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EVIDENTIARY DOCUMENT # 1912

This Document is not to be checked out.

Information contained in this document can
be located in case file and interrogation file.
Enclosed is paper listing interrogation by
original exhibit number and date.

EVIDENTIARY DOC. 1912

KASAGI, Ryomei

INCLUDED IN THE FOLDER ARE THE FOLLOWING DATES

16 & 17 May 46

#1912

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

DOC. NO. 1912

Date 17 June 46

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Interrogation of KASAGI, Ryomei

Date: Original () Copy (X) Language: English

Has it been translated? Yes () No (X)

Has it been photostated? Yes () No (X)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also witness if applicable)

Doc. Div.

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: See our case file #454

PERSONS IMPLICATED: OKAWA, Shumei; KASAGI, Ryomei; KANOKOGI, Kazunobu; KAWAI, Shoji; NAKANISHI, Binke

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

GYO CHI SHA: YUHO KAI (Societies)

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

Gives personal history data on Manchurian Affairs, with particular reference to Manchurian Iron Works and Self-Government Guidance Board in Mukden.

Analyst: W. H. Wagner

Doc. No. 1912

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No.

1912

Date

17 June 1986

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Doi Div.

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: See our case file # 454.

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

KANOKOGA, Kazunobu; OKAWA, Shumei; KASAGI, Ryomei
KAWAI, Shoji; NAKANISHI, Binken

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

GYO CHI SHA; YUHO KAI (Society).

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

~~File contains~~
personal history and
gives data on Manchurian
affairs, with particular reference to
Manchurian Iron Works and Self-
Government Guidance Board in MUKDEN

Analyst: W. H. Wagner

Doc. No.

INTERROGATION OF

KASAGI, Ryomei

16 and 17 May 1946

Interrogator: Mr. H. C. Norton

File No: _____

FUID. Doc. #1912

INTERROGATION OF

KASAGI, Ryomei

Date and Time: 16 May 1946, 0930-1130 hours
17 May 1946, 1330-1530 hours

Place : War Ministry Building, Tokyo,
Japan, Room 379

Present : KASAGI, Ryomei
Mr. H. C. Norten, Interrogator
Mr. George Nakamura, Interpreter

Oath of Interpreter administered
by Mr. Norten:

Mr. Norten : 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?

Mr. Nakamura : I do.

Questions by : Mr. Norten.

Q When and where were you born?

A 1892 - Techizi-Ken Prefecture, Ashio.

Q Where did you go to school and when did you graduate?

A Imperial University, and I graduated in 1919.

Q What did you do after leaving the University?

A I became labor controller for the Manchurian Iron Works, their
office being in the Maranuchi Building in Tokyo. I worked in
this capacity from 1919 to 1929.

Q Who were your superiors?

A Dr. OKAWA, now in Sugame Prison, was one.

Q Will you please tell me what you knew about Dr. OKAWA?

A Dr. OKAWA made many speeches during the period 1919-1929. He
organized the Gyo Chi Shia in 1922 and was the leader of this

KASAGI, Ryomei Cont'd.

organization of which I was a member. The organization was still going when I left in 1929. I have heard him on many occasions through his speeches and through personal conversation speak for Japan as being a leader in East Asia affairs. He was a firm believer in the conquest of East Asia. In one of his talks he stated that Japan should help India get its independence.

Q Who were some of the other members of this organization?

A KANOKOGI, Kazunobu, a professor, now in Sugamo Prison, was one of the higher members of this organization and a close friend of OKAWA at first but toward the end they were not so friendly. He would be in a position to tell you more of OKAWA than I since OKAWA was my superior in business.

Q When did you leave the Manchurian Iron Works Company?

A About May 25, 1929, I desired a promotion and because of the fact that I would be in competition with OKAWA I went to Darien, which was the headquarters of the Manchurian Iron Works and became chief labor arbitrator for the Southern Manchurian Railway Investment Company.

Q How long were you there?

A About the 18th of October 1931, I quit and went to Mukden as communications man with the Self Government Guidance Board. I was told that I would be paid for my work there but the Board broke up before I received any money. However, there were others who did receive money.

Q Where did you go then?

