

RESUME OF CASE NO. 92

IWAMURA, Michiyo

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with Russia in Saghalien since Anti-Comintern Pact
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and decision to discontinue Jap embassy in Poland.
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the Cabinet Secretariate through Investigation Division.
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- Serial 35 - Brief of interrogation

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
OPERATIONS, CIS, G-2
Compilation Branch

SUBJECT: IWAMURA, Michio

1944 May 27 Minister of Justice/ he and Vice Minister OMORI
conferred with Dr. BA HAN (BURMA) and other members
of the Burma Special Research Mission on said date.

SOURCE : FCC, Daily Report, 27 May 1944

1943 June Minister of Justice, June 1943. Resigns when Koiso
Ministry is formed, July 1944, but granted privileges
of a former Minister.

SOURCE : OSS Card File.

1941 Oct-- Michiyo IWAMURA was Minister of Justice in the TOJO
1944 July Cabinet, which functioned from Oct. 1941 to July 1944.

SOURCE: Enemy news broadcast and other sources.

FROM : Prominent Persons in Japan or Japanese Dominated
Territories, 15 May 1945. DIO, 14th Naval District.

IVANURA, Michiyo

It is stated that IVANURA utilized the reactionary bureaucracy
Society for the Foundation of the State
to attain his position of eminence. (IPS File 92-12)

Request by: KAYA, Okinori

Reasons for handling of Tai Koko Jin Long Kaya Company
case. Case involved other members of Cabinet, including Baron
Hatajima. Case involved explanation of labor, etc. Subject acted as prosecutor.

Address: Confined in Sugamo Prison.

He was Minister of Justice in the Tojo Cabinet.
He will be able to testify to the action of the Prime
Minister, the Foreign Minister and the Naval Minister
in relation to entering into war with the United States
and the British Empire, and the fact that the defendant
did not participate in the discussion thereof. This
testimony is relevant in regard to the charges of con-
spiracy and other counts of the Indictment.

Witness called by:

KATA

IWANURA, Michio

IWANURA, Michio

It is stated that IWANURA utilized the reactionary bureaucratic Society "Kokuhonsha" (Society for the Foundation of the State) to attain his position of eminence. (IPS File 92-12)

Status: Former Minister of Justice.

Became famous for handling of Tai Koko Jin Keng Rayon Company case. Case involved many members of Zaibatsu, including Baron Nakajima (Minister of Commerce and Technology). Case involved exploitation of labor, etc. Subject acted as prosecutor.

but not on good terms (IPS File 92-9)
opinions are very different).

Spoke on the passage of special war criminal law; (CIS card file - Philadelphia Inquirer, April 18, 1943) (IPS File No. 92-5)

More figurative of the militarist
clique as Minister of Justice.

Source: Confidential (not to be disclosed).

Witness called by:

KAYA

IWAMURA, Michio

Status: Former Minister of Justice. ✓

Personal Relationships:

Cousin of Prime Minister YOSHIDA,
but not on good terms (their
opinions are very different).

Affiliations:

Mere figurehead of the militarist
clique as Minister of Justice.

Source: Confidential (not to be disclosed).

Appointed acting manager of the Investigation Division of the Ministry of Justice	21 Jun 1939
Appointed a Member of the Committee for Investigation of small and middle class industries	22 July 1939
Appointed a member of Temporary Investigation Committee of Manchukuo Pioneering Work	3 Aug 1939
Appointed member of Committee for Protection of ex-criminals	14 Sept 1939
Appointed a member of the Committee for Limitation of high Officials	28 Oct 1939
Released from the position of a member of the Limitation Committee of high officials	
Appointed a member of the Committee for Investigation of the System of Judgment of family affairs	5 Dec 1939
Appointed a member of the Committee for Ship Building Works	26 Dec 1939
Appointed as a Prosecutor	17 Jan 1940
Appointed as the Public Procurator-general	
Appointed as a member of Committee for Investigation of the Judicial System (abolished according to the Edict No. 585, 20 June 1942)	24 Jan. 1940
Asked to be an adviser to Inquiry Office of Judicial Department	24 Jan. 1940
Appointed a member of Committee for Reviewing Rules and Regulations (abolished according to Edict, No. 585, 20 June 1942)	31 Jan 1940
Conferred 3rd court rank, Jr. Grade	1 July 1940
Appointed Minister of Justice	25 Jul 1941
Conferred 3rd court rank, Sr. Grade	15 Jul 1942
Conferred 1st Class of merit with the Order of Sacred Treasure	9 Feb 1943
Decorated with Double Ray of Rising Sun (for meritorious service in the China Incident).	29 Apr 1940
By request, released from the office.	
By special favor granted privileges of his former office.	22 Jul 1944

