

No. 2960



INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

- Defendants -

A F F I D A V I T

KASE TOSHIKAZU

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

1. I entered the Japanese Foreign Ministry in 1925, and was appointed Chief of the First Section of the Bureau of American Affairs of that ministry in November 1941, continuing in that position until April 1943. In the course of my official duties as such section chief I was familiar with the matters herein testified to.

2. Soon after my arrival at the Foreign Ministry at about 10 o'clock in the morning of 7 December 1941 (Tokyo time), I received information from the Dōmei News Agency that the United Press had carried a report to the effect that the State Department had announced the dispatch of a personal message by President Roosevelt addressed to His Majesty the Emperor. I immediately reported the matter to my superiors, including Messrs. Tōgō, the Foreign Minister, Nishi, Vice Foreign Minister and Yamamoto, the Director of the American Bureau. I then telephoned to alert Marquis Matsudaira, private secretary to the Lord Privy Seal, and asked him to let us know at once when and if the Imperial Palace received the President's message. For we were under the impression that, being a personal message, it would be sent directly to the Emperor, as in the case of the Panay incident of December 1937. An urgent telegram was dispatched without delay to Admiral Nomura, our Ambassador in Washington, instructing him to make inquiries into, and report back upon the matter (telegram no. 905 from Tōgō to Nomura, Defense Document No. 1401-F-3). Apparently crossing this telegram on the way, a short dispatch from Admiral Nomura arrived at the Foreign Ministry in the afternoon (telegram no. 1275 from Nomura to Tōgō, Defense Document no. 1401-E-3). This confirming the authenticity of the press news, I instructed all the staff in my office to be alerted for urgent work and waited for the arrival of the message in question. However, as nothing happened, I got in touch with Marquis Matsudaira once again in the evening, shortly after 8 P.M., by telephoning his residence. I was told that the President's message had not arrived yet.

3. At about 10:15 P.M. Mr. Tomoda Jirō, private secretary to the Foreign Minister, received a telephone call from the American Embassy requesting him to make an appointment around midnight for the Ambassador to see the Foreign Minister. I understand that Mr. Tomoda asked if the Ambassador could not wait until the next morning, but was told that an urgent telegram was being decoded and that the Ambassador wanted to see Mr. Tōgō as soon as it was ready. Shortly after midnight--at about 12:30 A.M., 8 December--Mr. Grew came to the official residence of the Foreign Minister where the interview took place; I was present at this meeting and interpreted the conversation. Saying that he had re-



ceived an urgent message of the President to the Emperor, Mr. Grew requested the Foreign Minister to arrange an audience for him. Mr. Tōgō replied that it was unusual to take action on a request for audience at midnight, and inquired about the substance of the message. Thereupon, the Ambassador left a copy of the message with Mr. Tōgō for the latter's reference, and took leave of the Foreign Minister after repeating his request for the audience, stressing the extreme gravity of the situation. The interview lasted about 15 minutes. Mr. Tōgō gave me the copy and asked me to translate it into Japanese as quickly as possible. I did so with the help of my staff. I still vividly remember the very tense atmosphere that prevailed in my office, where everybody worked frantically in order to avoid delay in translating the message. Meanwhile, Mr. Tōgō got in touch with Marquis Kido, the Lord Privy Seal, by telephone, asking him to arrange for him to report the matter to the Throne. He then, I understand, went to the Premier's residence, consulted with General Tōjō, and left his official residence at about 2 A.M. for the Imperial Palace, there informing the Emperor of the President's message and receiving the answer to be sent through the American Ambassador.

4. In accordance with instructions given me on the previous day, I requested Mr. Grew early in the morning of 8 December to call on the Foreign Minister. This was originally for the purpose of handing to the Ambassador a copy of the memorandum of the Japanese Government, terminating the diplomatic conversations, which had been delivered by Admiral Nomura at Washington to the American Government. This meeting would have taken place even if Mr. Grew had not paid the midnight visit to the Foreign Minister in connection with the President's message. Mr. Grew came to the Foreign Minister's official residence at about 7:30 A.M., at which time I was again present at the meeting interpreting the conversation. Mr. Tōgō gave the Ambassador a copy of the memorandum with the remark that it was a copy of the document already delivered to the American Government by Admiral Nomura. He told the Ambassador also that during the night he had had occasion to learn the wishes of the Emperor in regard to the President's message, and orally transmitted the reply, which was later written out at the Ambassador's request (Exhibit 1247).

Although Mr. Grew seems to be under the impression that the memorandum of the Japanese Government constituted the Emperor's reply, this is a misunderstanding on his part. The memorandum is unrelated to the President's message, it having been delivered to Mr. Hull before Mr. Tōgō saw the Emperor on the matter.

5. We in the Foreign Ministry, including Mr. Tōgō, had no slightest suspicion that the Communications Ministry might delay the delivery of telegrams addressed to the American Embassy. Moreover, we did not think that the President's message would be addressed to the Embassy. We took it for granted that it was addressed directly to the Emperor. Such an assumption was in fact supported by Admiral Nomura's telegram (no. 1275, Defense Document no. 1401-E-3), which said that the President had sent his message directly to the Emperor without going through the usual diplomatic channels. We, therefore, waited anxiously for word from the Imperial Palace of the arrival of the message. That being the case, the Foreign Ministry had no idea regarding the substance of the message. In fact, Mr. Tōgō learned the content of the message only when the American Ambassador brought it to his attention at the midnight interview above described.



Def. Doc. No. 2063

O A T H

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

Kase Toshikazu (seal)

On this 13th day of August 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT Kase Toshikazu

I, Nishi Haruhiko, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to by the deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: Nishi Haruhiko (seal)