A About the 27th of February 1932, I went to Changchun and joined the Shi Sai Kiyoku Organization. It was dissolved in June 1932, therefore, I only received one month's pay, amounting to 700 yen. I returned to Darien in June 1932 but did nothing but read books and be with my friends until April 1933. I left there in April 1933 and arrived in Tokyo in May 1933. I started up my own publishing company in the Tetaku, near the Dai Iti Hotel. The magazine that I published was called "Daiasia". I also published a few books for some writers. This work I continued until May of 1945. Now I am doing nothing. My present address is Chiba Prefecture, Nari-Ta Machi, c/o KATO, Urasaburo, however, I can be reached by telephone at the following number - Ginza 57-2417.

Q Who organized the Yu Ho Kai?

KASAGI, Ryomei Cont'd.

- A I organized the Yu Ho Kai in May 1930. At the beginning of the organization there were about thirty members and at the time of the ~~February~~ ^{Sept 18, 1931} 18, 1931 Incident there were forty members.
- Q What was the purpose of the organization?
- A It was merely an organization of friends and old college graduates composed of all Japanese. NAKANO, one of my best friends at the time was in the organization with me.
- Q Do you know anything about the Manchu and Seinen Renmei - if you do tell me all about it?
- A It was organized sometime before I arrived in Darien by a newspaper company called the "Darien News", it was supported by the Southern Manchurian Railway Investment Company. The purpose of it was to build up the morale of the youth. There were about twenty thousand members at the time of the Incident and most of them were Japanese.
- Q Were there any lawyers in either of the organizations?
- A NAKANO was the only lawyer in the Yu Ho Kai Organization but I think there were many lawyers in the Manchu and Seinen Renmei. NAKANO was a member of this organization too but I was not.
- Q Who headed the Manchu and Seinen Renmei Organization?
- A KANAI, Shoji headed up the organization through authorization by the Southern Manchurian ^{RAILWAY} Investment Company. This position he held until the September 18, 1931 Incident. I think his address now is Tokyo, Nakano Ku Sagino Miya Machi.
- Q What happened to him on the 18th of September 1931?
- A He became a member of the Self Government Guidance Board right after the Incident.
- Q What happened to NAKANO?
- A NAKANO was called by the army to Mukden to be an adviser on the Self Government Guidance Board right after the September 18, 1931 Incident. NAKANO then called me to Mukden and I joined the Board about the 18th of October.
- Q Were there any other members of the Self Government Guidance Board that you knew?
- A Yes, NAKANASHI, Binken, now in Tokyo, was a high member of the Board; before the Incident he was a high official of the Southern Manchurian Railway Investment Company and was called by the military government

KASAGI, Ryomei Cont'd.

to become a member of the Board. KOYAMA, Teichi was another high member of the Board and was called to join the Board by the military government. I do not know where he is at present.

Q Whose idea was it to talk to the members of the Yu He Kai about having them join the Self Government Guidance Board?

A It was my own idea.

Q What were your exact duties with the Self Government Guidance Board?

A My exact duties were to supervise eight districts of which there were two Japanese in each district to act as ~~supervisors~~ ^{Advisers} to the Self Government Guidance Board in each of the districts. There were five or six other areas similar to my own and I took orders from Yu Chung Hon.

Q Did you do this work for nothing?

A Yes, but my transportation was free and I ate with friends.

Q How did you happen to leave Manchuria?

A My ideas didn't coincide with the Kwantung Army, since I felt they were man-handling my men, I therefore, had to leave Manchuria under pressure.

Q Why did you start to go into the publishing business?

A I felt that since I had a great deal of experience in foreign countries and with labor that I could publish things along these lines that would be satisfactory to the working class of people.

Q What do you know about the Mukden Plot?

A All I know is there were several rumors that the Kwantung Army organized it, however, I have no exact knowledge of this fact.

Q Did Dr. OKAWA ever speak to the organization that you belonged to in Manchuria?

A I never saw Dr. OKAWA in Manchuria although I know he was there.

Q Do you know anything about ITAGAKI?

A I met him a few times but do not know him personally.

Q Do you know anything about DOIHARA?

A No.

KASAGI, Ryomei Cont'd.

