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INTERROGATION OF

General (Baron) Sadao Araki

Date and Time: 19 January 1946, 1415-1700 hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : General (Baron) Sadao Araki
Mr. Edward M. Dell, Interrogator
Colonel Thomas H. Morrow
1st Lt. Steve Yamamoto, Interpreter
Miss Jewel E. Newman, Stenographer

Questions by : Mr. Dell

Oath given to interpreter by Colonel Morrow.

"Do you solemnly swear (affirm), by Almighty God, that 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?"

Q. General, I would like to know something about your public career?
A. All right.

Q. Will you tell us in chronological order the public positions that you occupied?

A. In Meiji 31 (1898) I was commissioned Second Lieutenant to the First Imperial Guards Regiment. Should I start from the period when I became War Minister?

Q. What year was that?

A. December, 1931.

Q. Begin there.

A. In the 9th year of Showa, January 1934, I resigned as War Minister because of my health. I then became Education Minister in the 13th year of Showa (1938).

Q. What month?

A. In the latter part of May became Education Minister and held the position until August 1939 just prior to the outbreak of the European hostilities.

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- Q. General, what did you do between January of 1934 and May of 1938?
- A. Until March, 1936, I was a member of the Supreme War Council.
- Q. General, were you a member of the Supreme War Council from the time you resigned as War Minister in January, 1934, until March, 1936?
- A. Yes.
- Q. General Araki, after March of 1936 will you tell us what you did?
- A. I was not doing anything.
- Q. I believe, General, you told us yesterday that after your resignation as a member of the Supreme War Council you retired to private life and went to the country to live?
- A. Yes.
- Q. During that time did you take any active part in public life without holding position?
- A. I held no position in public service at all.
- Q. Did you hold any position in a private capacity or any connections with private enterprises?
- A. No, I had no public or individual or private enterprise at all during that time.
- Q. General, did you make any public addresses or write any articles for publication in Japan?
- A. I have made a few speeches at small gatherings since March, 1936. These speeches related were in connection with no opinions or viewpoints on the Military or the Government.
- Q. Where were they made and what kind of gatherings. Be more specific.
- A. Most of the speeches made were at the gatherings of the factory workers to lift the morale of the workers and in no way were they connected with the Government or the Military.
- Q. Where did you reside from March, 1936, until May 1938?
- A. At my son's residence in the outskirts of Tokyo.
- Q. Can you give us more specific information as to the location of that residence?

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- A. Tokyo City, Kitatama-gun, Komae-MURA, ~~Yoyohata~~, and my own residence is in Tokyo City, Shibuya District, Yoyo-hata, Hatagaya Ichome, No. 63. When I spoke of being out in the country I meant staying over at my son's place.
- Q. Where did you live--at your son's residence or at your residence, during this period?
- A. During this period part of the time was spent at my son's residence and part of the time was spent at my own home in Shibuya District. The reason for going to my son's place was to avoid all visitors because I did not want to partake in military activities or military doings as I was very unsatisfied with their undertakings.
- Q. But during that period you did live at your own home and at your son's residence?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Were the addresses to which you just referred made to gatherings of factory workers in the City of Tokyo?
- A. Most of the speeches made were to factory workers in the outskirts of Tokyo City and not within the city itself.
- Q. During that period did you hold membership or participate in any organizations? I am referring now to the period between March, 1936, and May, 1938, when you say you were living a life of retirement.
- A. As far as I can recall at present I partook in no organizations or activities during that period. During this period I was notified that I was appointed Councillor in the Cabinet but I neglected this invitation and did not partake in any activities whatsoever.
- Q. The only addresses that you made then were to groups of factory workers for the purpose of raising the morale of these factory workers. Is that correct?
- A. These speeches were mostly for the gatherings of factory workers and I refrained from making these speeches as much as possible and the only speeches were those made on special occasions such as birthdays or deaths of officials of the factory, etc.
- Q. I believe that in a previous answer this afternoon you said that the purpose of the addresses was to raise the morale of the factory workers and I believe "morale" is the word you used? Am I correct?

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- A. All the speeches that were made were solely on morale points such as factory workers should not do any petty thieveries and should all work in good spirits and friendship among each other, etc., and also on the point of benevolence and forgiveness and cordiality. I also believe that the stress on benevolence and forgiveness and cordiality are also in our texts. In 1934, this was before the outbreak of the war, also made a speech at the Karuizawa University also along the same points.

