

No. 3211

THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

vs.

ARAKI, SUDA, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: TAKAKURA, Tadashi

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.

I, TAKAKURA, Tadashi, was born on February 18, the 36th year of Meiji (1903) and at present I am living at No. 57, Otsukanakacho, Koishikawa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. In the 3rd year of Showa (1928) I was employed by the Kwantung Provincial Government and was made successively Secretary of the Financial Department, Chief of the General Affairs Section of the Monopoly Bureau and Secretary of the Archives Section. In the 8th year of Showa (1933) I left the Kwantung Provincial Government and joined the Manchoukuoan Government, first as Chief of the Intendance Section of the Civil Administration Department. In November, the 10th year of Showa (1935) I was transferred to the post of Councillor of the Planning Board of the General Affairs Office. I served at the Planning Board until February, the 16th year of Showa (1937) and in the same month I was made Head of the Development Office of the General Development Bureau of the Agricultural Development Department. Next, in October, the 16th year of Showa (1941) I was appointed Chief Official in Charge of the Agricultural Products of the Agricultural Development Department, but in July, the 18th year of Showa (1943) I was appointed Chief of the Planning Board of the Supreme General Affairs Office and in May, the 20th year of Showa (1945), when the Planning Bureau was newly established, I was made Vice Chief of the said Bureau, which post I held until the end of the war.

A. The Manchoukuoan Government, in the 4th year of Kangte, namely on October 12, 1937, decided on the so-called 10 year program of opium prohibition. I, at that time as Councillor of the Planning Board, assumed responsibility for drafting the said program, together with my colleague, Yung Shan-Chi.

The Manchoukuoan Government from the early period after its founding had been earnestly planning for eradication of the evil custom of smoking or eating opium, and, as a means first established a monopoly system for opium and administered the production, delivery and consumption of opium, thus adopting a policy for a decisive curtailment of opium consumption.

Mr. Hoshino, in the 3rd year of Kangte, namely in December 1936, was transferred from his position of Vice Chief of the Financial Department to Chief of the General Affairs Board. At that time the opium monopoly was already gaining impetus and was efficiently enforced. Mr. Hoshino, however, as soon as he was made Chief of the General Affairs Board, called together many representative and serious Manchurian-born, young officials belonging to various departments and had them conduct free discussions relating to the problem of the opium policy. This discussion was continued in earnest for several months and its conclusion was that Manchoukuo had already reached a mature time to enforce a positive prohibition policy. Most of the said young officials agreed that various necessary measures should be courageously taken as rapidly as possible for the drastic eradication of opium addicts. The free discussion by these native-born young officials created a considerably great sensation at that time in Manchuria and attracted the attention of the general public. In fact, among the Japanese-born officials there was a loud voice criticising Mr. Hoshino's attitude

as currying favour with native-born officials. Mr. Hoshino, however, as soon as the report on the conclusion reached by these Manchurian-born officials was received, ordered us to map out, in collaboration with the various related departments, a program on the basis of the said report, to be enforced by the government.

It is, however, not easy to eliminate completely the number of those poisoned by opium, who were estimated at more than 1,000,000 at the beginning of the national establishment of Manchukuo, under very adverse conditions. It was the conclusion of the study of the persons in charge of practical opium work that even if every strong measure was taken, under these adverse conditions it would take as long as 20 years. Meanwhile, most of the prominent people and notables were expressing outwardly their approval of the prohibition policy, but they were secretly expressing their opposition against the drastic method, alleging that it was impossible. Then I informed Mr. Hoshino of these matters and told him that it would take 20 years to achieve complete prohibition. Mr. Hoshino tenaciously insisted upon the 10 year plan, and said that where there is a will, there is a way, and the fruits could not be borne unless we endeavored to achieve the high objective. He admonished me that when the Manchurian youths were about to march on towards the ideal with fervor, the Japanese party should rejoice over the sincere enthusiasm of the Manchurian party and do our utmost in aiding them, rather than to worry ourselves in anticipation whether the goal was possible or not.

Furthermore, Mr. Hoshino said to the persons in the accounting section as follows: "If the opium monopoly profit is appropriated as a source of revenue of the general annual expenditures, prohibition will become difficult from the financial aspect. If it is used for the expenses of the prohibition policy, finances will not be affected even if the prohibition is carried out. At this time, therefore, make them carry out the necessary means for prohibition without stinting the expenses. Don't worry about the decrease in the revenue due to the prohibition. There is no necessity that the opium revenue be used for the general expenses."

Thus, the draft, which I and Yung Shan-Chi wrote, based on the assertion of the Manchurian youth bureaucrats, came to be decided at last by the cabinet meeting, through the conferences and negotiations with each department concerned. This plan was put into effect in and after January, 1938. The central force that propelled this project during these periods was in fact nobody but Mr. Hoshino and a group of Manchurian youth bureaucrats. Although the decision on this prohibition policy, including a drastic article that those governmental and public officials as well as the members of the special companies who did not refrain from opium smoking within a fixed period be dismissed, was a great menace to them, in which most of the high ranks were included, it was realized. The prudent persons among them were willing to take leave and undergo the treatment, one after another. Thus, the improvement at the beginning among the leading class was effected to a remarkable extent.

