

Interrogation of Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

12 Feb. 46

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**WASHINGTON**



**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.**

4102

INTERROGATION OF

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

DATE: 12 February 1946

INTERROGATORS:  
Col G. S. Woolworth  
Mr. Hugh B. Helm

343-7

INTERROGATION OF

Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO

Date and Time: 12 February 1946, 1000-1200 hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : Colonel Kingoro HASHIMOTO  
: Colonel Gilbert S. Woolworth, Interrogator  
: Captain J. J. Robinson, Interrogator  
: Mr. Hugh B. Helm, Interrogator  
: Lt Commander Frank B. Huggins, Interpreter  
: Miss Edna Hicken, Stenographer

Questions by: Colonel G. S. Woolworth  
Mr. Hugh B. Helm

Oath of Interpreter: Administered by Col Woolworth:

COL WOOLWORTH: 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?

Lt Commander Huggins: I do.

Interrogation by Col Woolworth:

Q. You were a member of Dai Nippon Seinen To?

A. Yes.

Q. And later the name of this society was changed to Dai Nippon Seki Sei Kai?

A. Yes; but the first society was dealing in political matters and the second in spiritual or thoughts.

Q. Did these societies publish a magazine entitled "Taiyo Dai Nippon"?

A. It could not exactly be called a magazine, it was more in the nature of a paper.

Q. And you from time to time wrote articles for that paper?

A. Yes.

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Q. And you were President of which society -- Dai Nippon Seinen To or Dai Nippon Seki Sei?

A. Both.

Q. And you supervised generally the publication of this paper?

A. Yes. It is the official organ of the Association and is not circulated outside.

Q. Do you remember writing an article for that paper entitled "Expel Crafty and Arrogant England from Asia"?

A. I do not recall writing an article with such a title, although I do recall writing something that had to do with stating that England was helping China in her efforts.

Q. You were responsible, however, for the articles appearing in that publication as President of the society -- were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you in Tokyo December 1, 1937?

A. No I was not in Tokyo; I was at the front.

Q. Where?

A. It was before the attack upon Nanking and I was somewhere in central China.

Q. Do you recall writing an article for this same paper entitled "Clear the Clouds from the East Asia Sky"?

A. I do not recall.

Q. Did you ever write an article in which you stated as follows: "The cardinal point in the solution of the China incident lies in solving the problems connected with England and the Soviet Union, who are giving assistance to Chiang Kai-shek. Therefore, the key to the solution of the Chinese problem lies in the destruction of those supporters of Chiang."?

A. I did not write such a thing.

Q. Did you state in the course of that same article as follows: "When we overthrow England and Soviet Union will be left alone"?

A. No I did not say such a thing.

Q. Did you in the course of the same article and the same paper state "We must defend on the north and advance toward the south -- our destiny will be decided in the south."?

A. I recall stating that we would have to go southward, but I do not remember saying anything about the north. The statements that I made about the southward movement were made long after the China incident had started.

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- Q. When did you say you made those statements?  
A. Around the time when the A-B-C-D declaration was made.
- Q. You never made any such statement prior to the time of the A-B-C-D declaration?  
A. I do not believe I did.
- Q. Will you answer "yes" or "no" to that question?  
A. I did not make such a statement.
- Q. Did you make the following statement in an article in Taiyo Dai Nippon: "From the viewpoint that the success in solving the China incident depends entirely upon the expulsion of England, the policy of Germany and Italy to destroy England and France is on the same foundation with that of Japan."  
A. I recall only saying that the China incident's solution was in destroying England's aid to China.
- Q. Will you state definitely that you did not say that it depended upon the expulsion of England?  
A. No I did not say that. I simply said to stop that aid.
- Q. Did you state in an article in the same paper in connection with the Tri-Partite Pact as follows: "If we strengthen our collaboration it is easy to put an end to England and France." ?  
A. I do not remember.
- Q. Will you state that you did not make such a statement?  
A. I believe I did state that it would be necessary to make binding the Tri-Partite Pact in order to stop England's aid to China.
- Q. In the same article, did you state substantially as follows: "In Asia in the area east to India at least Japan will expel those countries which are founded upon Communism and democracy." ?  
A. No I did not.
- Q. In the same magazine in an article entitled "Expel the British influences from the Far East," did you state substantially as follows: "Under the present condition it is very easy to beat England." ?  
A. I do not remember saying any such thing.
- Q. Did you say in the same article "We have only to say decisively that we will occupy Hongkong and her concession in Shanghai. How can the British troops come to the Far East?" ?  
A. I did not say such a thing.