8 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR FILES -

Document # _____

Manchurian Colonization Investigation Committee - a short-lived Cabinet Advisory Committee which held its first meeting on 16 August 1939 and its last 30 October 1939. Its official duty under the Imperial Ordinance which created it was to report to the Cabinet its opinions on the establishment of a fundamental policy of Manchurian Colonization. It drew up "A General Policy of Manchurian Colonization". (See exhibit C to memo of J. F. Munroe to D. L. Waldorf dated 10 April 1947)

Among the members were -

Dwamura, Michiyo

- Justice Vice-Minister

Nishio, Toshio

- Secretary of Transportation Ministry

C. T. COLE
Cmdr., USN

Resume by: Commander Cole

Date : 9 April 1947

IWAMURA, Michiyo

1. Subpoena request: states that this witness will testify as to the action of the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the Naval Minister in relation to entering into war with the United States and the British Empire, and the fact that the defendant (KAYA) did not participate in the discussion thereof. This testimony is relevant in regard to the charges of conspiracy and other counts of the Indictment.

2. Summary of Major Posts Held:

1883 - Born, Tokyo
1910 - Graduated Tokyo Imperial University in law and jurisprudence. Became Government prosecutor.
1921 - Became a councillor to the Ministry of Justice.
1927 - Appointed Prosecutor to the Tokyo Court of Appeals.
1936 - Appointed Chief Prosecutor of Tokyo District Court.
1936 - Appointed Director of Bureau of Criminal Affairs, Ministry of Justice.
1937 - Appointed Vice Minister of Ministry of Justice.
1940 - Appointed Public Procurator General (Chief Prosecutor of Japan).
1941 - Appointed Minister of Justice on 25 July, 1941, during Third Kono Cabinet (Held that position during Tojo Cabinet, 18 Oct. 1941 to 22 July, 1944).
1944 - Retired.

3. Decorations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class of Decoration</u>	<u>Achievement</u>	<u>Recommending Ministry</u>
30 Nov. 1923	6th Grade of Merit with Order of Sacred Treasure		
30 June 1927	5th Class of Merit with Order of Sacred Treasure		
7 Feb. 1928	4th Class of Merit with Order of Sacred Treasure		
8 Feb. 1933	3rd Class of Merit with Order of Sacred Treasure		

(Decorations continued)

2 Nov. 1938	Awarded a silver cup	For meritorious service in the Japan-German united anti-Comintern movement.	
14 Dec. 1939	2nd Grade of Merit with Order of Sacred Treasure		
9 Feb. 1943	1st Class of Merit with Order of Sacred Treasure		
29 Apr. 1940	Order of the Compound Light Rising Sun	For meritorious service in China Incident	Justice Ministry

4. Present Status:

Former Minister of Justice; now retired.

Personal relationship: - A confidential source reports that he is a cousin of Prime Minister YOSHIDA but not on very good terms since their opinions are very different.

Present address: Sugamo Prison

5. Summary of Interrogations:

The witness was interrogated on the following dates: 25 February, 26 February, 29 March, 1 April, 1946. (See Case File No. 92 - serials 16, 17 and 22.)

Subject testified as to the following facts (summarized in Case File No. 92-35): -

Born 1883, IWAMURA has had a long career in the Justice Ministry. After graduating from the Law College, Tokyo, Imperial University, he became Chief Public Procurator, Tokyo District Court in 1934, and Director, Criminal Affairs Bureau of the Justice Ministry the same year. In 1937 he was appointed Procurator General of Supreme Court. In July 1941 he became Justice Minister in the third KONOYE Cabinet and held the same position until the fall of the TOJO Cabinet.

He was Chief Prosecutor from January 17, 1940 to July 25, 1941 and as such jurisdiction included all of the Japanese Empire excluding Formosa, Korea and the Mandated Islands. Was appointed Justice Minister on July 25, 1941 and as such supervised prosecutions, judgments, prisons and paroles. Was appointed Justice Minister by Premier KONOYE. Has been a member of the Kokuhonsha Society since its organization in 1926. Baron HIRANUMA was the President and organizer of the same.

The KONOYE Cabinet fell for the reason that it was the desire of Prince KONOYE to better the Japanese-American relations and on the 16th of October 1941, Prince KONOYE called me and stated it was the Emperor's desire that Japanese-American relations be improved under any circumstances. Prince KONOYE stated he had done all in his power to better the same and nothing more could be done. That was the reason for the fall of the KONOYE Cabinet. Prince KONOYE was unable to improve Japanese-American relations because of the opposition of the Army who would not consent to or approve of Japan doing any of the things which were necessary to better Japanese-American relations.

During a Cabinet meeting of about the 14th of October 1941, the War Minister TOJO stated that if the administration of Japan were left as it was at that time it would not be long before the country would fall into ruin. It was impossible for Prince KONOYE to make any concessions to the United States for the reason that TOJO as Minister of War and as representing the Army would not agree with Prince KONOYE to withdraw troops from China and that is the reason the KONOYE Cabinet fell.