During the first World War I also partook in hostilities with the Russian troops against the Germans.

- Q. I am only interested at the present time in the period between March 1936 and May 1938.
- A. Yes.
- Q. During the period when, as you said, after you were living in retirement.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Of course, you kept or preserved copies of your public addresses during that period, did you not?
- A. I had copies of all the addresses I have made during that period but during the bombings of Tokyo my house was burned down and all the records burned. However, I believe that if I were to contact a publishing firm known as the Koen-No-Tomo they may have a copy of these speeches made and possibly if I were to contact some of the friends that had heard my speeches they might also have a few copies of what I had said during these lectures.
- Q. General, did you keep a diary?
- A. I have stopped writing diaries since the day I was married. I was too busy after marriage to keep a diary.
- Q. Did you write for publication during the period to which I have referred?
- A. There were numerous occasions when they sent representatives from the publishing firms to get my viewpoints and opinions on matters, such as newspaper and magazine companies. There may be a few occasions when they also wrote to these publishing firms.

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- Q. You did, therefore, continue during the period when you said you lived in retirement your interest in public affairs and what was going on about you?
- A. No. I had no relation whatsoever with the Government. There may be a few occasions when I had been a public servant. Yes, I did have interest in the things that were going on about me. The Hirota and the INUKAI Cabinets which were not formulated because the Cabinet members had dissension and the Hayashi, and later the Konoye Cabinet. I was very much in disfavor of these cabinets. Therefore, I had no activities whatsoever. I was very much opposed to these cabinets, and, consequently, they may have been opposed to me as well. I, therefore, had no movements during this period. As I have remarked after Mr. Konoye sent out the message asking me for advice on this China incident he requested me to become a Cabinet Councillor.
- Q. Will you tell us why you were opposed to the Hirota Cabinet and the Hayashi Cabinet?
- A. I was opposed to these Cabinets because the Military had the intention of making these cabinets puppets so to speak.
- Q. Who in the Military?
- A. As I have stated before, I believe it may have been a group or a clique within the Military. The War Minister at the time was Terauchi and later Sugiyama. During the Hayashi Cabinet the Navy Ministry was held by Yonai.
- Q. Do I understand you to say that in your opinion Hisaichi TERAUCHI, War Minister in the Hirota Cabinet, was, during this period, attempting to make the Cabinets into puppets?
- A. I believe that is so. At the time of the resignation of the Hirota Cabinet there was no concrete reason for the Cabinet resigning, consequently, I believe that was the purpose behind it. If the Judge would like I will elaborate on what I know about the Hirota Cabinet resigning.
- Q. I am interested in your telling me not all that you know about the Hirota Cabinet but what you know about TERAUCHI upon which you base the statement you have just made.
- A. The reason for the Hirota Cabinet resigning was due to War Minister Terauchi. At the Parliament there was a big controversy between Hirota and this Terauchi which was over trivial matters. The argument carried on and both doubted each other's

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words and if it was proven that one or the other was mistaken one would have to commit suicide, hari-kari, and, consequently, if we are going to quibble over small matters I will quit and, consequently, Terauchi resigned. Consequently, Terauchi said that he would quit and if Terauchi had quit there would have been no successor because this new ruling, as I stated before, about War Ministers having to be on active service and, consequently, when Terauchi made a statement that he would resign then there was no successor because as I stated after this new ruling about a position of War Minister having to be filled by an officer in active service status and, consequently, instead of Terauchi resigning the Hirota Cabinet had to resign. I personally believe that it was some scheme or plan behind all this.

- Q. This scheme you refer to, was Terauchi involved in that scheme?
A. I think there may have been a scheme or plan behind all this. I, personally, do not know whether Terauchi had anything to do with the scheme at all.
- Q. Can you tell us upon what you base the statement that you believe there was a scheme?
A. I base my opinion because there was such complex undertaking behind the Hirota Cabinet quitting over no basic reasons at all.
- Q. But you do believe that Terauchi was one of the military group which was trying to dominate governmental affairs and direct them?
A. No, I do not think so as Terauchi was more or less a puppet.
- Q. A puppet for whom and by whom? I mean individuals?
A. The aforementioned group within the Military.
- Q. Who were the individuals in that group, the individual leaders in that group?
A. I do not know. I do not think that it can be pinned on any certain individuals. This group was referred to as the fascist group or a fascist staff. This fascist group or fascist staff I just referred to had the controversy in the 2-26 incident; with the group that brought about the 2-26 incident. In April of 1942 there was an article in the papers about the arrest of a German by the name of Zoruge and a Japanese leader by the name of Shujitsu OZAKI arrested as a more or less criminal and, consequently, ~~xx~~ I arrived at the conclusion that these two may have been behind the activities of this certain group about the elements called "fascist" within the Military.