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- Q. Did you say "The British fleet will not be able to enter Singapore, for we have our peerless aviators in addition to the fleet?" ?
- A. I made no such statement.
- Q. Did you say "Even though England is wealthy she will suffer greatly if her warship which cost one hundred million yen will be sunk by our three hundred thousand yen airplane?" ?
- A. I did not.
- Q. Did you ever make any of the following statements: "It is a humiliation to have a talk with England." ?
- A. No.
- Q. "Define England as the enemy." ?
- A. When?
- Q. June 1, 1939?
- A. I did not.
- Q. "Our way is one -- expulsion of England." ?
- A. I did not.
- Q. "The enemy that blocks our way to the south is England." ?
- A. I do not recall using such words, but I did say that we should go southward.
- Q. In an article entitled "The Solution of the Incident Depends Upon the Expulsion of England," did you state: "If it had not been for the support of England, the Chiang Government would have been already destroyed. It is clear that if we attack England the Incident will be brought to an end immediately." ?
- A. I recall stating that we should expel England from China, but beyond that I have no recollection.
- Q. Did you make this statement before or after the A-B-C-D declaration?
- A. Before I believe.
- Q. As a matter of fact you made those statements in 1939, did you not?
- A. I do not recall whether it was in 1939 or not, but I was certainly thinking that we should expel England from the China continent.
- Q. As a matter of fact, you began to advocate such action as far back as 1931, didn't you?
- A. No I did not.
- Q. You advocated the extension of the China Incident as far back as 1931 though, did you not?
- A. I did not.

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Q. You were in favor, however, of the expedition into Manchuria, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. And you stated in substance at one time as follows, did you not: "The foreign concessions in Tientsin are blockaded. This is an opportune moment to start the attack, because the whole nation has recognized it is necessary the government should avail itself of this opportunity and attack instantly. The attack should not be stopped at Tientsin, but extended to Shanghai and to Hongkong. This is the only possible solution of the China Incident. We have no choice. Fight England!" ?

A. I did not make such a statement.

Q. Did you make such a statement in an article in Taiyo Dai Nippon: "Now our real opponents are England and the Soviet Union. When there is only one way ahead of us, why are we hesitating? Are we afraid of an economic blockade? A government without policy and decision is a great obstacle in the way of the nation. It is passion, power, and blood that matters -- we have nothing to fear. What we need now is a wartime Cabinet with the highest authorities." ?

A. I did not make such a statement.

Q. Did you state in the same paper as follows: "The abolishment of the commercial treaty by England; America's freezing of our funds; and the Anglo-American economic embargo of Japan is a declaration of war." ?

A. I believe I might have made such a statement. I believe I said it about the United States, but not about England.

Q. Did you state in 1939 -- "Don't hesitate to establish the Asiatic block. This is not an infringement of the Nine Power Treaty. If others think it constitutes such an infringement, renounce the treaty." ?

A. I did not make such a statement.

Q. Did you make a statement advocating the unification of the world under the Emperor, in which you said "The territories will include Japan, the leader, Manchukuo, China, the far eastern part of Soviet Russia, French Indo China, Burma, Malaya, Dutch East Indies, British East India, Afghanistan, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Philippines, and islands on the Pacific and Indian oceans." ?

