

Interr To Jo (5 March 46)

DOC 4173

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.

CONTINUED INTERROGATION OF

General Hideki Tojo

Date and Time: 5 March 1946, 1405-1600 hours.

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan.

Present : General Hideki Tojo
Mr. John W. Fihelly, Interrogator
Commander Yale Maxon, USNR, Interpreter
Miss Myrtle B. Mills, Stenographer

Questions by : Mr. Fihelly

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Q You have told us that the Emperor was opposed to war. Was he not also opposed to the use of force in general?

A He was a strong lover of peace from beginning to end. A good example of this, as I have already told you, was in the matter of the Imperial Rescript when he, with his own hand, added the words that I have told you. And you have mentioned the poem that the Emperor read at the 6 September Imperial Conference regarding those who love peace. Another example also was, I believe, on 6 September. At that time, the question of war or peace was being discussed and there were papers and plans having to do with preparation for war and papers and plans having to do with peace. No one in the cabinet, including myself, noticed that the matters of war preparation were being discussed first, but the Emperor noticed it and he said that we were doing things backwards. This is the way I remember it.

Q Did the Emperor not repeatedly say that Japan should not force her views on other people?

A I understand what you have said, but the language is a little strange for the Emperor. He would not have said such a thing. However, from first to last, he was in favor of cooperation and moderation.

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Q Did not the Emperor repeatedly state that Japan should not use war or force to establish the New Order in East Asia?

A Yes, he did. The Emperor was always a lover of peace and he wanted to avoid war by all possible means, even to establishing the New Order in East Asia.

Q So that if force was used in this connection, it was against the Emperor's wishes?

A I cannot unqualifiedly assent. Not only myself but the other cabinet ministers fully respected the Emperor's opinion and administered the affairs of state in consonance with this respect. We did not think of setting up the New Order in East Asia by resorting to war. The war came for other reasons. That is my answer.

Q Was not the war used when it started in setting up the New Order in East Asia?

A Do you mean the Greater East Asia War?

Q Yes.

A That started because Japan's life was threatened by England and America.

Q The New Order in East Asia was set up during the war, was it not?

A Yes. The Greater East Asia War started because Japan's life was threatened by England and America. Once the war had started, various means were used - political, military, and so forth, in order to win. It was necessary to unite all the people of East Asia, not just the Japanese and Chinese, around Japan for the sake of victory. I think it was for the happiness of all the peoples of East Asia also.

Q The New Order in East Asia, which was set up during the war, was intended to be a permanent one, was it not?

A Yes, of course.

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Q This same New Order, which was set up during the war, Japan was unable to set up during peace time, was she not?

A It was not possible for it to be set up in peace time, but the desire to do so existed.

Q Existed where?

A The New Order in East Asia came to include Japan, Manchuria, and China, and in all those places were people who desired it to come about. The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere came about after the Greater East Asia War. This is proved by the fact that the Japan-Manchuria-China Joint Proclamation, worked out by delegates from three countries, was signed on 30 November 1940.

Q Were the people in those countries that formed the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere asked whether or not they wanted to join this New Order?

A After the war?

Q Yes.

A Yes, of course. The Greater East Asia Convention of 6 September 1943, and the Greater East Asia Joint Proclamation resulted from the fact that the desire was there.

Q And is the fact that the Convention was held and the Proclamation made the only evidence that you have that the peoples of those countries desired this New Order?

A Yes, but the fact that the Premiers came as representatives of the people was regarded by me and by Japan as evidence that the desire existed. I admitted something a moment ago which I wish to correct. Those who came, whether or not they were Prime Ministers, were empowered as delegates for the countries from which they came.

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Q Who empowered the delegate from China?

A WANG Ching-wei had two capacities in the government of China. He was the head /shuseki/, somewhat corresponding to the Emperor, and the Chief of the Executive Yuan, corresponding to Premier. In his capacity as head, he delegated the authority to himself.

Q Why was the convention of 6 November 1943 held in Japan and not in one of the other countries?

A Japan issued the invitations.

Q Did not Japan also pay the expenses of the delegates?

A No. Japan paid for the entertainment expenses /reigi/ in Tokyo, but the travel expenses were paid by the countries involved.

Q What countries joined in the Proclamation and in the Convention that you referred to?

