page 15,649).
- 1937 Excerpt from "Powers Are Desperately Building Up Air Forces - Build Up an Invincible Air Force," appearing in the 1 July issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon (by HASHIMOTO), inquires, "How shall Japan be able to battle against the Soviet Union without making an invincible air force the mainstay of Japan's armament?" (Exhibit 2185 - Record Page 15,651).
- 1937 In December, HASHIMOTO shelled the "LADYBIRD" at Wuhu and took it into custody (Exhibit 2188, Record Page 15,678).
- 1939 Excerpt from "Clear the Clouds from East Asia Sky," by HASHIMOTO, appearing in the 1 May issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon, stated that the key of solving the China problem lay in the destruction of England and the Soviet Union who were assisting CHIANG Kai-shek and stated that Japan would expel these countries from Asia founded upon communism and democracy. (Exhibit 2185, Record Page 15,657).
- 1939 Excerpt from "Expel British Influence from the Far East", by HASHIMOTO, appearing in the 15 May edition of Taiyo Dai Nippon, calls for acquisition of Hong Kong and British concessions in Shanghai. (Exhibit 2185, Record Page 15,659).
- 1939 Excerpt from "Remarks on the Present Situation," by HASHIMOTO, appearing in the 1 June issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon: "It is a humiliation to have a talk with England." "Define England as the enemy!" "Our way is one: Expulsion of England!" "Arm the Axis!" "The enemy that blocks our way to the South is England." (Exhibit 2185, Record Page 15,659-60).

- 1939 Excerpt from "Solution of the Incident Depends Upon the Expulsion of England," by HASHIMOTO, appearing in the 20 June issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon, stated, "If it had not been for the support of England, the CHIANG Government would be already destroyed. It is clear that if we attack England the incident will be brought to an end immediately. *****We have no choice. Fight England!" (Exhibit 2185, Record Page 15,660).
- 1939 Excerpt from "Organize Class A Wartime Cabinet That Has No Fear of England and the Soviet Union," by HASHIMOTO, appearing in the 10 July issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon, states that, "Now our real opponents are England and the Soviet Union. When there is only one way ahead of us, why are we hesitating? *****What we need now is a wartime cabinet with the highest authority." (Exhibit 2185, Record 15,661).
- 1939 Excerpt from "Build a State Union of China and Manchukuo with Japan as Its Leader," by HASHIMOTO, published in the 20 July issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon, states that thorough destruction of the old order in China is necessary, together with the economic, political and ideological influences of England and Russia, and that China and Manchukuo should organize a state union with Japan as its leader. (Exhibit 2185, Record Page 15,661).
- 1941 Excerpts from "10-Day Report from the Home Ministry, 11 January," describes the meetings of the Sekiseikai in Kyoto and at Kokura on the 9th of January, where speeches were made by HASHIMOTO, President of the Society, advocating the overthrow of England and America, and southward advance. The same article reports that on the 7th of November, 1940, HASHIMOTO, as president of the Sekiseikai, directed members of the head office to transmit the following command throughout the country: "Rise up resolutely, time approaches. Instigate at once a powerful national movement, using every kind of method (speeches, discussion, meetings, posters, etc.) and begin a sweeping campaign against sympathizers of England and America and at the same time start a movement to inspire moral support of "Advance Southward" program throughout the country." (Exhibit 2186-A, Record Page 15,664).
- 1941 Excerpts from "The Second Creation," by HASHIMOTO, published 30 January, in which he stated that while Great Britain is occupied in Europe is the best time to overthrow Great Britain and expel her influence from Asia, take over the continent of Asia and seize control of the Pacific Ocean. (Exhibit 2187-A, Record Page 15,669).
- 1942 Excerpts from the article entitled, "Greater East Asia Sphere under Imperial Influence," by HASHIMOTO, president of Dai Nippon Sekiseikai, appearing in the 5 January issue of Taiyo Dai Nippon, advocated that the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere should include the islands extending to the east from Hawaii and New Zealand, and in the west from the Persian Gulf eastward. In the north, possession of the Aleutian Islands, and Manchuria and China and other countries on the continent should be added, and naval ports should be prepared

in Singapore, India, Sidney and Davao. These would be to insure the safety of the Greater East Asia Sphere of Imperial Influence. (Exhibit 2185 - Record Page 15,652).

Excerpts from the interrogations of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro, conducted from 17 January 1946 to 18 February 1946. In these excerpts, HASHIMOTO admitted being one of the founders of the Sakura Kai; founder of the Dai Nippon Seinento, and its successor, Dai Nippon Sekisekai, and admitted plotting to bring about the March, 1931 and October, 1931 Incidents. He admitted the shelling of the Ladybird in December, 1937; admitted the dissolving of the Dai Nippon Seinento and the establishing of Dai Nippon Sekisekai, among the policies of which were Asiatic Autocracy; attacking Britain and her dominions and imperialization of East Asia; he also admitted that he was a leader and permanent director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association; also that he was responsible for the publication of the Taiyo Dai Nippon, which was published three times monthly. (Exhibit 2188, Record Page 15,674).

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al



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 commenced my army service when commissioned an artillery second lieutenant in Dec. 1911. In Aug. 1934 I was appointed artillery colonel and became commander of the second heavy field artillery regiment at MISHIMA. I was transferred to the reserve list in Aug. 1936.
2. I was again called up to the colors in Aug. 1937 and dispatched to the north and to middle China as a heavy artillery regimental commander till in Apr. 1939 I was again restored to the reserve list.
3. Except for the above two periods of active duty I have never been in government service and have been at all other times a simple ordinary civilian.
4. Neither has any official position, which I have occupied been sufficiently important to have entitled me to take part in any planning, preparing or conspiring in relation to the Manchurian Incident, the China Incident or the Pacific War, nor did I as a matter of fact participate in any planning, preparing or conspiring in regard to these incidents or war.
5. I have never been on friendly terms with any of the defendants. As a matter of fact, at the time of the so-called October Incident I was severely reprimanded by Lt. Gen. ARAKI and confined by order of War Minister MINAMI.

6. My publications "Messages to Young Men", "The Inevitability of Renovation", "The Road to the Reconstruction of the World", "The Second Creation" and essays which appeared in the magazine "Taiyo Dai-Nippon" were all written and published when I was an ordinary civilian. In these publications and essays were described only my personal opinions as an ordinary civilian and they did not represent any plan or conspiracy worked out in cooperation with any other party.

7. While a civilian I made some public speeches, but these conveyed only my personal convictions arrived at independently and not through any plan or conspiracy with any other persons.

8. In Sept. 1927, I was appointed Military Attache to the Japanese Embassy in Turkey and served there till Jan. 1930. During that period - on 15 Nov. 1929 - I sent to deputy chief of staff OKAMOTO, Renichiro a report bearing the title of "Situation in the Caucasus and its Strategic Utilization". This report was made in the course of the performance of a military attache's routine duty. In this report the phrases "Subject to change, of course, with the ^{then} existing world situation" and "in case trouble should arise between Russia and Japan" appear. These phrases should be interpreted to mean that "our attitude has to be altered in accordance with changes in international relations" and "i.e., unfortunately, a war should break out between Japan and Russia".

It is obvious not only from this report, but from an examination of any and all other evidence that I have never plotted, prepared or conspired with others to wage an aggressive war against Russia.

9. In Oct. 1930 I inaugurated with a view to national reform a study and discussion group called "Sakurakai" or the "Cherry-Blossom Society" whose members consisted of officers under the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

"Sakurakai" or the "Cherry Blossom Society" was not a secret society, had no regulations and no fees were charged. The society had no connection with the Kwantung Army or its officers.

Discussions were not held relative to the Manchurian Problem nor did the society have any connection with the Manchurian Incident.

10. I did not form any research group on Manchu-Mongolia issues nor did I join or back incognito any such group. I have never even heard of the existence of such a group.

11. In March 1931, I participated in the so-called March Incident plotted by Doctor OKAWA, Shumei with the aim to organize a cabinet headed by General UGAKI, Kazushige for the cause of national reform, but the plan was not realized because of the General's disapproval.

The Incident was not linked with the Manchurian Incident.

12. I thought up the so-called October Incident in Oct. 1931 to bring about a cabinet headed by Lieut. General ARAKI for the purpose of national reform and urged him to accept. But, on the contrary, he severely reprimanded me and at the order of War Minister MINAMI I was arrested by the Military Police. After 25 days heavy confinement, I was relegated to the position of a regimental officer of the Himeji Regiment. This incident had no connection whatsoever with the Manchurian Incident. It was first thought out in the course of a conversation with Captain CHO, Isamu in the beginning of October of the same year, after he returned to Tokyo from Peking. It never materialized. No civilians joined the October Incident.

Mr. KOISO, Kuniaki was not related in any way to this incident.

13. I have never had a chance to talk with Mr. TANAKA, Ryukichi concerning the Manchurian Incident.

In August 1934 I was the commander of the heavy field artillery regiment at Michima City. I knew nothing of the meeting

sponsored by SUZUKI, Takashi at the Akebonoso restaurant. I have never been there, nor do I know anything of its whereabouts.

14. In April 1931 as chief of the Russian Section of the Second Department of the General Staff at the meeting for "Estimation of Situation" I advanced the following opinion, to wit: That Army Gen. Headquarters should recommend that the government take a firm attitude toward settling the hundreds of pending questions in Manchuria. Other than this, I had nothing to do with the Manchurian Incident or the founding of Manchukuo.

15. At the time of the Marco-Polo Bridge Incident of July 1937, I was living in Tokyo as a reserve officer on inactive duty and had nothing to do with the incident.

16. While I was at the front, pursuant to the order of Commanding General of the Army YANAGAWA, at Wuhu I fired at ships fleeing from Nanking which were carrying retreating Chinese soldiers. Unfortunately, on that occasion the British Gun Boat "Lady Bird" which was among the Chinese ships was struck and an incident was created. But the fact that the shooting was by mistake due to the dense fog which made me take it for a Chinese ship was brought to light and I was set free from any responsibility.

17. I have had nothing to do with the "Panay Incident".

18. Neither I nor the forces under my command have ever been at Nanking, Hankow or Canton. I have neither ill treated POW's, nor committed inhuman acts against any persons. Neither have I permitted others under my authority to do such acts. I have never been in a position wherein I could have performed such acts.

19. After I left active service, I founded in Oct. 1936 with a view to national reform the Great Japan Youth Party of which no soldier on active duty nor any distinguished personages were members.

The party was supported by 1 yen per capita entrance fee and 1 yen per capita annual membership fee paid in by a little less than 20,000 members. It was never subsidized by the army or from any other quarter. It did not aim at aggressive war.

20. After the dissolution of the said party in October 1940, I established the Great Japan Loyalty Society (DAI-NIPPON SEKISEI-KAI), consisting of some of the members of the former. No soldiers on active duty nor any distinguished personages were among its members. This society was maintained by about 5,000 members' entrance fees at 2 yen per capita and an annual membership fee of 1 yen per capita and was not subsidized by the army or from any other quarter. This society did not aim at aggressive war. It was dissolved in September 1944.

