

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: YOSHIE, Seichi

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 am a former lieutenant colonel and during the period of from October 1, 1940 to April 30, 1943 was mainly in charge of the personnel affairs of the army staff officers at the General Staff Headquarters, and engaged in the personnel and protocol business of the army officers in the War Ministry as a member of the Appointments Section of the Personnel Affairs Bureau since May 1, 1944 until the termination of war. The appointments of army staff officers, director of the Military Affairs Bureau and chiefs of sections in the said bureau were to be deliberated over by the director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau,

War Ministry upon consultation with the General Staff Headquarters. I am, therefore, in a position to be able to relate the general policy of the personnel administration and the order of appointment of the army at that time and the circumstances that led to the appointment of Mr. SATO, Kenryo as the Chief of the Military Affairs Section and Director of the Military Affairs Bureau.

2. Since the so-called February 26 Incident which took place on February 26, 1934, the Army was particularly careful of the personnel administration and paid much attention to the official appointment so as not to be influenced by the consideration of any personal intimacy, or in short, not to create any clique in the army. All the ministers of war who assumed the ministerial office after the incident strictly maintained this policy. Consequently, the autonomous power of making appointments by the Personnel Affairs Bureau, War Ministry, was remarkably strengthened so as not to be affected by the coercion, disturbance, etc. by the outsiders in deliberating appointments. General TOJO, when he assumed the office of War Minister, also observed this policy. Especially during his ministerial office, when an appointment was to be made, he instructed those concerned to inquire closely into the personal history of the candidate, particularly after the war broke out, to make sure of the candidate having a thorough knowledge of the circumstances to be able to

carry out the duty newly assumed, before the selection, and then he submitted it to the minister for approval.

3. In 1941, in consequence of the transfer of Colonel KAWAMURA, Saburo, Chief of the Military Affairs Section, War Ministry, to the other post, Mr. SATO, Kenryo was appointed as his successor.

The appointment was first deliberated by Lieutenant General NODA, then Director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau, and then was approved by the War Minister.

Because of his knowledge of the circumstances in the Military Affairs Bureau and the Military Affairs Section through his service at the Military Section for more than two years since its institution in 1926, his service as the Chief of the Press Section, and also his service as a staff officer at the front for about two years, and his experience of staying in the United States when he was a captain, Mr. SATO was recognized among the military circles to be a person, possessed of the deepest knowledge of not only the situation in the army but also of the same at home and abroad. All of us who were in charge of personnel affairs considered the appointment appropriate.

In 1942, when Director of the Military Affairs Bureau MUTO, Akira was transferred to another post, Mr. SATO was appointed as his successor. He was first selected by Lieutenant General TOMINAGA, then Director of the Personnel

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Affairs Bureau, and after the deliberation and the approval of the selection were given therefore by the Three Chiefs of the Army (namely, Minister of War, Chief of the General Staff and Inspector General of the Military Training), he was appointed by the minister.

It was also a very natural and appropriate appointment. Mr. SATO was, as is obvious through the aforementioned career, familiar with the business in the bureau owing to his service in the Military Affairs Bureau, War Ministry, ever since just prior to the war. Furthermore, he was qualified to be a director of the War Ministry as he had already been promoted to the rank of major-general. For these reasons, he was considered to be a competent war-time director of the Military Affairs Bureau capable of handling the complicated and busy tasks effectively.

On this 20th day of October, 1947

At Tokyo-to

Deponent: /S/ YOSHIE, Seiichi (seal)

I, KAZUMA, Isaburo, 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/ KAZUMA, Isaburo (seal)

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OATH

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

/s/ YOSHIE, Seichi (seal)