Naoki HOSHINO was the Secretary of the TOJO Cabinet and the record should have been kept under his supervision. HOSHINO was appointed by Premier TOJO. HOSHINO was one who would be considered very close to TOJO. They were very close friends and he had a great deal of influence with TOJO.

I attended all Cabinet meetings, the regular meetings being held on Tuesdays and Fridays usually at 10:00 A.M., and did so after TOJO went into office on October 18, 1941. I think that TOJO, because of pressure from the Army, was committed to war with the United States practically from the day he became Premier. It was within the power of TOJO to have suppressed the Army and held it down but I think TOJO was unable to withdraw troops from China.

I first learned that war had been determined upon with the United States by Japan shortly after the 26th of November 1941. On November 26 when it was reported that the Presidential letter of the United States was impossible I first knew that war was imminent. The foreign relations were primarily the duties of the Prime Minister, Minister of War, Minister of Navy and the Foreign Minister and possibly the Minister of Finance. The other Ministers were not included in the various conferences.

All Japanese foreign relations were carried on very secretly. All foreign affairs in the preliminary stages were kept secret among the foreign office members. The other members hearing nothing at all unless a bill is presented to the Cabinet. Sometime after the 26th of November Premier TOJO stated that at the Cabinet meeting that the President's message could not be accepted and, therefore, the Japanese-American relations had become serious. Present at the Cabinet meeting at this time were Premier TOJO, Admiral SHIMADA, Minister of Finance KAYA, Minister of Agriculture INO, Minister of Commerce KISHI, Communications Minister TERASHIMA, Foreign Minister TOGO, Minister without Portfolio SUZUKI, and Secretary of the Cabinet HOSHINO.

There were three or four meetings at which they discussed the war and the ultimatum presented by the President's message and during this period of time, I think from the 26th of November until the 30th, all of these meetings related to the preparations for war. Some time after the 27th a bill was presented to the Cabinet meeting and its contents were explained in detail by Premier TOJO. The main points in it were that the treaty between the United States and Japan had been abrogated. It was stated that the four nations, America, Great Britain, China and The Netherlands, are making plans for an envelopment movement against Japan and that military preparations have been made in the Philippines, Hawaii and Singapore, and that there was but one possibility, that is, to enter into conflict with the United States.

And with the thought that war would be started by the United States and Great Britain it was determined that Japan would strike the first blow and enter into the war first. It was determined in view of the fact that the United States was aiding China by sending fliers and other war materials there was in reality already a war between Japan and the United States. Following this meeting it was determined there was no alternative except for war and the results were submitted to the Imperial Conference. I think the Imperial Conference was on December 1 and all of the members in the Cabinet whom I have just mentioned were present and in addition General SUGIYAMA, Chief of the Army General Staff; Admiral NAGANO, Chief of the Navy General Staff; and HARA, President of the Privy Council.

Admiral NAGANO represented the Supreme War Council and stated that since the situation has become so serious and to the point that war is unavoidable we must do our utmost for a successful end. That since war was inevitable, Army and Navy preparations had been made, however, he did not go into any details. During the conference the Emperor made no statements whatsoever.

I do not know what member of the Cabinet actually wrote the words of the declaration of war, however, I think it was done by a number of persons in the War Ministry, Navy Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry and possibly the liaison conferences all under TOJO's supervision and that HOSHINO, as secretary, prepared the document after the language had been agreed upon.

Again in the interrogation of 26 February, 1946 (IPS Case File 92, Serial 17) IWAMURA stated (pp. 1, 2, 4 and 5):

- Q. "When did you first receive knowledge that from Japan's standpoint war with the United States was inevitable?
- A. It was after the arrival of the President's message of November 26, 1941.
- Q. And under what circumstances did you acquire this knowledge?
- A. It was some time after the 26th of November that Premier Tojo stated at the Cabinet meeting that the President's message cannot be accepted and, therefore, the Japanese-American relation has become serious.
- Q. Now, to the best of your recollection, what was the discussion that was had at that time in connection with embarking upon war with the United States?
- A. During the Cabinet meeting after the 26th, Premier Tojo gave the contents of the President's message which, as I remember, were in five parts, namely: Withdrawal of troops from China; to withdraw from the Tri-Partite Agreement; withdrawal of troops from French Indo-China; and non-recognition of the Nanking government.
- Q. And non-recognition of the Chinese Nanking government?
- A. Yes. And to carry on an amicable settlement of the Sino-Japanese relations. And during the meeting it was stated that there was but one of two choices - to submit to these demands or to break relations with the United States.
- Q. Who were present at this meeting on November 26th?
- A. Premier TOJO, Admiral SHIMADA; KAYA, Minister of Finance.
- Q. What is his first name?
- A. OKINORI.
- Q. What was his position?
- A. Minister of Finance." (pp. 1-2)

"