21. "TAIYO DAI-NIPPON" was the official publication of the Great Japan Youth Party and then of the Great Japan Loyalty Society after the former's dissolution. Its circulation was limited to its members.

22. In the fall of 1940, I was appointed a director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association (IRAA), formed by KONOYE, Fumimaro, from which I resigned in February 1941. The said association's object was the practice of the "Way of the Subject". It was not a body which was formed with aggressive war as its aim nor did it work toward such an end.

23. In September 1944, I was appointed headquarters director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Adult Association which was a part of the IRAA, but I resigned in February 1945. After joining this association my only work was the barley crop increase campaign. The association was not a body which was formed with aggressive war as its aim nor did it work toward such an end.

On this 5 day of September, 1947.

At the International Military Tribunal for the Far East,
Ichigaya, Tokyo.

DEPONENT /s/ HASHIMOTO, Kingoro (Seal)

Def. Doc. #2231

I, HAYASHI, Itsuro 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: /s/ HAYASHI, Itsuro (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ HASHIMOTO, Kingoro (seal)

9/4

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

27 August 1947

STATEMENT OF DEFENSE EVIDENCE RE HASHIMOTO, KINGORO

1929-1931 Sakura-Kai was concerned with reformation of domestic affairs. It had no connection with the "Manchurian Incident" nor with the Kwantung Army. Its membership was young officers below the rank of Lt. Colonel. The aim of the October Incident was to remove corrupt politicians from political parties and to have General ARAKI head a new government. HASHIMOTO and WACHI both were arrested and punished for their part in the affair. (Exhibit 2424, Record 19,666-7, WACHI).

HASHIMOTO did not communicate with ISHIHARA, ITAGAKI or DOHIHARA at the time of the Manchurian Incident or the October Incident. (Record 19,682-3).

1937 On December 11th HASHIMOTO, Commander of the 13th Artillery Regiment received an order by telegram from Lt. General YANAGAWA, "Regardless of nationality, carry out bombardment." On 12 December, HASHIMOTO saw several vessels in thick mist and instantly fired on them. (Record 21,910)

The "Ladybird" was bombarded under orders of Lt. General YANAGAWA and HASHIMOTO was not responsible for this accident. (Record 22,003).

1942 Views of HASHIMOTO published in 1942 are not reflected in operations plan of the General Staff as HASHIMOTO had no position of leadership at that time. (Record 23,377-8).

5 June 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Col. Woolworth
Mr. Sutton
FROM : EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Chief,
Investigative Division, IPS
SUBJECT : Defense Witness

1. Please find attached hereto list of material available on the following witness and/or witnesses.

DEFENDANT

Hashimoto

The attached information has been taken from the compiled report prepared by MIS. The report was previously classified secret; however this classification has been cancelled and at the present time does not carry any classification. It will be noted that much of this information has been furnished in curriculum vitae obtained from the Cabinet Secretariat's office.

WITNESS

LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Defendant Hashimoto, Kingoro

Info. from MID Report

2. Please acknowledge receipt of this memorandum by initialling and returning attached carbon copy to this office, Room 300.

Incl
(Described above)

E P M
EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO (Retd): Former Director Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society.

1890 Born Fukuoka Prefecture
Graduate of Military Staff College
1936 Feb. Implicated in Tokyo military revolt and placed on reserve list
1937 Recalled to active duty and placed in command of artillery unit on Yangtze River
1938 Place on reserve list second time.
1940 Member, Preparatory Committee for IRAA and appointed one of its directors.
1942 Elected to Lower House of Diet; Director, IRAPS
1943 June Chief, General Affairs Department, IRAPS
Chief, Dai Nihon Sekiseikai (Great Japan Single-hearted Assn.)
1944 Aug. Vice Pres., IRAA Youth Corps and Director of its General Headquarters.
1945 Jan Resigned from IRAA Youth Corps posts
1945 Feb 17 Resigned from IRAPS

Address: 1437 Magome-higashi, 1-chome, Omori-ku, Tokyo

Extreme rightist, ultra-nationalist; hater of white race. One of most active and vocal reactionaries in Japan. President of most fascistic political organization in Japan, Dai Nihon Sekiseikai (Great Japan Single-hearted Association), President, Great Japan Productive Labor Union (Dai Nippon Sangyo Rodo Dan). (40)

Implicated in Tokyo army revolt of 26 February 1936 and placed on army reserve list. Recalled to active duty in 1937 because of China emergency and given command of artillery unit along Yangtze River. Was directed to clear the river and used opportunity to give orders which led to bombing and sinking of U.S.S. Panay and attacks on H.R.M.S. Ladybird and other British and American ships. Recalled to Japan and again placed on reserve list. (41)

Implicated in plot of "God-Sent Troops" in July 1940 to slay Premier Yonai and Minister of the Imperial Household Matsudaira. Plot failed and accomplices were arrested, but Hashimoto went unscathed. This incident and others of his career are discussed at some length in Wilfrid Fleisher's "Volcanic Isle." Premier Konoye appointed him member of Preparatory Committee shortly afterward to plan organization of Imperial Rule Assistance Association, the single party that took the place of former political parties. Later became an IRAA director. When Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society, Offshoot of IRAA, was organized in May 1942, Hashimoto became one of its directors. Meanwhile was leader of Young Men's Association (Seinen-dan variously reported to have 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 members in all parts of the empire. This organization later became the Youth Corps of the IRAA. (41) In August 1944 was appointed Vice President of Youth Corps and director of its Central Headquarters.

Kingoro HASHIMOTO (Continued)

On 12 January 1945 resigned Youth Corps posts to assist in Admiral Seizo Kobayashi's Campaign to organize new political party to take place of IRAPS. Radio Tokyo reported on 9 January 1945 that Hashimoto was one of three organizers of GEA Doshi-Kai (Comrades League) which is expected to have important influence in new party. One of seven prominent dissenters who resigned from Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society on 17 February 1945, ostensibly to further the prosecution of the "holy war" and the IRAPS was dissolved shortly afterward.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

9 April 1947

MEMORANDUM TO: Investigation Division

RE : TANAKA, Kiyoshi, KAIBUN SHO

In the Brocade Banner, pages 28-33, reference is made to the KAIBUN SHO written by TANAKA, Kiyoshi in 1932. C.I.S. doubtless has an English translation of this.

Please secure as promptly as possible an original of this and if available an English translation.

If an English translation is not available, have the Japanese copy scanned with particular reference to the portions applicable to HASHIMOTO, Kingoro, and all of the defendants, the March Incident and the SAKURA KAI.

D. N. SUTTON
Assistant Counsel

CC:
Tavener
Dunigan
Woolworth

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

9 March 1946

To: Mr. Arthur Comyns Carr

From: Mr. Hugh B. Helm

Subject: Report on the Case Against Col Kingoro HASHIMOTO, I.J.A. (Ret)

From 1930 until the end of the war, Col HASHIMOTO was the prime-mover and chief agitator of the aggression expansion movement in Japan. Through his Army connections and the many nationalistic organizations that he founded, his writings, and his public speeches, he exerted great power and influence on the people of Japan ideologically and politically.

The Colonel put it adroitly, but rather well, in a publication entitled "How to Rebuild the World," published 30 January 1941:

"In 1930 on board the ship coming back from Europe I was devoting myself to a thought -- how to reform Japan -- and at last a sort of definite plan came to my mind. As soon as I was back in the General Staff, my old place, I took measures of various sorts in order to realize the plan. I would not say that is the only reason, but anyway thereafter the Manchurian Incident, withdrawal from the League of Nations, denunciation of the Disarmament Agreement, the May 15 Incident, Shimei Tai Incident, and the February 26 Incident took place in succession."

From 1930 on, this man, Col HASHIMOTO (sometimes singly and oftentimes with others) advocated seizure of the government by the Army, so that a military dictatorship with a Fascist Party set-up could be instituted in order to regiment the people of Japan economically and politically for aggressive warfare, so that Japan's rule could be extended over all Asia and the Pacific Ocean, and the entire world itself brought under the rule of the Emperor. From 1930 on, this man (sometimes singly and oftentimes with others) advocated expansion and aggression in Manchuria; establishment of control over China and defeat of the legitimate government there which resisted this; the extension of Japanese control, under the guise of co-prosperity, over Burma, India, Australasia, Dutch Indies, Philippines, and Hawaii, and the expulsion of the white man therefrom regardless of opposition or of existing treaties and trade agreements.

Memo to Mr. Cwynn Carr, 9 Mar 46, subj Rpt on Case Against Col
HASHIMOTO

The following facts can be established by competent evidence
against him:

1. 1930 -- Admired Kemal Pasha's aims for dictatorship
while Attache in Turkey.
 - a. Determined to emulate him in Japan so that a "Showa
Restoration" could be brought about.
2. 1930 -- Founded the Cherry Blossom Society, which was a
research group for reforming the government by military
"coup de stat".
 - a. Composed of ultra-nationalistic young officers.
3. March 1931 -- Plotted with Dr. Shumei OKAWA, Gen KOISO, Gen
NINOMIYA, Gen UGAKI, Gen TATEKAWA, Gen SUGIYAMA, and Maj CHO
to overthrow the government in Tokyo by violence.
4. 1931 -- Plotted with Maj CHO to bring about the Manchurian
Incident of September 18, 1931.
5. October 1931 -- Plotted with Dr. OKAWA, Maj CHO, Gen KOISO,
Gen NINOMIYA, Gen TATEKAWA, and Gen SUGIYAMA to surround the
Diet and assassinate certain members of the Cabinet and there-
by establish a military dictatorship so that a "Showa Restora-
tion" could be brought about and Asia freed of white domina-
tion.
6. 1936 - Was implicated in the 2-26 affair, another "coup" by
military extremists to bring about a change in government so
that expansion in China and Greater East Asia could be
realized.
7. 1936 - Founded and organized Dai Nippon Seinen To, a Nation-
alistic Youth Organization.
8. Published "Proclamation of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro," in which he
advocates increase in armaments to the amount necessary for
conquering other countries of different principles.
9. Published "Speeches to Young Men," a book dripping with
racial hatred and incitement to international violence.
10. 1937 - Fired on the British gunboats "Bee" and "Ladybird"
while occupying Wuhu with his artillery regiment, in viola-
tion of treaties.