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Q. Referring to this fascist group of which you speak. The group, even a fascist group consists of fascist individuals. Will you name some of the individuals in that group?

A. I do not know if the name mentioned, which is Moto, could have been one of the members of this group, but he was one of the staff members of the Military at the time. His given name is Akira. Presently I cannot state definitely the names of the individuals as my memory is very vague.

Q. Will you name any others in this group?

A. As I was not in the War Ministry at the time I am not able at present to recall others. SATO, Kenriyo may have possibly been another in that group.

Q. What is this man Kenriyo's rank and what official position did he hold in the military?

A. He may have possibly been a Lieutenant-Colonel or a Colonel. Moto may have had the position of Gunnu-Kyokuchō. (Chairman, Military Affairs Bureau)

Q. Were there any others?

A. Those officers that held the staff position at the time were all young officers and, moreover, I was not in the Ministry at the time so I am unable to recall at the time.

Q. Who was in an official position at that time who could tell us who made up the names of the individuals in this group?

A. I cannot recall that at the present time.

Q. Is there anyone confined in this building who was in an official position and, therefore, could tell us who constituted this group?

A. Who is there that is in this prison at the present time? Articles have appeared in papers about this group within the Military. However, these articles, in my presumption, were written by the journalists of the newspapers, and, consequently, they, themselves, may not be definite about the names mentioned therein at the time.

Q. Are the two individuals whose names you have just furnished as being members of this group in your opinion living or dead?

A. They were not in the group and in the staff of the Military at the time but not in the group but I think they are now in the theater of operations some place in the front

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Q. You do believe that there was a fascist group which dominated and, as you put it, attempted to make puppets of the Cabinet?

A. That is my judgment because Terauchi had made a statement that he would resign by committing hari-kari. I cannot think it otherwise.

Q. Now, General, it is difficult for me to believe that a man of your prominence, age and experience would base a belief in the existence of something as grave as a fascist group on mere hearsay or reading newspaper articles. Will you tell us whether this group actually existed and who were the members of that group?

A. I judge my opinion in the existence of this group by the fact that so many queer situations arising in the Cabinet and in the Ministry at the time and not through other people's inferences at all.

Q. You said yesterday, General, that when the change in regulations which required the War and Navy Ministers to be selected from generals and admirals on the active list was adopted it had to have the approval of the seals of the War and Navy Ministers. Is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Would it not follow, then, that the War and Navy Ministers who gave the approval of their seals were responsible for that action?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. The question in my mind at present is which Cabinet approved this seal--the Cabinet before the 2-26 incident took place or the Hirota Cabinet?

A.* That succeeded the 2-26 incident. Hirota should know which Cabinet approved this ruling. The selection could have been by the previous Cabinet to that of 2-26 and approved by the Hirota Cabinet that succeeded 2-26.

Q. But in either event, the War and Navy Ministers of the Cabinet which was in office at the time the policy was adopted would have to participate in the plan, is that not true?

A. The plan may not have been made by the War or the Navy Ministers but it obviously had to be approved by the Navy and Army Ministers. The plan may have been submitted from the lower body.

*
Yes - see Case
#212, Item 17,
p. 2 for story
of this matter
HHS

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- Q. But the War and Navy Ministers would have to place their approval upon the plan before it could be adopted and become official?
- A. Yes, they would have had to place the approval before it had to be adopted.
- Q. Therefore, is it not true that the War and Navy Ministers of the Cabinet during which time the plan was made effective favored the plan?
- A. I believe they would approve of it if they had submitted the plan to the Cabinet.
- Q. Do you recall that the Hirota Cabinet was completed on March 9, 1936?
- A. I believe it was at a later date than March 9, 1936. Was it in 1937?
- Q. 1936, right after the 2-26 incident.
- A. Yes, you are right. It was March 9, 1936, when they went into office.
- Q. And it was May 17, 1936, when this rule with reference to limitation requiring only active officers for War and Navy Ministries was promulgated, was it not?
- A. I do not know about that. This is as far as to my knowledge at present. The Hirota Cabinet was formulated on March 9 and the 2-26 incident was on the 26th of February, and so I conclude that this plan was promulgated on the second or third of March. And so there may have been five to seven days until the Hirota Cabinet was officially inaugurated. Therefore, during this short period there was a time known as the country without a government, so to speak. I have heard that this plan was promulgated within that short period of time when there was a country without a government, so to speak. That is my recollection.
- Q. But if the plan was promulgated in May, two months after the Hirota Cabinet took office, then it was promulgated under the Hirota Cabinet, was it not?
- A. That is obvious if that is the case.
- Q. And if that plan was promulgated two months after the Hirota Cabinet took office then the War and Navy Ministers in the Hirota Cabinet were in on the plan, were they not?