- Q. At this first meeting, however, Mr. IWAMURA, what course of action was determined upon by the Cabinet?
- A. Sometime after the 27th a bill was presented to the Cabinet meeting, and its contents were explained in detail by Premier TOJO. The main points in short were that the treaty between the United States and Japan had been abrogated. It was stated that the four nations, America, Britain, China, and the Netherlands are making plans for an envelopment movement against Japan and that military preparations have been made in the Philippines, Hawaii, and Singapore, and it was in regard to this information that the Cabinet members brought forth their ideas, however, there was but one possibility, that is, to enter into conflict with the United States. It appeared that war with the United States was unavoidable. The Cabinet members felt that the war would be started by the United States and Great Britain.
- Q. Mr. IWAMURA, with the thought that war would be started by the United States and Great Britain, was it then determined by the Cabinet that Japan would strike the first blow?
- A. Yes, at that meeting it was determined that there was no other alternative except for conflict and, therefore, it was decided that Japan should enter into war first. However, it was not determined as to when that will be. In view of the fact that United States was aiding China by sending fliers and other war materials, it was in reality already a war between Japan and the United States.
- Q. Following this meeting, what was done by the Cabinet in preparation for embarking upon war with the United States?
- A. Since at the Cabinet meeting it was determined that there was no alternative except for war, the results were submitted to the Imperial Conference.
- Q. And on what date was the Imperial Conference held?
- A. I think it was on the first of December.
- Q. Were all of the members of the Cabinet whom you have mentioned present at the Imperial Conference?
- A. Yes, I think all of the members which I have just mentioned previously attended the conference.
- Q. Going back, Mr. IWAMURA, to the Cabinet meeting of November 27th, which you have just described. At that meeting did you as a member of the Cabinet vote for war against the United States?
- A. Yes, I did." (pp. 4-5)

- (b) IWAMURA made some significant admissions on the question of whether the note served upon Secretary Hull by Ambassador NOMURA constituted a declaration of war or an ultimatum under the Hague Convention of 1907. If possible, he should be cross-examined on this matter. In his interrogation of 1 April, 1946 (IPS Case File 92-22) IWAMURA testified as follows (pp. 2, 3 and 4):

"

- ...
Q. Now, Mr. IWAMURA, having read and having had translated to you the note served upon Mr. Secretary Hull by Ambassador NOMURA at 2:20 P.M. December 7, 1941, and having read and also having had translated to you Article I of the treaty entered into at the Hague Convention on October 18, 1907, and calling to your particular attention the following language "that hostilities between themselves must not commence without previous and explicit warning in the form either of a reasoned declaration of war or of an ultimatum with conditional declaration of war," I now ask you, Mr. IWAMURA, as one who is learned in the law whether or not in your opinion the note heretofore mentioned which you have personally read and which was in addition thereto translated into Japanese from English, complies with the treaty in the form either of a reasoned declaration of war or of an ultimatum with conditional declaration of war?
- A. First, before I answer this, I would like to state that I am familiar with criminal law and international law is not particularly my field. I think it is not quite fit for me to comment on this as this is the work of TOGO, the Foreign Minister, who is an expert in international law. I am only a criminal lawyer and I do not think it quite fitting for one so insignificant to comment.
- Q. However, Mr. IWAMURA, notwithstanding the fact that your field of experience has been on the criminal side of the law, nevertheless, like all persons who have studied law I know that you have some general idea of international law and further that you have, from your training, a legal mind and I would, therefore, ask at this time whether or not, in your opinion the note which we have heretofore mentioned in the light of the treaty to which Japan was a signatory is either a reasoned declaration of war or of an ultimatum with conditional declaration of war?
- A. If TOGO put that out with the intention of starting a war, I believe the sentence structure is extremely poor, it is, first of all, too long. It should be direct and to the point and simple. The objective made in the statement is not obvious.

It is not clear. If it was intended as a declaration of war, it should be short and to the point.

- Q. Do I understand by your answer, Mr. IWAMURA, that, in your opinion, the note heretofore mentioned does not comply with the requirements as set forth by the treaty?
- A. If TOGO wrote this with the purpose of making it a reasoned declaration of war or with the purpose of making it an ultimatum, he did not put it clearly. If it is a reasoned declaration of war, it doesn't so state, obviously, and if it is an ultimatum, in the same manner it is too vague. That is my opinion.
- Q. I ask you again, Mr. IWAMURA, having read the note heretofore mentioned as well as having had the same translated to you and having read Article I of the Hague Treaty signed October 18, 1907, whether or not in your opinion the note heretofore mentioned is in the form of either a reasoned declaration of war or an ultimatum with conditional declaration of war?
- A. If I see it through the eyes of the American, those who received the message, I must say it does not correspond to the treaty but when TOGO wrote the note he may or may not have intended it to be a declaration of war. That I do not know.
- Q. What I am interested in, Mr. IWAMURA, is not how it would be regarded through American eyes but how it would be regarded as a matter of law. The only question before us is whether or not the document, as it presently reads, is either a reasoned declaration of war or of an ultimatum with conditional declaration of war?
- A. I don't know what was in TOGO's mind when he wrote that. He knew of the Imperial Conference at which it was decided that Japan would go to war, so I cannot know what was in TOGO's mind but, in my opinion, this note was insufficient to correspond to either of those two points you mentioned previously in Article I.
- Q. However, Mr. IWAMURA, I think you have answered the question but I wish to call to your attention that at the present moment we are not concerned with what was in TOGO's mind but with a document and whether or not this document heretofore mentioned is, in your opinion, a reasoned declaration of war or of an ultimatum with conditional declaration of war.
- A. Yes, in my opinion, it is insufficient.