Memo to Mr. Comyns Carr, 9 Mar 46, subj Rpt on Case Against Col
HASHIMOTO

11. 1939 -- Dissolved Dai Nippon Seinen To and immediately organized the Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai with the following policies announced to a large convention of members:
 - (1) Restoration of the nation.
 - (2) Stronger armament for the defense and liberation of the Asiatic Races.
 - (3) Asiatic autarchy.
 - (4) Attack Britain and her Dominions.
 - (5) Imperialization of East Asia.
 - (6) Establishment of state union in Asia.
12. 1939 -- Published a paper for Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai three times a month called "Taiyo Dai Nippon" which advocated expulsion of the British from Asia, occupation of Hongkong and Singapore, sinking the British fleet, renunciation of the Nine Power Treaty.
 - a. Circulation 20,000.
13. 1940 -- Was on the Preparatory Committee of twenty which helped Prince KONOYE set up the Imperial Rule Assistance Association -- Japanese version of a Fascist Party -- which regimented the people economically and politically for war.
14. 1940 -- Published a book entitled "Inevitability of Renovation" in which he advocates unification of the world under the Emperor and destruction of the old world order sustained by England, America, France, and the Soviet Union; military defeat of Britain and the United States, and totalitarianism to rule the world.
15. January 1941 -- Published "How to Rebuild the World," in which he advocated governmental reformation in Japan and expansion of Japan over Asia and Oceania, expulsion of Britain and the United States and all white men from Asia.
16. March 1941 -- Appointed permanent Director of Imperial Rule Assistance Association.
17. 1942 -- Elected member of Diet on I.R.A.A. ticket.

16 December 1946

MEMO FROM: Comdr. Maxon, Language Division

TO: Mr. Mahoney
(Copies to Mr. Higgins, Mr. Tavenner, Brig. Nolan,
Capt. Robinson, and Investigative Division)

SUBJECT: Kanji ISHIHARA (ISHIWARA)

1. General TANAKA's testimony on Page 2012 and Page 2016 of the Record indicates that five men planned the Manchurian Incident, to wit:

HASHIMOTO
CHO
OKAWA
ITAGAKI
ISHIHARA

(See also File 229-30)

2. CHO is dead. HASHIMOTO, OKAWA, and ITAGAKI are quite properly in the dock. ISHIHARA, who is credited (Page 2012 and Page 2016) along with ITAGAKI as having been the motivating force behind this plan in the Kwantung Army has not yet been indicted though TOJO has recently requested permission to interrogate him in order to determine if he will be useful to him as a witness.

3. A partial analysis of the ISHIHARA file reflects the following additional facts regarding Subject:

a. Yoshisuke AIKAWA stated to Mr. Horwitz that ISHIHARA and ITAGAKI were responsible for the Manchurian Incident.
(File 229-25)

b. Takuo GODO stated to Mr. Hammack that "the leaders of the Kwantung Army at that time and the leaders of the Manchurian Incident" were General HONJO (now deceased), General ITAGAKI, Major DOIHARA, and Major ISHIHARA.
(File 229-26)

c. SHIRATORI on 20 March 1946 named ITAGAKI and ISHIHARA as leaders in the Manchurian Incident.
(File 229-27)

d. Masuo KATO stated on 6 February 1946 that ITAGAKI and ISHIHARA were responsible for planning the Mukden Incident.
(File 229-31)

e. ISHIHARA was listed as a possible war criminal list of suspected War Criminals compiled by War Crimes Board JAG, 12 September 1945.
(File 229-3)

f. ISHIHARA was a member of the Sakurakai (Society of Blossom Society) and was active in the Toa Rommeiguan (East Asia League of Comrades) probably as leader in 1946. (File 229-23) Concerning him and the

Cont'd Page 2

anonymous postcard in Japanese addressed to General Mac Arthur states in part:

"He is a most warlike person and has participated in the propagation of militarism among the local youth. There will be another Japanese American war unless the group of which he is the center is dissolved and the heads of the various branch groups thereof seized."

g. On 16 January 1946 a non Japanese resident of Kobe reported that his Japanese circle of acquaintances were of the opinion that ISHIHARA had much to do with planning Japan's program of military aggression.

(File 229-9)

h. The writer reported on 13 May 1946 that a responsible Japanese informant believes that ISHIHARA should have been indicted with the first group of war criminals and states that he is the most dangerous remaining member of the "Inner Group" which he claims determined Army policy.

4. An IPS letter to the Chief of Staff dated 13 March 1946 states in part: "it is not contemplated that this individual will be indicted as a war criminal notwithstanding the fact that he was listed as a suspect by the War Crimes Board, Judge Advocate General's office in September 1945....." The letter was apparently drafted by Major Barnard then of the Investigative Section, but upon what evidence is not known.

(File 229-14)

5. On 1 April 1946 Mr. Hardin in a memo to the Executive Committee recommended that subject be included tentatively for indictment stating that: "it seems reasonably clear from the subject's history and connections that a case could be made against him."

(File 229-18)

6. The foregoing evidence makes it abundantly clear that ISHIHARA along with ITAGAKI planned the Manchurian Incident. Inasmuch as the Kwantung Army which was the instrument by which this plan was carried out brought pressure to bear on the central army authorities (by threats of secession - Record page 2017), and the latter brought pressure on the civil government to commit a long series of illegal acts which led finally to the war with the U. S., it is respectfully but earnestly urged that ISHIHARA be placed under arrest at an early date and that his name be included on the list of Class A defendants for the next trial.

Cont'd Page 3

7. ISHIHARA has spent a good deal of the time since the surrender in the Teishin Hospitals in Tokyo and Yamagata-ken. However, the informant mentioned in 3h above believes that ISHIHARA (who has a penchant for backstage manipulation) is simply "playing possum."

8. If he is apprehended it will be advisable to use the utmost precautions to prevent a pre-indictment suicide.

Yale Maxon

Doc. No. 487 (translation of
pages 187 to 197)

ADDRESSES TO YOUNG MEN

by HASHIMOTO Kingoro

Excerpts.

/p.157/ Chapter VII. The World's Japan; Japan's World.

.....

/p.187/ 9. We have already said that there are only three ways left to Japan to escape from the pressure of surplus population. Our situation is like that of several dozens of people crammed into a small room of about sixty feet square. And there are only three doors of escape left open for us, namely emigration, inroads into world markets, and expansion of territories. The first door, emigration, has been slammed in our faces by the anti-Japanese immigration policy of other countries. The second door, inroads into world markets, also is being pushed back by high tariff walls, and the abrogation of commercial treaties.

What must JAPAN do when two of the three doors have been closed against her?

It is quite a natural force of circumstances for Japan to rush to the last door remaining open.

It may sound dangerous when we speak of territorial expansion, but the territorial expansion which we have in mind does not necessarily mean the occupation of other countries' territories, the planting of the Japanese flag thereon and the declaration of their annexation to JAPAN. It simply means that since the powers of the world have gone too far in suppressing the penetration of Japanese materials and merchandise abroad, we are looking for a place somewhere beyond the seas where Japanese capital, skill and labour can have free play without the oppression of the white race.

We shall be satisfied with this much. What moral rights have the world powers which have already closed with their own hands the two doors of emigration and inroads into world markets to criticize Japan's attempt to rush out of the third door open to her?

If they do not approve of this, they should open the doors which they themselves had closed against us and permit freedom of activity abroad to Japanese emigrants and merchandise.

Thus, the Manchurian Incident suddenly broke out in September of Showa 6 /1931/

With the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident,

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the whole world criticized JAPAN. They vilified JAPAN as an outrageous country, which had wantonly carried cannons and machine guns into the territory of another country, flown aeroplanes over it, and finally occupied Manchuria. However, the military action taken by JAPAN was not at all an arbitrary one. And we have no recollection of ever having stolen an inch of territory from other countries. What grew up as the result of the incident was a newly born empire, MANCHURIA. The Great World Powers are still talking about the recognition or non-recognition of this new nation, but whether the other countries recognize her or not, the MANCHURIA Empire has already been established and, with the lapse of seven years since its creation the empire is further consolidating its foundation with the assistance of Japan, her friend.

And if it is still insisted that our actions in MANCHURIA were violent, I would like to ask the white races as follows: which country is it that sent warships and troops to INDIA, SOUTH AFRICA and AUSTRALIA, killed the innocent natives, bound their hands and feet with iron chains, whipped their backs with iron whips, proclaimed possession of these territories and still continue to possess them?

They will invariably reply to this as follows: These territories were all inhabited by barbarians, who did not know how to develop the abundant underground natural resources for the benefit of mankind. Therefore it was the wish of God, who created heaven and earth for mankind for us to develop the undeveloped land, and promote the happiness of mankind in their stead. It is the will of Providence.

This is a very convenient argument for them. Let us, however, accept it as it is. Then we must again ask them in return as follows:

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Then, suppose there is still on this earth land endowed with abundant underground natural resources which has not yet been developed at all by the white race, would it not be God's wishes and Providence's will for the Japanese to go over there and develop it for the well-being of mankind?

And there still remain many many lands of this kind on this earth.

The SOUTH SEAS ISLANDS are one example.
10. The SOUTH SEAS ISLANDS are located at a very short distance from the southernmost point of FORMOSA. They are also located at a point where they can be reached by motor fishing boats from our SOUTH SEAS MANDATED ISLANDS.

There are large islands, such as BORNEO, CELEBES and NEW GUINEA scattered throughout the seas. We call them islands, but in reality BORNEO and NEW GUINEA are large islands, larger than the whole of JAPAN.

The Netherlands is the titular owner of most of these islands, and thus they are called NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. However, what the Dutch have actually developed is the small island of JAVA only, the other islands being left almost untouched. The Netherlands, even if they wished, find their hands full with the island of JAVA alone, and have no reserve power for the development of the other islands.

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Let us look at the chart of the area and population of the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

Section	Area (sq. mi)	Population
JAVA and MADURA	51,057	41,718,335
SUMATRA	163,093	7,661,399
RIAUW and LINGGA	12,503	398,329
BANKA ISL.	4,548	205,433
BILLITON ISL.	1,872	73,409
DUTCH BORNEO	206,061	3,194,533
CELERES	73,160	4,236,586
MOLUCCAS (1)	192,402	893,030
TIMOR	24,530	1,656,636
BALI and LOMBOK	4,070	1,802,146
TOTAL	733,296	60,729,826

Note: (1) includes DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

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The island of Java (including Madura) has a population of 41,700,000 or seventy percent of the total population of the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, in spite of the fact that it is a small island with an area of 51,000 sq. miles, or about one fifteenth of the total area. It can be seen from this fact that Java alone is the only cultivated island in the whole NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES and that, if the other islands were developed to even half the extent of JAVA, they would be capable of accomodating a population of over 100,000,000.

Furthermore, these islands contain forests in the mountains, fertile virgin lands in the plains, fish in the seas, and abundant petroleum, coal, iron and other underground natural resources.

If these islands had been inhabited by superior races like the Japanese, there would have appeared a second Japan and a third JAPAN in these islands. Such large islands are scattered in the seas south of Japan within calling distance. The greater part of them is left in a completely undeveloped state. If the underground resources had souls, they would cry out each night for some one to come and dig them out and use them for the benefit of mankind in a bright world. And on the other hand, the Japanese who are most skilled in developing undeveloped lands are confined in a small territory which has been developed even up the slopes of its close crowding mountains, and struggling under the pressure of surplus population.

/p.193/ In such a case is it the will of God to send a part of this surplus population to these undeveloped lands freely develop a new world and contribute to mankind by developing their underground resources, or is it the will of God to not only leave these abundant resources to remain to no purpose in the earth but also to make a superior people like the Japanese die on the road, within their own tiny territory?

It is needless to waste many words, for the answer should be quite clear.

