

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 TKURT LUEDDE-NEURATH

Kurt Luedde-Neurath, being duly sworn on oath, deposes as follows:

I speak and read English. In 1937 I passed the examination in law in Germany and entered the diplomatic service in 1938. When I left Germany in 1939 for foreign diplomatic service in Japan I was given oral instructions with respect to my future duties in Japan. In the course of receiving these instructions I was given certain information regarding the attitude of various Japanese towards Germany. I was told by the Sectional Chief of the Personnel Department of the Foreign Ministry of Germany in Berlin, Mr. Etzdorf, that Germany regarded the Japanese court circles and financial circles as anti-Germany. Mr. Etzdorf had spent some years in Japan in the German Foreign Office, and had friends in both these circles.

When I arrived in Japan on July 20, 1939, I was assigned to the Culture Section of the Embassy and Ambassador Ott was the ambassador at that time. After serving in this capacity for several months, I became personal secretary to Mr. Koent, who was Minister and Counsellor in the Embassy, and occasionally acted as Mr. Ott's personal secretary. I also worked in the Legal Protocol and Political Section. When Mr. Stahmer became Ambassador I served under him in the Protocol and Decoration Section of the Embassy.

It was the custom of the Embassy to invite Japanese officials to various functions given by the Embassy and to keep a record of those who attended. These records were burned when the German Embassy was bombed on May 24, 25, 1945. In many instances I prepared the lists of the guests and my assistants and I checked the names of those who attended. Marquis Kido was invited to practically every function our Embassy gave when the Japanese government was invited as a body. It is my clear recollection that he never attended one of these functions. I attended most of them, and I have never seen Marquis Kido.

So far as I know, no one in the German Embassy ever contacted Marquis Kido, although we were anxious to contact as many officials in the Japanese government as we could. He never, to my knowledge, appeared at our office.

From information the German Embassy received from the Kempeitai and the Japanese Home Ministry, it was a matter of common knowledge in the German Embassy that Marquis Kido was one of the Court Circle not to be trusted by us. Before December 7, 1941, the members of the German Embassy on many occasions discussed the question of whether or not there would be war between Japan and the United States. I recall that on a number of these occasions, before and after the appointment of Premier Tojo, various officials in the Embassy stated that there would be no war, assigning as one

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of the important reasons that so long as Marquis Kido was Lord Keeper he would oppose the appointment of any Prime Minister who would be in favor of war.

It was well known in the German Embassy in Tokyo as well as in the German Government in Berlin that Marquis Kido was an ardent supporter of friendly Japanese-American and British relations.

While I was in the Decoration Section of the Embassy we were anxious to decorate Japanese officials to curry favor. On several occasions Marquis Kido's name was mentioned but his name had to be passed as we could find no reason to give him a decoration. As a matter of fact, we used to say he would be the last one on the list to ever get a decoration from Germany.

July 11, 1947.

/s/ Kurt Luedde-Neurath

O A T H

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

/s/ Kurt Luedde-Neurath

On this 25th day of July, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT Kurt Luedde-Neurath (seal)

I, S. HOZUMI, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the present of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: /s/ S. Hozumi (seal)