A. That I did say. I do not recall including Russia or Hawaii. However, I did make such a statement.



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- Q. In fact, that plan has been in your mind and been advocated by you for many years, has it not?
- A. I have had such an idea for a long time.
- Q. In fact that idea came to your mind and you have been advocating it ever since you came back from Turkey in 1930?
- A. I had no such idea in that period. It was only after the war started.
- Q. Didn't you make a statement to that effect in 1931?
- A. I did not.
- Q. Don't you recall having made a speech not long after your return from Turkey when you said that on board ship coming back from Turkey these thoughts came to your mind, and that you took measures of various sorts in order to realize the plan?
- A. I do not.
- Q. And didn't you say in a speech or in a publication: "I would not say that is the only reason, but anyway thereafter the Manchurian Incident, withdrawal from the League of Nations, Denunciation of the Disarmament Agreement, the May 15 incident, Shimpeitai, and the February 26 incident took place in succession." ? That was included in the publication entitled "Sekai Saiken No Michi" (How to Rebuild the World) published 30 January 1941.
- A. I did not.
- Q. You published a book, did you not, or were author of it, entitled "Inevitability of the Renovation"?
- A. Yes.
- Q. I show you a document which is marked "Document No. 488," and ask you if you were the author of that book?
- A. Yes I wrote it.
- Q. Did you state in this book "But what prevents most seriously the progress of the world and the prosperity of the races is the assistance of England. Japan has only to show her decisive attitude. We have only to say that we will occupy Hongkong and Shanghai. England knows that if she loses in China she must withdraw also from India." ? This is the book published 25 Dec 1940, called the "Inevitability of the Renovation."
- A. Yes.

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Interrogation by Mr. Helm.

- Q. Colonel, directing your attention to page 35 of this same publication that you admitted authorship of -- Did you not advocate the unification of the world under the Emperor as expressed in the Imperial Edict promulgated by Emperor Jimmu?
- A. Yes that is correct.
- Q. Directing your attention to page 52. Did you not say, "This newly organized measure is the only way for the complete promotion of the unification of the world under the Emperor. And consequently our nation has the right to establish a new order and a problem like the China Incident can be considered as the beginning of the establishment of this New World Order." ?
- A. Yes, it is written there.
- Q. Directing your attention back to page 36, did you not say in substance that the world to come will be divided into three blocks -- the American block with the Monroe Doctrine, the Oriental block of the Oriental Races, and the European block in Europe?
- A. Yes I did.
- Q. And these three blocks will have to strive for mastery?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And in promoting Japan to international position, the most important point is the establishment of the Japan-Manchukuo-China block?
- A. Yes that is so. In other words, the world will be divided into three blocks, and we must make a block also.
- Q. Then you talk about how strong the Oriental block must be made following the KONOYE declaration, and then you make this statement: "This new order means a thorough destruction of the old world order sustained by England, America, France, and the Soviet Union." That is still on page 36.
- A. Essentially these were my words.
- Q. Now you further urged on the people through this publication the "expulsion of the Anglo-American organization to exploit East Asia."?
- A. Yes I made such a statement.
- Q. Directing your attention to page 58, you are urging a powerful Cabinet to accomplish these aims, and you say "It is beyond doubt that those nations like Britain, America, and the Soviet are scheming to oppress Japan by having close touch with one another." ?
- A. Yes I made that statement.

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- Q. Now directing your attention to page 63 of this same document No. 488, did you not say that -- the nation which stands as the leader of the anti-Japanese enveloping attack is Britain. Therefore the infliction of the decisive blow on Britain, the leader, prior to their thorough amalgamation is one of the first for dispelling the others. Once Britain is defeated, America will not act haughty, but if in spite of that America shows signs of challenging us, she can easily be knocked off by means of an individual attack; and this is the only strategy through which Japan can win her victory?
- A. Yes I made that statement.
- Q. Then you went on to say on page 64 "Fortunately the cream of Europe, two mighty nations, are extending their hands for an alliance with Japan. Now is the critical moment for deciding the question of creating the expanded greater Japan! The time has come! If we do it now it can be done!" ?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Now, Colonel, we direct your attention to page 71 of this same document and do we not find you urging "Germany and Italy are fighting against England and France in order to overthrow the status quo and to establish a new order. And it is needless to say that the China Incident in Asia also is the Japanese-Chinese united front against the Anglo-American domination. When we take a strict view of the historical facts, Japan, Germany, and Italy have already gone into an inevitable war against England, France, and America." ? Then you say "Those who purposely refuse to admit this fact are dependent upon England and America."
- Q. Now I will ask you -- at this time that you published this query to the Premier YONAI, wasn't he trying to put an end to the China Incident and effect a friendly settlement with England and America?
- A. I do not believe they were.
- Q. What was the purpose of this exhortation?
- A. I believe it was aimed at telling YONAI to carry on and to bring about an end to the China Incident.
- Q. Then, Colonel, why did you say this -- "If you try to put an end to the China Incident in collaboration with England and America, you will never be able to solve the problem. The instant you make up your mind to expel England and America from China, China will start moving toward a new order." ? That is on page 73.