11. For this reason we demand lands in the north, south, east and west of JAPAN where the Japanese people may freely develop their powers. What we seek is not nominal territories, but a new land where Japanese labour and technology and merchandise and capital may freely display without any persecution their activities and develop the riches now lying idle. We loudly call upon the whole world for such lands.

However, let us turn our thoughts to the time when JAPAN makes up her mind and starts her southward development. We must be prepared to encounter a great obstacle lying obstinately in our way. Although the Netherlands owns the greater part of the SOUTH SEA ISLANDS, the actual power which protects these islands is the BRITISH EMPIRE, which boasts of the greatest navy in the world.

/p.194/ ENGLAND is a nation which for many centuries up to this time has maintained her peculiar traditions as a firm and immovable national policy. This national policy is to never allow the existence of any power as great as herself.

It was for this reason that Britain defeated Napoleon in the Battle of WATERLOO and exiled this hero to the solitary solitary island of ST. HELENA to die in agony, after Napoleon had appeared in France and subjugated the greater part of EUROPE thereby raising FRANCE'S national prestige to the level of ENGLAND.

ENGLAND was again the ring-leader which defeated GERMANY in World War I, when the national strength of Germany, following the appearance of its great statesman, Bismark, who constructed the German Empire, grew to such an extent as to rival that of England.

In recent times, it was ENGLAND again which tried to stop Italy's great undertaking by talking over the League of Nations and concentrating naval forces in the MEDITERRANEAN, when Italy, under the daring hero, Mussolini, attempted to extend her power to ETHIOPIA.

Such has been the traditional national policy of ENGLAND. We would be making a great mistake if we think that this ENGLAND would make an exception for Japan's southward advance.

Therefore, before we aspire to effect overseas development, we must make a great resolution. If we are thoughtless enough to plan this advance without this preparation, our scheme would show a reckless failure to understand history.

/p.195/ 12. Nevertheless, we call upon the world for our right to expand overseas. We demand this because, unless we are to starve willy-nilly in this small island country, the only way out of it is to effect overseas development by seeking new lands in the wide world around us.

As already stated the world has no moral right to deny us this right.

Of course, it would be out of the question if the Japanese race were an inferior race without the ability to develop new lands and without the qualifications to govern. However, the superior ability of the Japanese race has already been tested.

What did the white men say twenty seven years ago when we annexed KOREA? At that time they were so self-conceited as to believe that the white race alone had the qualifications to be masters of the world. And so they said that 20,000,000 alien people lived in the KOREAN PENINSULA, that there had been in world history not a single instance of successful rule over such a great number of alien people; that although India was inhabited by 300,000,000 natives, they were divided from top to bottom by races, religions and castes; that it was a difficult task even for the white men to rule an alien people of 20,000,000 in bloc, and that any attempt by the Japanese people, who belong to the colored races, to rule KOREA was bound to fail and would be given up in despair. Thus did they laugh and sneer at us.

But look at KOREA as she is now. Where in the world is there an overseas land better ruled and whose people enjoy more peace and industrial development than Korea? What an earthly paradise Korea is under Japanese rule as compared with INDIA where the only method of rule the rulers know is to oppress the native inhabitants with iron chains and iron whips.

Let us further examine this in FORMOSA. Japan's FORMOSA and the United States' PHILIPPINES are separated from each other by only a narrow strip of water. And yet our rule of Formosa proved highly successful within only ten years since its possession, and Formosa is now counted as one of our richest lands. On the other hand, the Philippines proved too much for the UNITED STATES,

forcing her to throw up her hands in despair and give consent to its independence.

Facts speak most eloquently. It is only a dream of days gone by that only the white men are entitled to rule the world. The facts show plainly which of the two, the white men or the Japanese are better qualified to develop overseas lands.

Of course, we do not wholly extol our past rule of KOREA and FORMOSA. There are too many defects to enumerate here. And yet in spite of these defects we must say that lands developed and peoples ruled by such a superior race as the Japanese are fortunate compared with those under the tyrannical rule of the white men.

We are able to state these facts to the whole world with no diffidence whatever.

Certificate

"Address to the Young Men"

1. The date of publication.
July 12th, 1937.
2. The number of copies published.
6,500.
3. We do not know whether the author was HASHIMOTO himself, his secretary, or some other person.
4. It is certain that it was published by the HEIBONSHA Co., Ltd.
5. The HEIBONSHA Co., Ltd. did not receive any money from anybody. The HEIBONSHA itself published and issued it in the way of business with its own money.
6. We were asked by HASHIMOTO to publish it.
7. We do not remember whether the manuscript was brought by HASHIMOTO himself or by his messenger.
8. As for the number of copies published, we gave HASHIMOTO's messenger a portion of them (10%) as royalty on the books, and then sold all the rest of them through book-stores.

I certify that the above is true in every particular.

November 6th, 1946.

No. 5 3-Chome, Gofukubashi, Nihonbashi-ku, Tokyo

Publisher The HEIBONSHA Co., Ltd.

President: SHIMONAKA, Yasaburō.

SEAL

HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

Document File: Case No. 343

Born: February, 1890

Graduated from Military Academy, May, 1911.

1916, instructor Artillery Engineering School.

July, 1921, attached to the General Staff Office.

April, 1922, Kwantung Army headquarters.

March, 1925, transferred to General Staff Office as Department member.

September, 1927, appointed Military Attache to the Japanese Embassy in Turkey. Rank of Major.

1930, Military science instructor, Army War College.

August, 1934, Commander, 2nd Heavy Field Artillery Regiment. Rank of Colonel.

1936, founder of Dai Nippon Seinento.

Participated in the attack on Shanghai. Gave the order for firing on the Panay and on British "Ladybird." Apparently belonged to about all of the secret societies.

Favored war with United States back as far as 1931.

Reputedly organized the Sakura Kai for the purpose of advancing the movement of the young officers to control the government.

Friends and associates back in the early '30's were Tojo, Araki, Doihara and Itigaki.

HASHIMOTO, Page 2

Was the principal mover in the plot of October, 1931, and was "blatantly opposed to parliamentary government and supported, even with violence, the invasion of Manchuria." Was connected with the following attempted coups: October 17, 1931, November 3, 1931, May 15, 1932 and February 26, 1936.

Was on the committee for organizing the IRAA; was one of its directors. Permanent director Greater East Asia League.

Abend states that "After Tojo became premier, Hashimoto was a member of a small, unofficial ring of leaders who helped shape imperial policy. Described as Japan's most dangerous man."

"Fireeater, who has linked, as his hospel, Japanese doctrines of the world with his own searing hatred of the whiteman."

"Extremist who advocated war with United States since 1931."

"Fleisher states that Hashimoto is the party who advocated that Japan should arm to the teeth and cited United States and Britain as examples of a system which Japan must destroy."

"Excerpts from Testimony of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro,
conducted from 17 January, 1946 to 18 February, 1946."

- Q. "And in your examination of February 12 you denied having made the following statement which was included in the publication entitled 'Sekai Saiken No Michi' (How to Rebuild the World) which was published 30 January 1941: 'I would not say that is the only reason, but anyway thereafter the Manchurian incident, withdrawal from the League of Nations, denunciation of the Disarmament Agreement, the May 15 incident, Shimpei Tai, and the February 26 incident took place in succession.' When you denied making that statement in your examination of February 12 you were mistaken on that point, were you not?"
- A. It is in that book. I was mistaken the other day." (Case 343-10, Page 8-15 Feb. 46)

* * * * *

- Q. "Colonel, you said at the last hearing that you were one of the founders of the Sakura Kai. Is that true?"
- A. Yes.

- Q. Who were some of the other members of that society when it was formed?"
- A. The founder of this Sakura Kai is myself, but there are a few others that were with me at the time The sole founder of this society is myself, and the others were more or less in the capacity of assistants as secretaries, etc." (Case 343 - 6, Page 31-22 January 1946)

* * * * *

- Q. "Do you know anything about the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere?"
- A. Yes.

- Q. Describe to what geographical regions this Sphere extended.
- A. The approximate geographical sphere would include India, the Philippines, China.

- Q. Was Burma included?"
- A. Yes.

- Q. You wanted to get the British out of this Sphere?"
- A. Yes."

* * * * *

- Q. "You belong to the Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai?"
- A. I formulated that." (Case 343-6, Page 41-22 January 1946)

- Q. "But sooner or later you did get around to planning a 'coup de etat' didn't you?"
- A. This was not something that the Cherry Blossom Society alone planned, but in October, 1931 there was the attempted 'October Incident' in which it was planned to do away with the high government officials

in office and put in a new group.

Q. And prior to this October incident there had been the 'March Incident' which had failed, hadn't there?

A. Yes."

* * * * *

Q. "Colonel, suppose you just tell us now the names of those that planned the March incident and the names of those that planned the October incident.

A. I will start with the March incident. I shall have to think a bit to bring to mind the names. NINOMIYA, who is now dead. SUGIYAMA, who is also dead. KOISO, he is alive. TATEKAWA, deceased, OKAWA, alive. I think Maj. Gen. NAGATA was involved, but am not sure. Maj. IKEDA was somewhat involved SHIGETO, yes. That is about all

Q. How about Maj. CHO?

A. Yes." (Case 343 - 17, Page 2-3-18 February 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "The way it stands you admit plotting with General TATEKAWA, General KOISO, General NINOMIYA, General SUGIYAMA, and Dr. OKAWA to bring about the March incident and to bring about the October incident; but you deny any knowledge or complicity in the 2/26 affair?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. You admit to active participation then in two revolutions, but not three.

A. Yes." (Case 343 - 17, Page 14 - 18 February 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "Did you have any part in the formation of the Dai Nippon Seinen To?

A. After being retired in October 1936 I organized this society.

Q. And you were president of the society, were you not?

A. I was head of the society." (Case 343 - 6, Page 3 - 17 January 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "Where was your regiment stationed at the time of the Panay incident?

A. At a place called Wuhu, on the Yangtze River above Nanking.

Q. Who was the General in command over you at that time?

A. Lieutenant General YANAGAWA.

Q. How did the attack on the Panay happen? What caused it?

A. I had no knowledge of the Panay incident until the British gunboat Ladybird passed by Wuhu; I shelled the Ladybird and took it into custody and at that time the Commanding Officer of the Ladybird told me he was going to the assistance of the Panay because he had gotten word that the Panay was in trouble. This was my first knowledge of the incident. I simply knew the Panay was downstream and did not know anything further than that."