At the same time, the Government gave special consideration to regional prohibition in towns and cities. In towns and cities they made special efforts at registration, controlled relief, propaganda, etc., and the results in this field were also rapidly improved.

Thus, the number of the registered opium addicts immediately before the end of war was reduced to something over 200,000.

To cite an instance, you could hardly see an addict in Hsinking in 1944, so much so that all the sanitoriums there turned into lodging-houses for laborers.

Mr. Hoshino, at the outset of the foundation of Manchukuo, devoted himself to as well as contributed much towards the unification of the monetary system, the rationalization and establishment of both finance and economy and the abolition of extraterritoriality during the period from 1936 to 1937.

In spite of the fact that prior to and after the establishment of Manchukuo, both the system and organization of her finance were at the extremity of chaos, Mr. Hoshino, who came from Japan in the capacity of Chief of General Affairs of the Finance Department, succeeded in reforming them on short notice by means of his timely guidance and encouragement for his colleagues and men.

Though unification of the monetary system had been regarded as particularly difficult, yet his strenuous efforts and enthusiasm led to success and monetary stability in August, 1935, less than three years after the foundation of the state.

The basis of the general economic development of Manchuria being formed by this, remarkable effects were brought about upon the stabilization and elevation of the living of the Manchurian people at large and the prosperity of the personal economy.

Before that time Manchurian finances were extremely disordered, utterly lacking in fairness, with a most primitive financial system. The people at large were groaning under the burden of extremely heavy taxes. As an effective remedy for it, first the taxation system was reformed, aiming at the reduction of taxes of the people and the fairest taxation. The accounting system and financial organization were made up-to-date as well as fair and just, with the result that Manchukuo took her first step to present the appearance of a modern state and to have the substance as well. This was also generally attributed to Mr. Hoshino's great enthusiasm and continuous efforts.

As to the abolition of extraterritoriality in Manchukuo, Mr. Hoshino harbored a most positive view. On this matter of abrogation of our extraterritoriality in Manchukuo, Japan did not necessarily agree with Manchukuo about the time and method of its execution. Especially, most Japanese residents in Manchukuo who had much concern in the matter expressed the opinion that the time was still immature, which, reflecting upon the Japanese at home, gave rise in some circles of the governmental authorities to a view that they should take a cautious attitude toward it. However, Mr. Hoshino, Chief of the General Affairs Section of the Finance Department at the time (later he became Vice-Chief of the Finance Department) strongly advocated the prompt abrogation of extraterritoriality with a view to the sound development of Manchukuo and the impartial sharing of responsibility by the peoples of both Japan and Manchukuo, and he made efforts in persuading and negotiating with the authorities concerned. As a consequence, "The Treaty concerning the residence of the Japanese nationals in Manchukuo and the taxes in Manchukuo", was first of all concluded in July 1936 (Kotoku 3). This treaty was of such a nature as to greatly increase the imposition of taxes upon the Japanese residents. Moreover, as I have said before, there existed much opposition and the argument for the prematureness of time for this procedure among the Japanese people on the spot. However, it was highly attributable to Mr. Hoshino's sincere and zealous efforts that, despite such circumstances, the extraterritoriality was abolished upon the understanding which was brought about by his persuasion of the discontented Japanese residents.

Then Mr. Hoshino took office as Director of the General Affairs Office. He exerted more strenuous efforts than ever to realize a complete abrogation of extraterritoriality and a complete transfer of the executive powers vested in the South Manchurian Railway Zone Authorities. Even so far as these issues were concerned, he had many difficulties to encounter. Particularly as to the abrogation of judiciary powers, many people in Japan held that it was still premature on the ground that the various systems and the executive and criminal facilities of Manchukuo were not completed as yet. While Mr. Hoshino went to Japan and conferred with and negotiated with high government officials in order to overcome these difficulties, he took every occasion to persuade Japanese authorities on the spot to agree to his projected plan. There were cases where various authorities in charge of general affairs were deadlocked in their negotiations because of their division of opinion. On every such occasion, Mr. Hoshino passed his own judgment on any matter from a broad point of view for the purpose of bringing negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion.

Thus, "The Treaty concerning the Abrogation of Extraterritoriality in Manchukuo and the Transfer of the Executive Powers Vested in the South Manchurian Railway Company Zone Authorities" was put into effect as of December 1 of the same year. At that time, there arose a question as to whether the treaty should be put into effect as of December 1; some officials of the Manchukuo government suggested that it be enforced rather as of January 1 of the following year in view of the necessity of making preparations for the enforcement of the treaty and the like. As far as I can remember, Mr. Hoshino, opining that it had better be enforced as soon as possible, decided on the date of enforcement as of December 1.

The abrogation of extraterritoriality resulted in abolishing the long-standing discriminative treatment between the Japanese and the Manchurian and in contributing greatly to the economic development of Manchukuo, not to mention the favorable psychological effect it had upon the Manchurians.

OATH

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

TAKAKURA, Tadashi (Seal)

On this 8th day of September, 1947

at Tokyo

Deponent: TAKAKURA, Tadashi (Seal)

I, MITSUDA, Inasuke, 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 Tokyo.

Witness: MITSUDA, Inasuke (Seal)