A Manchuria, China, the Philippines, Thai, and Burma.

Q How about Formosa and Korea?

A They are Japan.

Q How about French Indo-China?

A No, that is different. That belongs to France.

Q Is this Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere still in existence? If not, when did it cease to function?

A I and the Japanese people are beaten people and if you ask beaten people such a question, no reply is possible.

Q But it is true, is it not, that the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere does not exist at present?

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A As I have said before, we are beaten and the existence or non-existence of such a thing is in the hands of the conquerors. The desire exists, but permission for its existence rests in the hands of the conquerors. As I said before, the possibility of co-existence and co-prosperity in East Asia now is in the hands of the conquerors.

Q Why did TOGO resign as Foreign Minister?

A It was in connection with the creation of the Greater East Asia Ministry. He was against it. TOGO thought it was the proper work of the Foreign Ministry. I wanted to set up a Greater East Asia Ministry to take care of the countries of Greater East Asia.

Q Why could not the Foreign Minister handle the affairs of those countries as he was handling the affairs of other countries?

A This is a rather delicate subject. I felt that Greater East Asia was not composed of strangers /tanin/. It was our own family. Other foreign countries were strangers. The character of the two was different. Things not necessary in relations between relatives would be necessary between strangers, but, among family relations, difficult foreign negotiations, I felt, were not. The other point is that, since the Greater East Asia countries were all in the family, mutual economic factors were very important. I was in favor of removing this complicated work from the Foreign Ministry and letting the Foreign Ministry concentrate on diplomatic relations based on the aims of victory.

Q Did you not tell TOGO that these countries needed special treatment?

A I don't know what you mean by that. These were the three reasons.

Q Do you deny that you so stated to TOGO?

A I don't know what you mean by treatment /taigū/. If the points I have mentioned constitute special treatment /tekubetsu no taigū/ then I can agree.

Q Do you deny that you told TOGO in substance that the Greater East Asia countries needed special treatment?

- A I don't certainly remember just what I told him, but if what you mean by "special treatment" is along the lines of what I have said, then I probably said it. However, the words "special treatment" /tekubetsu no taigu/ have many meanings in Japanese and if some of the other meanings are meant, then I think that I probably did not say that.
- Q Did you use that expression in substance, regardless of what you meant by it?
- A I can't answer it because I don't know what the meaning of "special treatment" is.
- Q Just what countries in East Asia were cared for by the Greater East Asia Ministry?
- A The following independent countries: Manchuria, China, the Philippines, Thai, Burma. These were considered independent from the Japanese point of view. The following invaded areas: Malaya, French Indo-China, and the Netherlands East Indies.
- Q So that all of these countries were taken from the Foreign Ministry and turned over to the Greater East Asia Minister by you?
- A Yes, in general, except that the diplomatic proprieties /gaikō no girei/ were handled by the Foreign Minister.

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Certificate of Interpreter

I, Yale Maxon, Cmdr., USNR, 11-35-72
(Name) (Serial Number)

being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of 6 pages, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Yale Maxon
Yale Maxon, Cmdr., USNR

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of August, 1946.

John W. Fihelly
John W. Fihelly

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer,
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

Certificate of Stenographer

I, Myrtle B. Mills, hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Myrtle B. Mills
Myrtle B. Mills

Certificate of Interrogator

I, John W. Fihelly, certify that on 5
day of March, 1946, personally appeared before me TOJO
Hideki, and according to Commander Yale Maxon, USNR,

Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

John W. Fihelly
John W. Fihelly

TOKYO
(Place)

12 August 46
(Date)

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General Hideki Tojo
5 March 1946.
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- Q The New Order in East Asia was set up during the war, war it not?
- A Yes. The Greater East Asia War started because Japan's life was threatened by England and America. Once the war had started, various means were used - political, military, and so forth, in order to win. It was necessary to unite all the people of East Asia, not just the Japanese and Chinese, around Japan for the sake of victory. I think it was for the happiness of all the peoples of East Asia also.
- Q The New Order in East Asia, which was set up during the war, was intended to be a permanent one, was it not?
- A Yes, of course.
- Q This same New Order, which was set up during the war, Japan was unable to set up during peace time, was she not?
- A It was not possible for it to be set up in peace time, but the desire to do so existed.