* * * * *

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- Q. "Under whose orders did you act when you shelled the Ladybird?
This was under orders from Lt. Gen. YANAGAWA. These orders read as follows: 'Nanking being in a state of siege, and it appearing that enemy troops will attempt to flee upstream, Colonel HASHIMOTO is to sink all vessels proceeding toward Nanking without regard to nationality.'
....." (Case 343-6, Page 4-5-17 January 1946)
* * * * *
- Q. "Colonel, when you came back from the battlefield in China 25 March 1939, weren't you tendered a great reception described as 'an unprecedented demonstration for the national restoration'?"
- A. The assembly was a good deal after my return. As for the rest of your question, that is essentially correct.
- Q. You state there in your book that you dissolved the Dai Nippon Seinento and instantly established the Dai Nippon Sekisei Kai and the following policies were approved at the Third General Assembly of the Association in 19 November 1939:
1. Restoration of the nation.
 2. Stronger armament for the defense and liberation of the Asiatic races.
 3. Asiatic autarchy.
 4. Attack Britain and her dominions.
 5. Imperialization of east Asia.
 6. Establishment of state union in Asia.
- A. Point one, that is correct. Point two I advocated a peerless air force. Point three is correct. Point four, whether I said it then or not I do not know, but I hold those feelings.
- Q. Aren't they set out in your book there?
- A. This book has only through the Second General Assembly. No, it is here! Point four is correct. I say that to attack England is to bring to a conclusion the China incident. Point five -- I do not know what you mean exactly -- I advocated independence of all Asiatic nations. Six is correct.
- Q. Colonel, when you published this book in 1941 including these attached outlines and histories of your societies, you were a leader and an official and a permanent director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, weren't you?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. And the Premier KONOYE was the President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, wasn't he?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Colonel, you stated in answer to some questions of mine on the 12th of February that in Taiyo Dai Nippon you did not say in an article

entitled 'Expel the British Influence from the Far East,' that 'under the present condition it is very easy to beat England.' (Copy of the Taiyo Dai Nippon is shown to HASHIMOTO.)

- A. Is that so?
- Q. Was your answer true that you did not say any --
- A. There is no mistake. I must have said it.
- Q. And did you not say on the same day to me that you did not say in an article in this paper under date of May 11, 1939, 'We have only to say decisively that we will occupy Hongkong and her concession in Shanghai. How can the British troops come to the Far East?' (Copy of the article is shown to HASHIMOTO.)
- A. Yes, I made such a statement. It is something I said a long time ago and therefore I did not remember it very well. But if you look at it here (pointing to the newspaper) you should find the correct statements.
- Q. Then you want to correct the answer you made on the 12th of February in which you said that you did not make such a statement?
- A. It is as written here.
- Q. And it does say there in that article written by you, in substance, 'that we have only to say decisively that we will occupy Hongkong and her concession in Shanghai. How can the British troops come to the Far East?'
- A. That is correct.
- Q. And you did say in that same article that the 'British fleet will not be able to enter Singapore for we have our peerless aviators in addition to the fleet?'
- A. Yes, in substance -- but what is actually stated here is that if we have these aforementioned things the British Fleet will receive a crushing blow before being able to enter Singapore.
- Q. This quotation which you just read is from the publication Taiyo Dai Nippon dated May 11, 1939, which is part of Document No. 13, is it not? (Indicating copy of publication).
- A. Naturally.
- Q. And you were responsible for the publication of that newspaper?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And that was published bimonthly, the 5th and 20th?
- A. Three times a month. It is not circulated outside of the Sekisei Kai.
- Q. How many members did that society have?
- A. I do not believe there were over 20,000.
- Q. And in this same article you said in substance: 'Even though England is wealthy, she will suffer greatly if her warship which costs one hundred million yen will be sunk by our three hundred thousand yen airplane.'?

A. That is correct.

Q. Then you were mistaken when you stated on the 12th of February that you had made no such statement?

A. That is so. I did not remember.

Q. And in the issue of this same paper of June 1, 1939, did you say 'Define England as the enemy?'

A. Yes.

Q. Then you were mistaken when you stated in the examination of 12 February that you did not make such a statement?

A. Yes.

Q. And did you state in the issue of June 1 of this paper, Document No. 13, 'Our way is one -- expulsion of England?'

A. Yes.

Q. Then your denial of that statement was untrue.

A. I had no remembrance. Your interpretation was not incorrect. My memory was in error.

Q. What is the title of that article there? (Indicating article in paper)

A. It means on topics of the time, upon matters of the moment, or something like that.

Q. It doesn't say 'Solution of incident depends upon expulsion of England?'

A. Yes. (Comment by Interpreter: He admitted that.)

Q. Does it appear there that you said 'if it hadn't been for support of England, the Chiang Government would have been already destroyed?'

A. Those are essentially my ideas, but whether it is here or not I do not know. (Looking at article to see.) I do not see it here, but those were my ideas in any case.

Q. Turning to the June 20, 1939 article, title, 'Expulsion of England is the Solut'on to the China Incident,' did you state in that article substantially as follows: 'The foreign concessions in Tientsin are blockaded. This is an opportune moment to start the attack, because the whole nation has recognized it is necessary the Government should avail itself of this opportunity and attack instantly. The attack should not be stopped at Tientsin but extended to Shanghai and to Hongkong. This is the only possible solution of the China incident. We have no choice -- fight England.'

A. In substance that is correct.

Q. Then you were mistaken when you made a statement on the 12th of February that you did not say that in this paper?

A. That is so. My memory was bad.

Q. When you denied that you published the statement 'Don't hesitate to establish the Asiatic Bloc, this is not an infringement of the Nine Power Treaty; if others think it constitutes such an infringement, renounce the treaty,' you were mistaken, were you not?

A. There is nothing about the Nine Power Pact in this article. I made that statement in an article in the issue of this same paper dated December 5, 1939.

Q. Then you were mistaken when you denied making that statement in your examination of February 12?

A. Yes, I was mistaken." (Case No. 343-10, Pages 4 to 7, inc. -15 Feb. 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "You were in favor, however of the expedition into Manchuria, were you not?

A. Yes.....

Q. "Did you make a statement advocating the unification of the world under the Emperor, in which you said 'The territories will include Japan, the leader, Manchukuo, China, the far eastern part of Soviet Russia, French Indo-China, Burma, Malaya, Dutch East Indies, British East India, Afganistan, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Philippines, and islands on the Pacific and Indian Oceans?'

A. That I did say. I do not recall including Russia or Hawaii. However, I did make such a statement.

Q. In fact, that plan has been in your mind and been advocated by you for many years, has it not?

A. I have had such an idea for a long time." (Case No. 343-7-Page 5-6-12 Feb. 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "You published a book, did you not, or were author of it, entitled 'Inevitability of the Renovation?'

A. Yes.

Q. I show you a document which is marked 'Document No. 488,' and ask you if you were the author of that book?

A. Yes, I wrote it.

Q. Did you state in this book 'But what prevents most seriously the progress of the world and the prosperity of the races is the assistance of England. Japan has only to show her decisive attitude. We have only to say that we will occupy Hongkong and Shanghai. England knows that if she loses in China she must withdraw also from India.'? This is the book published 25 Dec. 1940, called the 'Inevitability of the Renovation.'

A. Yes.

- Q. Colonel, directing your attention to page 35 of this same publication that you admitted authorship of -- Did you not advocate the unification of the world under the Emperor as expressed in the Imperial Edict promulgated by Emperor JIMMU?
- A. Yes, that is correct.
- Q. Directing your attention to page 52. Did you not say, 'This newly organized measure is the only way for the complete promotion of the unification of the world under the Emperor. And consequently our nation has the right to establish a new order and a problem like the China Incident can be considered as the beginning of the establishment of this New World Order.'?
- A. Yes, it is written there.
- Q. Directing your attention back to page 36, did you not say in substance that the world to come will be divided into three blocks -- the American block with the Monroe Doctrine, the Oriental block of the Oriental Races, and the European block in Europe?
- A. Yes, I did.
- Q. And these three blocks will have to strive for mastery?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And in promoting Japan to international position, the most important point is the establishment of the Japan-Manchukuo-China block?
- A. That is so. In other words, the world will be divided into three blocks, and we must make a block also.
- Q. Then you talk about how strong the Oriental block must be made following the KONOYE declaration, and then you make this statement: 'This new order means a thorough destruction of the old world order sustained by England, America, France, and the Soviet Union.' That is still on page 36.
- A. Essentially those were my words.
- Q. Now you further urged on the people through this publication the 'expulsion of the Anglo-American organization to exploit East Asia.'?
- A. Yes, I made such a statement.
- Q. Directing your attention to page 58, you are urging a powerful Cabinet to accomplish these aims, and you say 'It is beyond doubt that those nations like Britain, America, and the Soviet are scheming to oppress Japan by having close touch with one another.'?
- A. Yes, I made that statement.
- Q. Now directing your attention to page 62 of this same document No. 488, did you not say that -- the nation which stands as the leader of the anti-Japanese enveloping attack is Britain. Therefore the infliction of the decisive blow on Britain, the leader, prior to their thorough amalgamation is one of the first for dispelling the others. Once Britain is defeated, America will not act haughty, but if in spite

of that America shows signs of challenging us, she can easily be knocked off by means of an individual attack; and this is the only strategy through which Japan can win her victory?

A. Yes, I made that statement.

Q. Then you went on to say on page 64 'Fortunately the cream of Europe, two mighty nations, are extending their hands for an alliance with Japan. Now is the critical moment for deciding the question of creating the expanded greater Japan! The time has come! If we do it now it can be done!'

A. Yes.)

Q. Now, Colonel, we direct your attention to page 71 of this same document and do we not find you urging 'Germany and Italy are fighting against England and France in order to overthrow the status quo and to establish a new order. And it is needless to say that the China Incident in Asia also is the Japanese-Chinese united front against the Anglo-American domination. When we take a strict view of the historical facts, Japan, Germany, and Italy have already gone into an inevitable war against England, France, and America.' Then you say 'Those who purposely refuse to admit this fact are dependent upon England and America.' Now I will ask you -- at this time that you published this query to the Premier YONAI, wasn't he trying to put an end to the China Incident and effect a friendly settlement with England and America?

A. I do not believe they were.

Q. What was the purpose of this exhortation?

A. I believe it was aimed at telling YONAI to carry on and to bring about an end to the China Incident.

Q. Then, Colonel, why did you say this -- 'If you try to put an end to the China Incident in collaboration with England and America, you will never be able to solve the problem. The instant you make up your mind to expel England and America from China, China will start moving toward a new order'? That is on page 73.

A. It was not a fact that YONAI was trying to bring to a close the China Incident. However, at the time there was talk about working in conjunction with the United States and England, and this was written as a warning not to do so.

Q. Directing your attention to this same remarkable document, page 115, do you not find yourself urging on the people of Japan that 'Now is the time for totalitarianism to rule the world.'?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. And on page 122, you say 'The world is advancing from individualism to totalitarianism, and in the future the nations in the world will be united into one.'?