Q. Mr. IWAMURA, in previous conversations with me you have stated that if called upon as a witness you are willing to testify to the statements which have heretofore been made to me. That is correct, is it not?

A. Yes, I will be very glad to be a witness if called upon."
(pp. 2, 3 and 4)

(c) On pages 2 and 3 of his interrogation of 25 February, 1946 (IPS Case File No. 92-16) IWAMURA stated as follows:

Q. "Were you a member of the Kokuhonsha Society?

A. Yes. I was a member of the Kokuhonsha Society.

Q. And for how many years were you a member?

A. I have been a member of the Kokuhonsha since its organization in 1923, immediately after the great earthquake." (p. 2)

NOTE: The "Kokuhonsha" (Society for the Foundation of the State) was a reactionary, bureaucratic society of which the defendant HIRANUMA was president and which IWAMURA is said to have utilized to attain his position of eminence (IPS Case File No. 92-12).

Q. "It was an organization primarily to develop affection and loyalty to the Emperor, was it not, and to the State?

A. Yes, it could be stated as such. It was to instill new ideas, to combat any foreign ideas which are detrimental to this country.

Q. And was it also created for the purpose of opposing Communism?

A. Yes." (p. 3)

(d) On page 4 of said interrogation IWAMURA testified as follows:

Q. "I am advised that throughout your official life you were a protege of Baron HIRANUMA, is that correct?

A. Not exactly, however, I was the Chief Prosecutor in the Tokyo area at the time Baron HIRANUMA was the Chief Prosecutor." (p. 4)

(e) On page 8 of said interrogation IWAMURA testified:

Q. "Is it not a fact that TOJO, because of pressure from the army, was committed to war with the United States practically from the day he became Premier?

A. It was within the power of TOJO, I think, to have suppressed the army and held it down." (p. 8)

.....

(f) IWAMURA was an adviser or councillor (KOMON) of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association from July 1941 to July 1944 (From CIS Special Report "War Politics in Japan", page 31).

IWAMURA testified in his interrogation of 26 February 1946 (IPS Case File 92-17, page 9) as follows:

Q. "Did you belong to the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, Mr. IWAMURA?

A. There is a regulation that all ministers will be an advisor to this organization.

Q. And as such you were a member, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you attend all of the meetings of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, Mr. IWAMURA?

A. I have attended only two meetings. That was during the time the members throughout the nation and representatives of the various organizations throughout the nation held a conference."(p. 9)

For additional information see:

IPS File No. 92 - IWAMURA, Michiyo

Witness requested by:

KAYA, Okinori

CURRICULUM VITAE

File No. 92
Ex. No. 656

Name: IWAMURA, Michiyo

Social Status: Peer

Date of Birth: 21 August 1883

Domicile: Tokyo Prefecture

17 July 1910 Graduated from Tokyo Imperial University Law Course.

2 Aug. 1910 Appointed a probationary judicial officer.

Appointed to learn the practical work at Kofu local court of Justice, Kofu Local Prosecution Section, Kofu District Court of Justice and Kofu District Prosecution Section.

Annual grant of ¥420 is allotted.

3 June 1911 Appointed to be an acting Prosecutor at Kofu District Court.

27 Dec. 1911 Relieved as an acting Prosecutor of Kofu District Court.

10 Dec. 1912 Appointed Prosecutor.

Conferred the rank of high official, 7th Class.

Ordered to be a reserve Prosecutor.

Ordered to be at Tokyo Local Court, Prosecution Section, and Tokyo District Prosecution Section.

Annual grant of ¥420 allotted.

10 Feb. 1913 Conferred the 7th Court Rank, Jr. Grade.

30 June 1913 Appointed Prosecutor of Tokyo District Court and of Tokyo Local Court.

Granted the 10th Grade Salary.

5 May 1923 Appointed as an Investigation Officer of Capitalized pension.

24 Aug. 1923 Conferred rank of high official, 3rd class.

10 Aug. 1923 Granted 3rd grade salary.

30 Nov. 1923 Conferred 5th Court Rank, Jr. Grade.
Conferred with 6th Grade of Merit and with the Order of Sacred Treasure.