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- A. It was not a fact that YONAI was trying to bring to a close the China Incident. However, at the time there was talk about working in conjunction with the United States and England, and this was written as a warning not to do so.
- Q. Directing your attention to this same remarkable document, page 115, do you not find yourself urging on the people of Japan that "Now is the time for totalitarianism to rule the world."?
- A. Yes that is correct.
- Q. And on page 122, you say "The world is advancing from individualism to totalitarianism, and in the future the nations in the world will be united into one."?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And on page 131 you are writing about ringing the loud alarm bell at the year end, and did you not say under the date of 20 December 1940, "The world is now divided into two camps, the one camp is for the status quo, and the other is for the new order. Japan is not neutral. Our enemies of course . . . . are England and America who want to maintain the status quo . . . Why should we hesitate to take a decisive attitude toward America? . . . Whatever form it may take, the collision between Japan and America is inevitable. We had best rise when it is not too late and establish a Co-Prosperity Sphere in the south. Nothing ventured, nothing gained."?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. And then don't you refer a little later, on page 135, to the war with China, which has been curiously labelled "an incident" as a "holy war"?
- A. Yes that is correct.
- Q. Now I believe, Colonel, that back in 1936 you published your rather famous "Declaration of HASHIMOTO Kingoro"?
- A. Yes that was the declaration of the society.
- Q. But it is known and was labelled in your publication of it as the "Declaration of HASHIMOTO Kingoro"?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you wrote it?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Directing your attention to it, did you say -- "Methinks that our nation, which has the realization of the unification of the world under the Emperor as her national policy, should instantly manifest her inherent nature in uniting all her people directly under the Emperor."?
- A. I do not know how the translation reads, but essentially I said something of the sort -- that the world would have to be united under the principle of the Eight Corners Under the One Roof.
- Q. I will direct your attention to your section dealing with the advancement of our policy abroad. You say in that section, "Within our dominion let each race give a full play to their own characteristics by giving them restricted local government under a close organic system. Try to enhance their racial culture as a whole and to materialize concretely the way of the Empire. With this formula we must later work upon the other parts of the world."?
- A. That is essentially correct.
- Q. In this same declaration of yours, Colonel, made away back in 1936, you have got a section on "Advancement of Armaments," in which you said "Increase our armaments to the amount absolutely necessary for conquering other countries of different principles that try to hinder us on our way toward the realization of the Imperial Way. The essence of the armaments should be the invincible air force whose airplanes should be considered airplanes of the nation, not only of the Army. Make the people trust the airplane as they trusted the sword in the old times."?
- A. Yes I did make such a statement.

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I, Frank B. Huggins, ASN 167617, 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 ten pages, numbered 1 to 10 inclusive, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of February 1946.

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(Name and Rank)

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer  
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP

I, Edna Hickam, 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.

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We, Gilbert S. Woolworth, and Hugh B. Helm, certify that on the 12th day of February 1946, personally appeared before us Kingoro HASHIMOTO and according to Lt Comdr Frank B. Huggins, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

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Tokyo, Japan  
13 February 1946

The original transcript of this interrogation will be found in our EXHIBIT FILE as EXHIBIT # 268. The original shorthand notes of Miss E. Hickam on this interrogation will be found in our EXHIBIT FILE as EXHIBIT # 269.

FILE NO. 343

SERIAL NO. 7