A. Yes.

- Q. And on page 131 you are writing about ringing the loud alarm bell at the year end, and did you not say under the date of 20 December 1940, 'The world is now divided into two camps, the one camp is for the status quo, and the other is for the new order. Japan is not neutral. Our enemies of course... are England and America who want to maintain the status quo... Why should we hesitate to take a decisive attitude toward America? ..Whatever form it may take, the collision between Japan and America is inevitable. We had best rise when it is not too late and establish a Co-Prosperity Sphere in the south. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.'?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. And then don't you refer a little later, on page 135, to the war with China, which has been curiously labelled 'an incident' as a 'holy war'?
- A. Yes, that is correct.
- Q. Now I believe, Colonel, that back in 1936 you published your rather famous 'Declaration of HASHIMOTO Kingoro'?
- A. Yes, that was the declaration of the society.
- Q. But it is known and was labelled in your publication of it as the 'Declaration of HASHIMOTO Kingoro'?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you wrote it?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Directing your attention to it, did you say --- 'Methinks that our nation, which has the realization of the unification of the world under the Emperor as her national policy, should instantly manifest her inherent nature in uniting all her people directly under the Emperor.'?
- A. I do not know how the translation reads, but essentially I said something of the sort -- that the world would have to be united under the principle of the Eight Corners Under the One Roof.
- Q. I will direct your attention to your section dealing with the advancement of our policy abroad. You say in that section 'Within our dominion let each race give a full play to their own characteristics by giving them restricted local government under a close organic system. Try to enhance their racial culture as a whole and to materialize concretely the way of the Empire. With this formula we must later work upon the other parts of the world.'?
- A. That is essentially correct.
- Q. In this same declaration of yours, Colonel, made away back in 1936, you have got a section on "Advancement of Armaments," in which you said 'Increase our armaments to the amount absolutely necessary for conquering other countries of different principles that try to hinder us on our way toward the realization of the Imperial Way.

Q. The essence of the armaments should be the invincible air force whose airplanes should be considered airplanes of the nation, not only of the Army. Make the people trust the airplane as they trusted the sword in the old times.?'

A. Yes, I did make such a statement." (Case No. 343-7, Pages 6 to 10, inc. -12 Feb. 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "Now at the time this book was published, were you an official in the IRAA?"

A. I believe so.

Q. Now will you state just what position you held in the IRAA at this time?

A. Somu. (Interpreter's Note: Which I believe translate General Affairs Secretary.)

Q. You were also a permanent director, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. And Prince KONOYE had asked you to be on the preparatory committee, had he not?

A. Yes.

Q. Quoting from the Japan Year Book for 1941-42, in the article on Page 175, entitled 'National Movement for Assisting the Throne,' the following appears: 'The move is highly political in nature.' Isn't that so?

A. Prince KONOYE originally thought of it as being a political movement, but because of the clamor in the Diet, all political action was stripped from it.

Q. The party aimed at 'superseding the old party politics characterized by sectional interests and predicated upon liberalism.'

A. That was the original idea.

Q. It was 'essentially national, all embracing and public spirited in character, was it not'?

A. That is substantially so.

Q. And it aimed at 'the concentration and unification of all the forces and resources of the nation?' Its activity extended to the whole life of the nation, did it not?

A. Yes.

Q. Now quoting further from the Year Book, 'the President controls the Association and directs the movement; the Prime Minister is President ex officio.' Is that true?

A. That is a question of terminology as the Prime Minister is actually the President and under him the man who controls the Association and directs the movement thereof is known as the Vice President.

- Q. Now, Colonel, if a new man became Prime Minister he also became President of this Association, didn't he?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Colonel, as to the membership of the Association, the Japan Year Book 1941-1942 states 'The Association for Assisting the Throne being a movement that concerns the entire nation, every individual of the Japanese Race is by birthright qualified for membership in it in the widest sense of the term.' Is that a true statement?
- A. Yes.
- Q. As a matter of fact, the effect of this Association was to create a single party in the Diet replacing all the other political parties, was it not?
- A. That was the aim; but the result was that the Diet members fought the scheme and ultimately succeeded in keeping the IRAA out of politics.
- Q. Did nearly everybody in Japan belong to this society?
- A. One hundred million.
- Q. Would you say that this Association largely resembled a Fascist Party? (Comment by Interrogator to Interpreter: Explain to him that we understand that under the Japanese constitution there couldn't be a one-party system, but ask him if actually this was not the beginning of the institution of somewhat of a Fascist Party in Japan.)
- A. Outside the realm of politics it worked to unite the people as one and to follow the road behind the Emperor.
- Q. Colonel, wouldn't you say that this association had accomplished the same thing in Japan in the way of a national mobilization of efforts and resources that the Nazi party did in Germany, or the Fascist party did in Italy?
- A. The only difference is that we had nothing to do with politics.
- Q. However, I will direct your attention back to one of your first answers this morning, in which you verified the statement in the Japan Year Book that the 'movement was highly political in nature.'
- A. It was originally political, but was eventually prohibited from having any part in political action.
- Q. Didn't you say the main purpose was to unify the nation back to the military for defense of the nation and its principles?
- A. No, KONOYE was not thinking along these lines. The political parties had disbanded and therefore KONOYE thought, I believe, that this movement would make it possible to have a new and strong single party.

Q. And you agreed with him?

A. Yes, I agreed with him and worked towards it. That was the reason I became a member of the Preparatory Committee.

Q. Now I hand you a document marked 'Evidentiary Document 490', and ask you to look at it. I show you your picture in the front of the book. The name of this book is 'How to Rebuild the World.' and I ask you, did you write this book?

A. Yes.

Q. When?

A. Around 1941 I believe." (Case No. 343-8, Pages 1 and 3-14 February 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "Were you dissatisfied with the way the IRAA was being run at this time?

A. No.

Q. Why did you get out?

A. There was actually no particular reason.

Q. How long before you joined the IRAPS?

A. I believe I resigned from the IRAA in February of 1941 and the IRAPS was not set up until April of 1942.

Q. I will ask you, Colonel, if your book 'How to Rebuild the World' was not published 30 January 1941?

A. Yes.

Q. Then it was published while you were still a member of the IRAA, wasn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. Then your other answer was a mistake, was it not?

A. I believe I said I was still a member.

Q. To clear it up anyway, Colonel, you were still officially connected with IRAA when this book was given to the nation?

A. Yes." (Case No. 343-8, Page 4 - 14 February 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "Directing your attention to page 83 of this same book, do you not urge a 'reformation of Japan is an urgent necessity. Liberalism should be taken away from every sphere.'?"

A. Yes, more or less. Liberalism must be done away with because this is a form under which different individuals strive to make money for themselves or gain power for themselves, and do not heed the overall wishes of the nation." (Case No. 343-8, Page 5 - 14 February 1946)

* * * * *

Q. "You were the leader of ^{/a} Young Men Organization at this time?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your position in this organization -- President?

A. I was the President.

Q. I hand you a book marked for identification 'Evidentiary Document 487,' and ask you to look at this book.

A. This is my book.

Q. Is not the title of this book 'Speeches to Young Men'?

A. Yes.

Q. I point to your picture in the front of the book, that is the Japanese front, and ask -- did you write this book?

A. Yes. If you go into detail on this book, some of the academic subjects in it are things that I heard from others so that it might be a little difficult for me to explain fully. However, I wrote it.

Q. That's all right, Colonel. Directing your attention to page 12, is Chapter II not headed 'Destruction of World Liberalism'?

A. That is correct.

Q. In this chapter, do you not attack liberalism, majority rule, imperialism, and white rule?

And in this chapter you advocate substituting a controlled economy and free economy, do you not?

A. Yes.

Q. And on page 23, don't you say 'The existing world order has come to such a pass that it must either settle accounts or undergo a second world war?'

A. Yes.

Q. Still, from your book, 'Speeches to Young Men,' on page 24, Chapter III, headed 'Material Civilization and Spiritual Culture,' don't you say that 'The white man has conquered four-fifths of the globe and Japan alone is standing against him. Unless strengthened by Japanese influences, Asiatic peoples fall prey to the white man.' You then present historical arguments to the effect that Asiatic arms were often and Asiatic culture was always superior to European. You then view history as a struggle between the Europeans and Asiatics and say 'for three thousand years the Asiatics were superior, but in the past three hundred years the white man turned the tables because of his material progress.' Then you further say 'Does this mean that Asiatic spiritualism will always bow to materialism? No'. Not the true Asiatic Spirit, but a degenerated form of it was defeated. Japan will lead a revival of the old Asiatic culture.' Are these not accurate quotations and statements from this chapter?

- A. Yes, in substance those are my remarks. What I have said in essence is that European material civilization has defeated our Asiatic spiritual civilization, but that this state of affairs does not necessarily have to continue, and that we must rise.
- Q. I will direct your attention to Chapter 7 of this same book published in 1937, headed 'Japan of the World, the World of Japan,' and will ask if you don't say there -- 'Japan for Japan's sake; Japan for the world's sake; the world for Japan's sake. Building a better Japan was our chief aim. At the time of the Meiji restoration Japan was on the first stage. A better Japan thus built, however, must be a power of the world since after the Sino-Japanese war, which was quite an epoch making war for Japan, Japan's power has been recognized and become one of the three most powerful nations in the world. But this is never the end of all. We must build the world for Japan's sake. Heaven ordered Japan to achieve its great mission. The Manchurian incident has thus occurred.' Is that not a correct quotation?
- A. That is substantially a correct translation.
- Q. Do you not argue in this same chapter that Japan is literally forced to expand by the white man, that because of emigration and national industrialism being blocked and boycotted by the whites, the only course left is for Japan to enlarge her territory.
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Then don't you say in that chapter that 'there are four countries we must watch today -- China, Soviet Russia, America, and the English Empire.'
- A. Yes.
- Q. In Chapter VIII of this same book entitled 'Speeches to Young Men', don't you say on page 201, 'Our Army and Navy are personally controlled by the Emperor and are the means to show the dignity of this country of the Gods.'
- A. Yes, that is correct." (Case No. 343-8, Page 6-7-14 February 1946)

INTERROGATION OF

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

Date and Time: 12 February 1946, 1000-1200 hours
Place : Sugama Prison, Tokyo, Japan
Present : Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO
Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth, Interrogator
Captain J. J. Robinson, Interrogator
Mr. Hugh B. Helm, Interrogator
Lt. Commander Frank B. Huggins, Interpreter
Miss Edna Hickam, Stenographer

Questions by: Colonel G. S. Woolworth
Mr. Hugh B. Helm

Oath of Interpreter: Administered by Col. Woolworth:

COL. WOOLWORTH: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you in this proceeding?

Lt. Commander Huggins? I do.

Interrogation by Col. Woolworth:

Q. You were a member of Dai Nippon Seinen To?
A. Yes.

Q. And later the name of this society was changed to Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai?

A. Yes; but the first society was dealing in political matters and the second in spiritual or thoughts.

Q. Did these societies publish a magazine entitled "Taiyo Dai Nippon"?
A. It could not exactly be called a magazine, it was more in the nature of a paper.

Q. And you from time to time wrote articles for that paper?
A. Yes.

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Q. And you were President of which society -- Dai Nippon Seinen To or Dai Nippon Seki Sei?

A. Both.

Q. And you supervised generally the publication of this paper?

A. Yes. It is the official organ of the Association and is not circulated outside.

Q. Do you remember writing an article for that paper entitled "Expel Crafty and Arrogant England from Asia"?

A. I do not recall writing an article with such a title, although I do recall writing something that had to do with stating that England was helping China in her efforts.

Q. You were responsible, however, for the articles appearing in that publication as President of the society -- were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you in Tokyo December 1, 1937?