28 Jan. 1924 Released from serving at Punitive Bureau.

30 Apr. 1924 Appointed as a prosecutor and a councillor to the Ministry of Justice. In addition, appointed secretary to him;
Conferred rank of high official, 3rd class;
Appointed as prosecutor of Tokyo District Court;
Granted 3d grade salary.

20 Dec. 1924 The councillorship of the Ministry of Justice has been abolished, by Edict No. 311;
Released from the concurrent positions.

29 Jan. 1925 Granted 2nd Grade Salary.

7 Apr. 1925 Appointed Secretary to the Administration of Justice;
Conferred rank of high official, 3rd Class;
Ordered to serve at Punitive Bureau.

20 July 1925 Appointed to be a staff-secretary of the temporary Investigation Committee of Legislation;

15 Dec. 1925 Appointed the acting director of the Secretariat of the Minister, while Shataro Miyake, secretary to the Minister of Justice, was absent.

31 Jan. 1926 Appointed head of Protection Section of the Minister's Secretariat to serve at Criminal Bureau concurrently.

15 May 1926 As Shotaro Miyake returned from abroad, his position as the director of the Secretariat of the Minister terminated.

17 June 1926 Ordered to serve at Punitive Bureau.

28 July 1926 Granted 1st Grade Salary.

18 Apr. 1927 Conferred rank of high official, 2nd Class.

18 Apr. 1927 Appointed as Prosecutor to the Tokyo Court of Appeal;
Granted 3d Grade Salary.

16 May 1927 Conferred 5th Court Rank, Sr. Grade.

30 June 1927 Conferred the 5th Class of Merit with the Order of Sacred Treasure.

4 Oct. 1927 Released from other duties, besides his own proper ones.

7 Feb. 1928 Conferred the 4th Class of Merit with the Order of Sacred Treasure.

21 Mar. 1928 Given a silver cup for his strenuous efforts as staff secretary of the temporary investigation council of Legislation.

2 July 1929 Granted 2d Grade Salary.

8 Sept. 1932 Appointed Chief public procurator of the Nagoya District Court;
Granted 2nd Grade Salary.

8 Feb. 1933 Conferred 3d Class of merit with the Order of Sacred Treasure.

June 1933 Conferred with 4th Court Rank, Jr. Grade.

26 Dec. 1934 Granted 1st Grade Salary.

15 Feb. 1935 Conferred rank of high official, 1st Class.

2 Apr. 1936 Appointed Chief Procurator of Tokyo District Court.

8 Apr. 1936 Appointed director of the Bureau of Criminal Affairs;
Conferred rank of high official 1st Class;

20 Apr. 1936 Appointed a member of the Opium Committee.

18 Nov. 1936 Appointed Chairman of the Committee for Education and Religion.

Nov. 1936 Appointed temporary member of Investigation Committee of the House Administration.

Appointed Government representative for business under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice at 68th Diet.

- 2 May 1937 Appointed government representative for business under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice at 69th Diet.
- 15 July 1937 Appointed as Chairman of the Commission for the Investigation of the Election System.
- 20 Aug. 1937 Appointed a member of the Committee for Investigation of Lawyers.
- 24 Dec. 1937 Appointed member representing Government for business under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice at 70th Diet.
- 7 Jan. 1938 Appointed a member of the Preparatory Committee for Limitation of Common Officials.
- 8 Mar. 1938 Appointed prosecutor;
Conferred rank of high official, 1st Class;
Appointed prosecutor of the Supreme Court;
Granted 2d Grade Salary.
- 14 Feb. 1937 Appointed member of Investigation Committee of Lawyers.
- 2 Apr. 1937 Appointed prosecutor at Official Reprimand Court of Auditors;
Appointed the President of the Court of Administrative Litigation prosecutor at Official Reprimand Court.
- 29 May 1937 Appointed temporary examiner of High Officials examinations.
- 15 June 1937 Conferred 4th Court Rank, Sr. Grade.
- 27 Dec. 1937 Appointed Vice Minister of Justice;
Conferred rank of high official, 1st Class.
- 28 Dec. 1937 Appointed adviser to Kihakuin (Planning Board);
Appointed an adviser to Manchurian Administrative Bureau;
Appointed member of the Central Statistics Committee;
Appointed Councillor for the celebration in connection with 2600th Anniversary;
Appointed a member of the Cabinet Information Board;
Appointed a Member of Committee on Rules and Regulations.
- 27 Nov. 1937 Appointed the director of committee of examiners of common officials.