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- A. Yes, that is so.
- Q. Will the General tell us who the War Minister in the Hirota Cabinet was?
- A. The War Minister was Terauchi and the Navy Minister I believe to be Nagano. There is a funny article appearing in the paper concerning this ruling about the officers holding the Navy and the Army Ministries having to be on active duty status. This was in last year's paper after the termination of hostilities--believed to be in the Yomiuri--that the aforementioned plan was made or put into effect so that Araki, referring to myself, and possibly Masaki, as far as I can recall, that these two persons cannot again show face in the Military.
- Q. Were you retired at that time?
- A. Yes, I was retired at the time.
- Q. Therefore, you were barred by the new rule from holding the office of War Minister?
- A. Yes, that is so. This was in the paper just a few months ago.
- Q. Of course, you knew about the new plan immediately after it was promulgated, did you not?
- A. Yes, I had knowledge immediately after it was promulgated.
- Q. It materially affected your eligibility for the Office of War Minister as long as the plan was adhered to, did it not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And don't you recall a promulgation which so vitally affected you, a retired full General, which was promulgated in May 1936, two months after the Hirota Cabinet took office?
- A. I was already retired at the time and had not partaken in any military activities. I am not definitely sure of when this plan was promulgated. At the time the ideals and the principles of the military and my own ideals were two distinct differences. Among all my friends there is not a single soul that had favored or had anything to do with the so-called March incident, the 5-15 incident, the October incident, the 2-26 incident, etc., etc.
- Q. But, General, it was the aggressive group in the Military, of which you say you disapproved, who accomplished this change in

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the eligibility for the office of War and Navy Ministers, was it not?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And it was that same group who instigated the 2-26 incident, was it not?

A. By this aggressive group you mean the group within the Military that we had been discussing heretofore.

Q. That we were discussing in the previous question.

A. The cause of the 2-26 incident was brought about by the difference of opinion between the staff within the Military and this young group of officers and this other group which was led by Muranaka and Isobe mentioned yesterday. And, therefore, the Military was at that time in two factions.

Q. It was the younger aggressive officers' group that committed the assassinations in the 2-26 incident?

A. Yes, it was the element within that younger group of officers.

Q. And was it not the same faction in the Military which opposed the appointment of retired generals as war ministers?

A. No, it was not the same element. It was the staff within the Military and not the party that brought about the 2-26.

WITNESS DISMISSED AT 1700 HOURS

Certificate of Interpreter

I, Steve Yamamoto, W.H. 0-888916 Sgt. U.S.A., 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 11 pages, are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

S. S. Yamamoto
(Interpreter's Signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 194_.

(Name and Rank)
Duly Detailed Investigating Officer
International Prosecution Section,
GHQ, SCAP

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Certificate of Stenographer

I, _____, 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, _____, certify that on _____ day of _____ 194 , personally appeared before me General Sadao ARAKI , and according to 1st Lt. Steve Yamamoto, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

(Place)

(Name and Rank)

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2341-2353, inclusive

2 July 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Transcripts of Interrogations of
General ARAKI, Sadao

Date: (See Below) Original Copy Language:
English

Has it been translated? Yes No

Has it been photostated? Yes No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL:

PERSONS IMPLICATED: ARAKI, Sadao, et al

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Aggression, Manchuria

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS:

Interrogations of ARAKI have been assigned following
document numbers: (All are from Document Division Exh.290)

<u>Doc. No.</u>	<u>Date of Interrogation</u>
2341	5 Feb 46
2342	18 Jan 46
2343	19 Jan 46
2344	22 Jan 46 (A.M.)
2345	22 Jan 46 (P.M.)
2346	6 Feb 46
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2348	14 Feb 46
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2352	23 Feb 46
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Analyst: W. H. Wagner

Doc. No. 2341-
2353,
inclusive.