A. No I was not in Tokyo; I was at the front.

Q. Where?

A. It was before the attack upon Hanking and I was somewhere in central China.

Q. Do you recall writing an article for this same paper entitled "Clear the Clouds from the East Asia sky?"

A. I do not recall.

Q. Did you ever write an article in which you stated as follows: "The cardinal point in the solution of the China incident lies in solving the problems connected with England and the Soviet Union, who are giving assistance to Chiang Kai-shek. Therefore, the key to the solution of the Chinese problem lies in the destruction of those supporters of Chiang."?

A. I did not write such a thing.

Q. Did you state in the course of that same article as follows: "When we overthrow England the Soviet Union will be left alone"?

A. No I did not say such a thing.

Q. Did you in the course of the same article and the same paper state "We must defend on the north and advance toward the south -- our destiny will be decided in the south."?

A. I recall stating that we would have to go southward, but I do not remember saying anything about the north. The statements that I made about the southward movement were made long after the China incident had started.

Did you say "The British fleet will not be able to enter Singapore, but we have our powerful aviators in addition to the Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Kingoro, HASHIMOTO

Q. When did you say you made those statements?

A. Around the time when the A-B-C-D declaration was made.

Q. You never made any such statement prior to the time of the A-B-C-D declaration?

A. I do not believe I did.

Q. Will you answer "yes" or "no" to that question?

A. I did not make such a statement.

Q. Did you make the following statement in an article in Taiyo Dai Nippon: "From the viewpoint that the success in solving the China incident depends entirely upon the expulsion of England, the policy of Germany and Italy to destroy England and France is on the same foundation with that of Japan."

A. I recall only saying that the China incident's solution was in destroying England's aid to China.

Q. Will you state definitely that you did not say that it depended upon the expulsion of England?

A. No I did not say that. I simply said to stop that aid.

Q. Did you state in an article in the same paper in connection with the Tri-Partite Pact as follows: "If we strengthen our collaboration it is easy to put an end to England and France."?

A. I do not remember.

Q. Will you state that you did not make such a statement?

A. I believe I did state that it would be necessary to make binding the Tri-Partite Pact in order to stop England's aid to China.

Q. In the same article, did you state substantially as follows: "In Asia in the area east to India at least Japan will expel those countries which are founded upon Communism and democracy."?

A. No I did not.

Q. In the same magazine in an article entitled "Expel the British influences from the Far East," did you state substantially as follows: "Under the present condition it is very easy to beat England."?

A. I do not remember saying any such thing.

Q. Did you say in the same article: "We have only to say decisively that we will occupy Hongkong and her concession in Shanghai. How can the British troops come to the Far East?"?

A. I did not say such a thing.

- Q. Did you say "The British fleet will not be able to enter Singapore, for we have our peerless aviators in addition to the fleet."?
- A. I made no such statement.
- Q. Did you say "Even though England is wealthy she will suffer greatly if her warship which cost one hundred million yen will be sunk by our three hundred thousand yen airplane."?
- A. I did not.
- Q. Did you ever make any of the following statements: "It is a humiliation to have a talk with England."?
- A. No.
- Q. "Define England as the enemy."?
- A. When?
- Q. June 1, 1939?
- A. I did not.
- Q. "Our way is one -- expulsion of England."?
- A. I did not.
- Q. "The enemy that blocks our way to the south is England."?
- A. I do not recall using such words, but I did say that we should go southward.
- Q. In an article entitled "The Solution of the Incident Depends Upon the Expulsion of England," did you state: "If it had not been for the support of England, the Chiang Government would have been already destroyed. It is clear that if we attack England the Incident will be brought to an end immediately."?
- A. I recall stating that we should expel England from China, but beyond that I have no recollection.
- Q. Did you make this statement before or after the A-B-C-D declaration?
- A. Before I believe.
- Q. As a matter of fact you made those statements in 1939, did you not?
- A. I do not recall whether it was in 1939 or not, but I was certainly thinking that we should expel England from the China continent.
- Q. As a matter of fact, you began to advocate such action as far back as 1931, didn't you?
- A. No I did not.
- Q. You advocated the extension of the China Incident as far back as 1931 though, did you not?
- A. I did not.

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Q. You were in favor, however, of the expedition into Manchuria, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. And you stated in substance at one time as follows, did you not: "The foreign concessions in Tientsin are blockaded. This is an opportune moment to start the attack, because the whole nation has recognized it is necessary the government should avail itself of this opportunity and attack instantly. The attack should not be stopped at Tientsin, but extended to Shanghai and to Hongkong. This is the only possible solution of the China Incident. We have no choice. Fight England!"?

A. I did not make such a statement.

Q. Did you make such a statement in an article in Taiyo Dai Nippon: "Now our real opponents are England and the Soviet Union. When there is only one way ahead of us, why are we hesitating? Are we afraid of an economic blockade? A government without policy and decision is a great obstacle in the way of the nation. It is passion, power, and blood that matters -- we have nothing to fear. What we need now is a wartime Cabinet with the highest authorities."?

A. I did not make such a statement.

Q. Did you state in the same paper as follows: "The abolishment of the commercial treaty by England; America's freezing of our funds; and the Anglo-American economic embargo of Japan is a declaration of war."?

A. I believe I might have made such a statement. I believe I said it about the United States, but not about England.

Q. Did you state in 1939 -- "Don't hesitate to establish the Asiatic block. This is not an infringement of the Nine Power Treaty. If others think it constitutes such an infringement, renounce the treaty."?

A. I did not make such a statement.

✓ Q. Did you make a statement advocating the unification of the world under the Emperor, in which you said "The territories will include Japan, the leader, Manchukuo, China, the far eastern part of Soviet Russia, French Indo-China, Burma, Malaya, Dutch East Indies, British East India, Afganistan, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Philippines, and islands on the Pacific and Indian oceans."?

✓ A. That I did say. I do not recall including Russia or Hawaii. However, I did make such a statement.

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- ✓ Q. In fact, that plan has been in your mind and been advocated by you for many years, has it not?
- ✓ A. I have had such an idea for a long time.
- Q. In fact that idea came to your mind and you have been advocating it ever since you came back from Turkey in 1930?
- A. I had no such idea in that period. It was only after the war started.
- Q. Didn't you make a statement to that effect in 1931?
- A. I did not.
- Q. Don't you recall having made a speech not long after your return from Turkey when you said that on board ship coming back from Turkey these thoughts came to your mind, and that you took measures of various sorts in order to realize the plan?
- A. I do not.
- Q. And didn't you say in a speech or in a publication: "I would not say that is the only reason, but anyway thereafter the Manchurian Incident, withdrawal from the League of Nations, Denunciation of the Disarmament Agreement, the May 15 incident, Shimoitai, and the February 26 incident took place in succession."? That was included in the publication entitled "Sekai Saiken No Nichi" (How to Rebuild the World) published 30 January 1941.
- A. I did not.
- Q. You published a book, did you not, or were author of it, entitled "Inevitability of the Renovation"?
- A. Yes.
- Q. I show you a document which is marked "Document No. 488", and ask you if you were the author of that book?
- A. Yes I wrote it.
- Q. Did you state in this book "But what prevents most seriously the progress of the world and the prosperity of the races is the assistance of England. Japan has only to show her decisive attitude. We have only to say that we will occupy Hongkong and Shanghai. England knows that if she loses in China she must withdraw also from India."? This is the book published 25 December 1940, called the "Inevitability of the Renovation."
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Now directing your attention to page 62 of this same document No. 488, did you not say that -- the nation which stands as the leader of the anti-Japanese enveloping attack is Britain. Therefore the infliction of the decisive blow on Britain, the leader, prior to their thorough amalgamation is one of the first for dispelling the others. Once Britain is defeated, America will not act haughty, but if in spite of that America shows signs of challenging us, she can easily be knocked off by means of an individual attack; and this is the only strategy through which Japan can win her victory?
- A. Yes I made that statement.
- Q. Then you went on to say on page 64: "Fortunately the cream of Europe, two mighty nations, are extending their hands for an alliance with Japan. Now is the critical moment for deciding the question of creating the expanded greater Japan! The time has come! If we do it now it can be done!"?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Now Colonel, we direct your attention to page 71 of this same document and do we not find you urging "Germany and Italy are fighting against England and France in order to overthrow the status quo and to establish a new order. And it is needless to say that the China Incident in Asia also is the Japanese-Chinese united front against the Anglo-American domination. When we take a strict view of the historical facts, Japan, Germany, and Italy have already gone into an inevitable war against England, France, and America."? Then you say "Those who purposely refuse to admit this fact are dependent upon England and America."
- Q. Now I will ask you -- at this time that you published this query to the Premier YONAI, wasn't he trying to put an end to the China Incident and effect a friendly settlement with England and America?
- A. I do not believe they were.
- Q. What was the purpose of this exhortation?
- A. I believe it was aimed at telling YONAI to carry on and to bring about an end to the China Incident.
- Q. Then, Colonel, why did you say this -- "If you try to put an end to the China Incident in collaboration with England and America, you will never be able to solve the problem. The instant you make up your mind to expel England and America from China, China will start moving toward a new order."? That is on page 73.

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Interrogation by Mr. Helm

- Q. Colonel, directing your attention to page 35 of this same publication that you admitted authorship of -- Did you not advocate the unification of the world under the Emperor as expressed in the Imperial Edict promulgated by Emperor Jimmu?
- A. Yes that is correct.
- Q. Directing your attention to page 52. Did you not say, "This newly organized measure is the only way for the complete promotion of the unification of the world under the Emperor. And consequently our nation has the right to establish a new order and a problem like the China Incident can be considered as the beginning of the establishment of this New World Order."?
- A. Yes, it is written there.
- Q. Directing your attention back to page 36, did you not say in substance that the world to come will be divided into three blocks -- the American block with the Monroe Doctrine, the Oriental block of the Oriental Races, and the European block in Europe?
- A. Yes I did.
- Q. And these three blocks will have to strive for mastery?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And in promoting Japan to international position, the most important point is the establishment of the Japan-Manchukuo-China block?
- A. Yes that is so. In other words, the world will be divided into three blocks, and we must make a block also.
- Q. Then you talk about how strong the Oriental block must be made following the KONOYE declaration, and then you make this statement: "This new order means a thorough destruction of the old world order sustained by England, America, France, and the Soviet Union." That is still on page 36.
- A. Essentially those were my words.
- Q. Now you further urged on the people through this publication the "expulsion of the Anglo-American organization to exploit East Asia."?
- A. Yes I made such a statement.
- Q. Directing your attention to page 58, you are urging a powerful Cabinet to accomplish these aims, and you say "It is beyond doubt that those nations like Britain, America, and the Soviet are scheming to oppress Japan by having close touch with one another."?
- A. Yes I made that statement.