- 12 June 1938 Appointed a member of the investigation committee of Weights and Measures System.
- 27 Jan. 1938 Appointed a member of the investigation committee of the National Properties;
Appointed a member of Preparatory Committee for Constructing Central Government Buildings.
- 15 Feb. 1938 Appointed a member of the Central Committee for City-planning.
- 19 Feb. 1938 Appointed a member of Investigation Committee for Planning.
- 7 Mar. 1938 Appointed a member of the Opium Committee.
- 24 Mar. 1938 Appointed a member of the Committee for Investigating Religious System.
- 10 June 1938 Appointed a member of Investigation Committee for Diet System.
- 30 June 1938 Appointed a member of Committee for National Mobilization.
- 14 July 1938 Appointed a member of Investigation Committee of Judicial System.
- 15 Sept. 1938 Appointed a member of Preparatory Committee for Limitation of high officials.
- 2 Nov. 1938 Awarded a silver cup for meritorious service in the Japan-German United anti-comintern movement.
- 14 Dec. 1939 Conferred with 2nd grade of merit and the Order of Sacred Treasure.
- 28 Mar. 1939 Appointed a member of the Committee for national mobilization.
- 24 Apr. 1939 Appointed a member of Central Price Committee.
- 31 May 1939 Appointed acting manager of the Investigation Division of the Ministry of Justice.
- 21 June 1939 Appointed acting manager of the Investigation Division of the Ministry of Justice.
- 22 July 1939 Appointed a Member of the Committee for Investigation of small and middle class industries.

3 Aug. 1939 Appointed a member of Temporary Investigation Committee of Manchukuo Pioneering Work.

14 Sept. 1939 Appointed member of Committee for Protection of ex-criminals.

28 Oct. 1939 Appointed a member of the Committee for Limitation of high Officials;
Released from the position of a member of the Limitation Committee of high officials.

5 Dec. 1939 Appointed a member of the Committee for Investigation of the System of Judgment of family affairs.

26 Dec. 1939 Appointed a member of the Committee for Ship Building Works.

17 Jan. 1940 Appointed as a Prosecutor;
Appointed as the Public Procurator-General.

24 Jan. 1940 Appointed as a member of Committee for Investigation of the Judicial System (abolished according to the Edict No. 585, 20 June 1942);
Asked to be an adviser to Inquiry Office of Judicial Department.

31 Jan. 1940 Appointed a member of Committee for Reviewing Rules and Regulations (abolished according to Edict, No. 585, 20 June 1942)

1 July 1940 Conferred 3d court rank, Jr. Grade.

25 July 1941 Appointed Minister of Justice.

15 July 1942 Conferred 3d Court Rank, Sr. Grade.

9 Feb. 1943 Conferred 1st Class of Merit with the Order of Sacred Treasure.

29 Apr. 1940 Decorated with Double Ray of Rising Sun (for meritorious service in the China Incident).

22 July 1944 By request, released from the office;
By special favor granted privileges of his former office.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
OPERATIONS, CIS, G-2
Compilation Branch

SUBJECT: IWAMURA, Michio

1944 May 27 Minister of Justice/ he and Vice Minister OMORI
conferred with Dr. BA HAN (BURMA) and other members
of the Burma Special Research Mission on said date.

SOURCE : FCC, Daily Report, 27 May 1944

1943 June Minister of Justice, June 1943. Resigns when Koiso
Ministry is formed, July 1944, but granted privileges
of a former Minister.

SOURCE : OSS Card File.

1941 Oct-- Michiyo IWAMURA was Minister of Justice in the TOJO
1944 July Cabinet, which functioned from Oct. 1941 to July 1944.

SOURCE: Enemy news broadcast and other sources.

FROM : Prominent Persons in Japan or Japanese Dominated
Territories, 15 May 1945. DIO, 14th Naval District.

IWAMURA, Michiyo

Request by: KAYA, Okinori

Address: Confined in Sugamo Prison.

He was Minister of Justice in the Tojo Cabinet. He will be able to testify to the action of the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the Naval Minister in relation to entering into war with the United States and the British Empire, and the fact that the defendant did not participate in the discussion thereof. This testimony is relevant in regard to the charges of conspiracy and other counts of the Indictment.

IWAMURA, Michiyo

It is stated that IWAMURA utilized the reactionary bureaucratic Society "Kokuhonsha" (Society for the Foundation of the State) to attain his position of eminence. (IPS File 92-12)

Became famous for handling of Tai Koko Jin Keng Rayon Company case. Case involved many members of Zaibatsu, including Baron Nakajima (Minister of Commerce and Technology). Case involved exploitation of labor, etc. Subject acted as prosecutor.
(IPS File 92-9)

Spoke on the passage of special war criminal law; (CIS card file - Philadelphia Inquirer, April 18, 1943) (IPS File No. 92-5)

Witness called by:

KAYA

IWAMURA, Michiyo

Status: Former Minister of Justice.

Personal Relationship:

Cousin of Prime Minister YOSHIDA,
but not on good terms (their
opinions are very different).

Affiliation:

Mere figurehead of the militarist
clique as Minister of Justice.

Source: Confidential (not to be disclosed).

