

Ex 3691

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 T

NISHIO TOSHIZO

Having first duly sworn an oath as on the attached sheet, in accordance with the procedure prevailing in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

1. In January 1937, when General Ugaki received an Imperial order to form a cabinet, I was the Vice-Chief of the General Staff. I state herein the circumstances within the Army at that time.

At that time, the Chief of the General Staff was Prince Kan-in, the War Minister was General Terauchi and the Inspector-General of Military Education was General Sugiyama. General Umezu was the Vice-Minister of War. Among the central authorities of the Army there were strong opinions in opposition to General Ugaki's cabinet-formation. At that time, after the 26 February Incident, the central authorities of the Army intended and endeavored for the enforcement of internal control of the Army. However, much misunderstanding was prevalent about General Ugaki in the form of rumors regarding the so-called "March Incident". Therefore, once the news of General Ugaki's cabinet-formation was known, officers in minor positions, below chiefs of sections and bureaus, opposed his formation of a cabinet, and circumstances looked quite serious.

I conferred with Umezu, the Vice-Minister of War, about this problem, considering the necessity of controlling the whole army. Both I and General Umezu had good will for General Ugaki and were not opposed personally to his forming a cabinet. Nevertheless, if it were to be completed without consideration of the circumstances within the Army, it would be impossible to avoid disorder or lack of control of the Army. Therefore, we concluded, the problem should be handled by the conference of three leading generals of the Army, and no subordinates or younger officers should have any connection with the matter. We strictly prohibited any undercurrents in the Army.

After that the problem was handled by Generals Terauchi and Sugiyama. Though, as no consultation was had by them with their subordinates, I did not know of the fact at first, I was told that the generals visited Ugaki and explained the serious circumstances of the Army, requesting him to reconsider the matter of his cabinet-formation. I was also told that the generals negotiated with some candidates for War Minister, who however did not accept the post, giving as the reason the difficulties of internal control of the Army. Thus, I was told, in such circumstances General Ugaki abandoned the attempt to organize a cabinet. In addition, this disturbance within the Army spread to the ex-soldiers. And since the Ex-Soldiers' Association was quite worried about the

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state of affairs an explanation was made, I knew, under the name of the Vice-Minister about the particulars of the problem.

2. When I was Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, Lieutenant-General Umezu was the Commander of the China Garrison. When War Minister Hayashi came to Hsinking for an inspection of Manchuria, at the end of May 1935, the Kwantung Army reported to him the circumstances at that time. Commander Umezu also was called to Hsinking by the Minister to report, and saw him. At that time I also met Commander Umezu; the meeting, however, did not go beyond a mere greeting, and no conference was had with the Kwantung Army with respect to policies, etc. Commander Umezu left Hsinking right after the meeting with the Minister, and returned to his post.

O A T H

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

Nishio Toshizō (seal)

On this 30th day of September, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent Nishio Toshizō (seal)

I, Ikeda Sumihisa, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to by the deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: Ikeda Sumihisa (Seal)

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko

Tokyo  
7 October 1947

Dot, Doe, #2908

Umayu.

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正

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表

護側文書第二九〇八號「西尾壽造」口供書

左ノ通り訂正願マヌ

二頁六行目

「二、二六事件デアリ」とあるを「二、二六事件後<sup>〇</sup>デアリ」と改

む

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極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對  
芥木貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 西尾壽造

自分供述書ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク  
供述致シマス。

昭和十二年（一九三七年）一月宇垣大將が組織ノ大命ヲ拜シタトキ私ハ  
 參謀次長デアリマシタノデ當時ノ陸軍部内ノ情勢ヲ供述致シマス。  
 當時參謀總長ハ兩院宮殿下陸軍大臣ハ寺内大將、教育總監ハ杉山大將デ  
 海軍次官ハ陸軍次官デアリマシタ。宇垣大將ノ組織ニ對シ軍中央部内ニ  
 ハ之ヲ好マザル空氣ガ強クアリマシタ。  
 其ノ頃ハ二二六事件デアリ軍中央部ニ於テハ軍ノ齟齬正ニ勢力ヲ圖ツテ居  
 タノデアリマス。然ルニ宇垣大將ニ付テハ所謂三月事件ニ對スル風評ニ  
 對シテ誤解シテ居ルモノガ少クアリマセンデシタ。從テ同大將ノ組織  
 ノ強ガ傳ハルヤ部局長級以下ノ中堅將校ハ同大將ノ組織ヲ不可トシ形勢  
 ハ容易ナラヌモノガ見受ケラレマシタ。  
 私ハ部内統制ノ必要アルニ鑑ミ此ノ問題ニツキ海軍陸軍次官ト相談シマ  
 シタ。私モ海軍陸軍次官モ個人的ニハ宇垣大將ニハ好意ヲ有シ同大將ノ  
 組織ニハ異論ハアリマセンデシタガ若シ部内ノ情勢ヲ見ルコトナク同大  
 將ガ組織スルコトナレバ軍内ノ統制至難ニ陷ルコトハ避ケ難イ情態デ  
 アリマシタ。ソコデ此ノ處置ハ三長官ノ協議ニ俟テ下意ハ一切關係セヌ  
 コトトシ部内ノ變動ヲ豫察シマシタ。

其ノ後ノ處置ハ寺内大將及杉山大將ニ依テ取ラレ下僚ニハ相談モアリマセ  
 ンデシタカラ奉前ニハ私ハ知リマセンデシタガ後デ同大將ハ交、宇垣大將  
 テ訪レ軍内ノ逼迫セル狀勢ヲ説明シ同大將ノ組織ハ考慮セラレ度ト申入レ  
 タト云フコトデアリ又若干ノ陸軍大臣候補者ニ交渉シタガ何レモ部内ノ統  
 制困難ヲ理由ニシテ陸軍大臣ヲ引受ケナカツタト云フコトモ聞キマシタ。  
 カクシテ宇垣大將ハ組織ヲ断念セラレタト云フコトデアリマシタ。  
 又當時軍内ノ動搖ハ在郷軍人ニ波及シ在郷軍人会テモ少カラズ憂慮シテ居ツタノデ  
 官ノ名ヲ以テ當時ノ経緯ヲ在郷軍人会ニ通告シタコトヲ知ツテ居リマス。  
 ニ私ガ東軍參謀長ノトキ梅津中將ハ支那駐屯軍司令官デアリマシタ。昭和  
 十年五月末陸軍大臣ガ滿洲混戦ノ爲新京ニ來マシタトキ東軍ハ當時ノ  
 情况ヲ陸軍大臣ニ報告シマシタガ梅津軍司令官ハ報告ノ爲大臣ヨリ新京ニ  
 招カレ大臣ト會見シマシタ。其ノ際私モ梅津軍司令官ニ會ヒマシタガ軍ナ  
 ル挨拶ニ過ギズ東軍トシテ政策其ノ他ニシテ何等協議シタコトハアリマ  
 セン。

梅津軍司令官ハ大臣トノ會見後勿々新京ヲ出發シ請任シマシタ。

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昭和二十二年（一九四七年）九月三十日於東京

供進者 西尾 壽造

石ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ証明シ  
マス。

同日於東京

立會人 池田 純久

Dc f. p. 0. 0. 2. 9. 0. 8

良心ニ從ヒ眞實ヲ就ヘ何事ヲモ黙秘セズ又何事ヲモ附加セザルコトヲ  
誓フ。

宣

誓

書

署名捺印

西尾壽造