- Q What kind of propaganda and text books were handed out while you were a member of the Shi Sai Kiyoku?
- A Propaganda and text books were along the lines to teach the people the Japanese way of government, agriculture, industry, and armaments.
- Q Was the Shi Sai Kiyoku tied up with the Manchurian Government?
- A Yes, since Changchung was made the capitol of Manchuria it worked hand in hand with the Home Ministry.
- Q Do you think that the Self Government Guidenace Beard was organized spontaneously?
- A No, I believe there was some organization in the background but I knew nothing of it.
- Q Do you remember seeing any pamphlets put out on September 19, 1931 explaining the Mukden Incident of September 18, 1931?
- A No, but when I arrived at Mukden the first part of October I saw many posters that alibied the Kwantung Army.
- Q When do you think the Self Government Guidenace Beard was organized?
- A I joined the Board about October 18, 1931, and I think that it was organized not later than a week after the Incident which was September 18, 1931.

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Certificate of Interpreter

I, George NAKAMURA, T/5 36923114
(name) (Rank) (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 5 pages, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

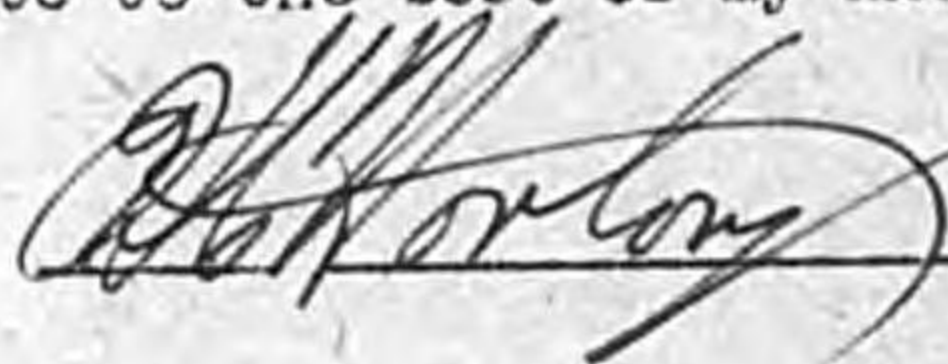
Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 1946.

(Name and Rank)

Dul., Detailed Investigating Officer,
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP.

Certificate of Stenographer

I, H. C. Norton, 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.



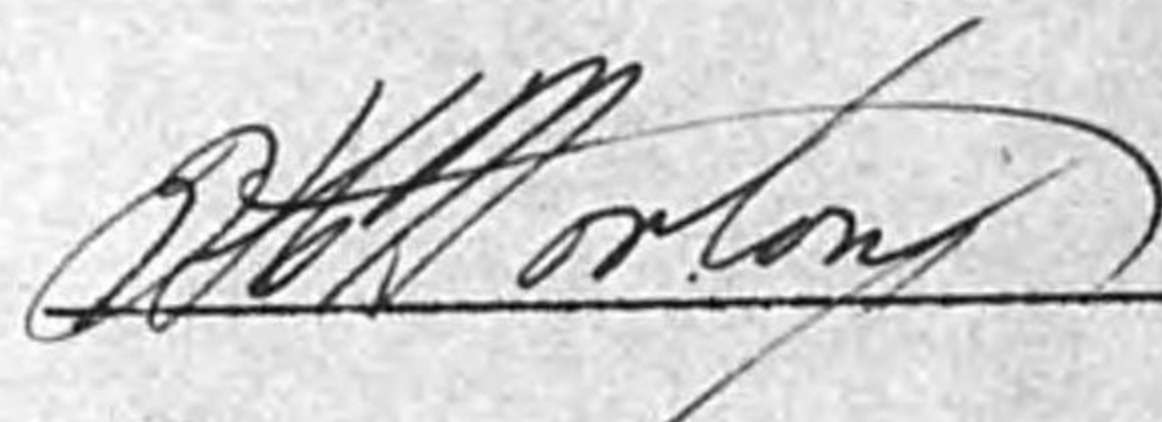
Certificate of Interrogator.

I, ~~(xxx)~~ H. C. Norton, _____, _____

and _____, _____, _____

certify that on the 16th and 17th days of May, 1946, personally appeared before me ~~(xxx)~~ George NAKAMURA and according to George NAKAMURA, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

Tokyo, Japan
Place



20 May 1946
Date