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- A. It was not a fact that YONAI was trying to bring to a close the China Incident. However, at the time there was talk about working in conjunction with the United States and England, and this was written as a warning not to do so.
- Q. Directing your attention to this same remarkable document, page 115, do you not find yourself urging on the people of Japan that "Now is the time for totalitarianism to rule the world."?
- A. Yes that is correct.
- Q. And on page 122, you say "The world is advancing from individualism to totalitarianism, and in the future the nations in the world will be united into one."?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And on page 131 you are writing about ringing the loud alarm bell at the year end, and did you not say under the date of 20 December 1940, "The world is now divided into two camps, the one camp is for the status quo, and the other is for the new order. Japan is not neutral. Our enemies of course..... are England and America who want to maintain the status quo..... Why should we hesitate to take a decisive attitude toward America?..... What- ever form it may take, the collision between Japan and America is inevitable. We had best rise when it is not too late and establish a Co-Prosperity Sphere in the south. Nothing ventured, nothing gained."?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. And then don't you refer a little later, on page 135, to the war with China, which has been curiously labelled "an incident" as a "holy war"?
- A. Yes that is correct.
- Q. Now I believe, Colonel, that back in 1936 you published your rather famous "Declaration of HASHIMOTO Kingoro"?
- A. Yes that was the declaration of the society.
- Q. But it is known and was labelled in your publication of it as the "Declaration of HASHIMOTO Kingoro"?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you wrote it?
- A. Yes.

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Q. Directing your attention to it, did you say -- "Methinks that our nation, which has the realization of the unification of the world under the Emperor as her national policy, should instantly manifest her inherent nature in uniting all her people directly under the Emperor."?

A. I do not know how the translation reads, but essentially I said something of the sort -- that the world would have to be united under the principle of the Eight Corners Under the One Roof.

Q. I will direct your attention to your section dealing with the advancement of our policy abroad. You say in that section, "Within our dominion let each race give a full play to their own characteristics by giving them restricted local government under a close organic system. Try to enhance their racial culture as a whole and to materialize concretely the way of the Empire. With this formula we must later work upon the other parts of the world."?

A. That is essentially correct.

Q. In this same declaration of yours, Colonel, made away back in 1936, you have got a section on "Advancement of Armaments," in which you said "Increase our armaments to the amount absolutely necessary for conquering other countries of different principles that try to hinder us on our way toward the realization of the Imperial Way. The essence of the armaments should be the invincible air force whose airplanes should be considered airplanes of the nation, not only of the Army. Make the people trust the airplane as they trusted the sword in the old times."?

A. Yes I did make such a statement.

INTERROGATION OF

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

Date and Time: 22 January 1946, 9:45-12:00 hours
Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan
Present : Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO
Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth, Interrogator
Captain J. J. Robinson, Interrogator
Mr. Hugh B. Helm
1st Lt. Shizuma Yamamoto, Interpreter
Miss Edna Hickam, Stenographer
Questions by : Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth
Captain J. J. Robinson
Mr. Hugh B. Helm

Oath of Interpreter: Administered by Col. Woolworth

COL. WOOLWORTH: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you, in this proceeding?

Lt. Yamamoto: I do.

Interrogation by Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth

- Q. Colonel, you said at the last hearing you were one of the founders of the Sakura Kai. Is that true?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who were some of the other members of that society when it was formed?
- A. The founder of this Sakura Kai is myself, but there are a few others that were with me at the time. One of them is CHO, Isame, and one TANAKA, Wataru. The sole founder of this society is myself, and the others were more or less in the capacity of assistants as secretaries, etc.

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- Q. Any other names that you recall as being members?
A. No, the only ones are myself and the other two just previously mentioned.
- Q. Did more members come in later?
A. This club is more or less in the nature of assistance in research of the other Young Officers' Club, etc., and there are no other members besides myself and the two just mentioned in this club at all.
- Q. Didn't you tell me the Sakura Kai had upwards of 20,000 members?
A. The membership of 20,000 or upwards is another Club entirely apart from this one just mentioned. The Club that had 20,000 members is called the Dai Nihon Seki-Sei-Kai.
- Q. When was that club formed?
A. October of the eleventh year of Showa - 1936. Previous to that this club was the Dai Nihon Seinen-To.
- Q. Isn't that the same as "Nippon"?
A. (By Interpreter) It is a matter of pronunciation. The Japanese call it "Nihon".
- Q. There were records kept of the meetings of the Sakura Kai, were there not?
A. These meetings of the club were just impromptu meetings and there were no records of any such kept at all.
- Q. What society are you referring to now, the Sakura Kai, or the other society?
A. I am referring to the Sakura Kai.
- Q. In regard to the latter society, the Dai Nihon Seinen-To, you stated, I believe, that one of the reasons for its founding was that politics were at that time corrupt?
A. Yes, that is so.
- Q. Who particularly amongst the politicians were corrupt?
A. There were no individual politicians, so to speak, but the Minsei and the Seiyu parties were more or less forming a clique. The Minsei party and the Seiyu party were making activities with the capitalistic party and trying to run the government, and this Nihon Club was formed.

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Q. Were those parties failing to make proper appropriations for the Army?

A. By parties do you mean to say Saiyu parties?

Q. I asked if they failed to support the Army?

A. There was no connection with the Army.

Q. Were their members connected with the Diet?

A. Most of the Diet members were of the Minsei and Seiyu parties.

Q. Who were the leaders of the Minsei party at that time when you formed this society?

A. I can't recall at the present moment.

Q. Do you recall who was the leader of the other society, the other political party? Who were leaders of the other one?

A. I may be mistaken, but I believe the leader of the Minsei party was MACHITA, and if I am mistaken and recall the correct name at a later date I will tell it.

The Seiyu party at that time was divided into two factions, one headed by NAKASHIMA and the other by KUKARA. I may be mistaken on these names, but if I do happen to recall the correct names at a later date I will gladly volunteer them.

Q. What corruption were they guilty of?

A. No individual was directly responsible for the corruption of the government at all. However, the government as a whole was more or less coordinating with the Zaibatsu, the capitalists, and in that way the government had gone into a stage of corruption. Consequently there was a great difference in the livelihood of the wealthier people and the lower class of people.

Q. How did this society aim to correct that condition?

A. I have been answering most of the questions believing they were in connection with the Club, Nihon Seinen-Do.
(Interpreter: I said that I had an understanding of that also. Remark by Col. Woolwerth: That was right).

I pleaded to the War Minister to formulate a committee in the revision of the government. This plea was neglected, and consequently this club was formulated to study the revision of the government. I had planned on formulating a plan and submitting it to the government. This was the purpose in forming the so-called Sakura Kai.

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Q. He is talking about the Sakura Kai?

A. (By Interpreter) Yes. You asked him why the Sakura Kai was formed).

Q. Was that plan later presented to the War Minister?

A. No it was never presented to the War Minister.

Q. Was it presented to anyone else?

A. No it was never presented to any ministry or any agency of the government.

Q. Have you a copy of that plan?

A. This plan was never put in writing. It was mostly discussion as to how to carry this out. It was never put in writing at all.

Q. As to the society of Dai Nihon Seinen-To, you stated that one of its purposes was to foster national defense by placing emphasis on the air. Why did you think it was necessary to place emphasis on the air?

A. There is a bound document on which the Nihon Seinen-To was organized. However, I do not think the primary purpose for the organization of this Seinen-To was emphasized for air defense.

Q. Have you a copy of that document?

A. I personally do not have a copy of this document, but there should be a copy elsewhere.

Q. Where?

A. There were many bound books printed on this reason for formulating the Seinen-To, and there should be some copies some place. My copy that was given to me was burned at the time of bombing my home.

Q. Did the Home Ministry have a copy of it?

A. I do not think there is a copy in the Home Ministry. --On second thought, I think there may be a copy in the Home Ministry. Shall I write down the title of the book? (Given a sheet of paper to write the title.) It is a bound book about that thick. (The name written was "Hashimoto Kingoro Sengen".)

Q. Who prepared this pamphlet? Did you?

A. The contents of this book were all written by myself.

Q. You stated that among other purposes of this society was to distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan, did you not?

A. I am referring to this book again, and this book contains the object of the Dai Nihon Seinen-To Club. I wanted to let others know why this club was formulated.

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- Q. That was one of the purposes that I have just stated?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How did your organization propose to accomplish that -- to distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan?
- A. The object of this book was not to let the other countries know of the culture of Japan at all, and there was no intention of distributing this book to other countries.
- Q. You don't answer my question. How did you plan to get to foreign countries the culture of Japan?
- A. I had no connection with the culture of Japan and letting other countries know of the culture of Japan.
- Q. You stated that one of the five purposes of this society was to distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan. Was that statement true?
- A. I did not make any statement to that effect yesterday.
- Q. (Colonel Woolworth showed the transcript of the previous interrogation and asked the interpreter to read the testimony and ask if the five purposes of the organization given therein were true.)
- A. No. 4 -- "To foster national defense by placing emphasis on the air" should be "To foster national defense by placing emphasis on the air by increased production of airplanes and aircraft."
No. 5 -- "To distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan." The object of that was to raise the culture of Japan so they could distribute it to foreign countries, for instance, to China and the Southwest. The transcript of previous interrogation also says "that these were the five aims of the aforementioned society." These were not the aims of the society, but this was the plan that the society was intending to submit to the higher authorities so it could be carried out in the future.
- Q. Do you say that you made that statement and it is correct?
- A. (By Interpreter: Yes, that is correct. There is enough here to show that he said that.)
- Q. How did you plan to distribute culture to China, for example?
- A. As in the case of "water seeks its level," if the culture of Japan was raised above that of the other countries, it would naturally have a tendency then to filter down to the other countries. The object of the society was not to carry this out directly, but to formulate a plan whereby it could be carried out.

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Q. Done by the government, was that it?

A. The book that was made at the time the Club was formulated contains all the primary aims or objects the Club had, and if this book could be obtained it would reveal all the intentions.

(Remark by Mr. Helm: We will get the book.)

Q. Did you feel that by having more airplanes built that would tend to help to distribute to foreign countries the culture of Japan?

A. There is no connection whatsoever in the broadening of the culture of Japan with the increased production of airplanes. The subject of more airplanes was brought about for the national defense only and not in the broadening of the culture of Japan and distributing it to other countries.

Q. From whom were you fearful that attack on Japan would come, that it was necessary to strengthen national defense?

A. I had the most fear of the Russians. The Army's apparent objective was, in my opinion, Russia, as the reason for the strengthening.

Q. After you were retired after the Panay-Ladybird incident you said that you made a number of speeches in Japan. What was the subject of your speeches on those occasions?

A. I resigned my post as Regimental Commander and returned to Japan approximately one and one-half years after the Panay incident and made numerous speeches after the return to Japan, which were more or less in the relation of the Panay incident to the people.

Q. What did you say at that time in regard to the Panay incident?

A. I take that back -- my speeches did not relate to the incident of the Panay, but the "Rebima" incident, which was the British Ladybird incident.

Q. Why did you talk about that incident?

A. The speeches made were mostly on the activities and movements of my period in China during the course of one year and seven months; and since the Ladybird incident occurred during this period I also mentioned the incident in my speeches.

Q. What did you say about the incident at that time?

A. The only thing mentioned was the fact that such an incident had occurred.