

No. 2992

42992

DEF. DOC. #1513

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-against-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: KONDO, Shunsuke

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

1. My name is KONDO, Shunsuke. I live in Tokyo. I served as Chief of the Nanyo-Cho or the South Seas Bureau from April 1940 to November 1943. My headquarters during that period were on the Island of Palau. Some years before I took over the above position a so-called 10-year plan for the development of the Mandated Islands was commenced. It envisioned the construction of harbors, aviation facilities light houses, wireless stations, meteorological stations, roads and fisheries facilities. These facilities were not in contemplation of war nor were they considered as either fortifications or military installations by the Bureau. They were actually necessities and of great cultural and commercial value to Japan in furthering the development of the Islands.
2. The harbor work at Palau, Saipan, and Truk consisted of opening up the coral reefs, construction of wharves, erection of light houses and installing navigation aids, all with the object of assisting the merchant

shipping. These works were commenced under my predecessors in office and were continued during my tenure. The aviation facilities which had been constructed consisted of an air field for land planes on Saipan and ramps for sea planes on Saipan, Truk, Palau and Jaluit, the principal ones being at Saipan and Palau. All of these facilities were constructed by the Nanyo-Cho or the south seas Bureau with the object of establishing an airline between Japan proper and the Islands together with an inter-island service between Saipan and Palau, Truk, Ponape and Jaluit. These airline services were undertaken by the Nippon Air Line Company. Although neither the planning or execution of the above mentioned project had been made at the request or under the direction of the Navy, some assistance was received from the Navy in the way of technical advice and in the procurement of materials and labor, and in the transportation. We would have been seriously handicapped or the task made completely impossible were it not for this assistance rendered us by the Navy.

3. At the time I assumed my position there were about 100 foreigners living on the Islands, mostly Spanish missionaries and Chinese. I recall one American family on Kusai Island which had settled there from the preceding generation and were engaged in soap manufacturing. Travel between Japan proper and the Islands had actually been restricted from before my time. That restriction applied to foreigners and Japanese. There was a decided inadequacy of shipping accommodations, especially since so many merchantmen had been requisitioned after the outbreak of the China trouble. Besides there was a decided lack of lodging facilities,

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proper food supply and other accommodations which were necessary for existence on the Islands. Because of these circumstances, it is true that travels for the Islands were restricted to the minimum. Prior to December of 1941 I did not see any guns or other military installations. Actually many of the Japanese on the Islands were extremely uneasy as to what would happen to them in the event of hostilities and thought that there should be some measures taken to afford them security.

On this 23rd day of May, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent: KONDO, Shunsuke (seal)

I, ONO, Seiichiro, 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 same place

Witness: (signed) ONO, Seiichiro (seal)

OATH

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

(signed) KONDO, Shunsuke (seal)