Name: IWAMURA, Michiyo

Social Status: Peer

Born: 21 August 1883

Domicile: Tokyo Prefecture

Graduated from Tokyo Imperial University Law Course. 17 Jul 1910

Appointed a probationary judicial officer. 2 Aug 1910

Appointed to learn the practical work at Kofu local court of Justice, Kofu Local Prosecution Section, Kofu District Court of Justice and Kofu District Prosecution Section.

Annual grant of ¥420 is allotted.

Appointed to be an acting Prosecutor at Kofu District Court.

3 Jun 1911

Relieved as an acting Prosecutor of Kofu District Court

27 Dec. 1911

Appointed Prosecutor.

10 Dec 1912

Conferred the rank of high official, 7th Class.

Ordered to be a reserve Prosecutor.

"

Ordered to be at Tokyo Local Court, Prosecution Section, and Tokyo District Prosecution Section.

Annual grant of ¥420 allotted.

Conferred the 7th Court rank, Jr. Grade

10 Feb. 1913

Appointed Prosecutor of Tokyo District Court and of Tokyo Local Court.

30 Jun 1913

Granted the 10th Grade Salary.

Granted the 9th Grade Salary.

7 Jul 1915

Conferred the rank of high official, 6th Class.

Conferred the 7th court rank, Sr. Grade.

Granted the 8th grade salary.

18 Dec 1916

Decorated with the medal in commemoration of the Grand Ceremony of Accession.	10 Nov 1915
Granted 7th Grade Salary.	5 Jul 1919
Conferred the rank of high official 5th Class	20 Nov "
Conferred the 6th court Jr. Grade	10 Dec. "
Granted 6th Class Salary	2 Jul 1920
Appointed as a councillor to the Ministry of Justice	30 Oct 1921
Conferred the rank of high official, 5th grade	
Ordered to serve at Bureau of Criminal Affairs additionally	
Granted 5th grade salary	
Conferred the rank of high Official 4th Class	11 Dec 1921
Conferred the 6th Court Rank, Sr. Grade	21 Feb 1922
Granted 4th grade salary	19 Mar 1922
Appointed to serve in Prison Bureau	28 Dec. 1922
Appointed to as Government Representative as on business under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice	
Appointed to serve in the Punitive Bureau concurrently	2 Mar 1923
Appointed as Secretary to the Minister of Justice, as well.	26 May 1922
Conferred rank of high official 4th grade	1 Apr 1923
Appointed director of the Secretariat for the Minister	
Appointed chief reporter to Kamps (Official Bulletin)	
Appointed chief Statistician	
Appointed Chairman of the temporary Investigation Committee for Legislation	18 Apr 1923
Appointed as an Investigation Officer of Capitalized pension.	5 May 1923

Conferred rank of high official 3rd class.	24 Aug 1923
Granted 3rd grade salary	10 Aug 1923
Conferred 5th Court Rank, Jr. Grade	30 Nov. 1923
Conferred with 6th Grade of Merit and with the Order of Sacred Treasure.	30 Nov. 1923
Released from serving at Punitive Bureau.	28 Jan 1924
Appointed as a prosecutor and a councillor to the Ministry of Justice. In addition, appointed secretary to him.	30 Apr 1924
Conferred rank of high official, 3rd class.	"
Appointed as prosecutor of Tokyo District Court.	"
Granted 3rd grade salary.	"
The councillorship of the Ministry of Justice has been abolished, by Edict No. 311	20 Dec. 1924
Released from the concurrent positions.	20 Dec. 1924
Granted 2nd Grade Salary.	29 Jan. 1925
Appointed Secretary to the Administration of Justice	7 Apr. 1925
Conferred rank of high official, 3rd Class.	
Ordered to serve at Punitive Bureau.	
Appointed to be a staff-secretary of the temporary Investigation Committee of Legislation	20 Jul 1925
Appointed the acting director of the Secretariate of the Minister, while Shataro Miyake, secretary to the Minister of Justice, was absent.	15 Dec. 1925
Appointed head of Protection Section of the Minister's Secretariate to serve at Criminal Bureau concurrently	31 Jan. 1926
As Shotaro Miyake returned from abroad, his position as the director of the Secretariate of the Minister terminated	15 May 1926
Ordered to serve at Punitive Bureau	17 Jun 1926
Granted 1st Grade Salary	28 Jul 1926
Conferred rank of high official 2nd Class	18 Apr 1927

Appointed as Prosecutor to the Tokyo Court of Appeal	18 Apr 1927
Granted 3rd Grade Salary	18 Apr 1927
Conferred 5th Court Rank, Sr. Grade	16 May 1927
Conferred the 5th Class of merit with the order of Sacred Treasure	30 Jun 1927
Released from other duties, besides his own proper ones	4 Oct 1927
Conferred the 4th Class of merit with the order of Sacred Treasure	7 Feb 1928
Given a silver cup for his strenuous efforts as staff secretary of the temporary investigation council of Legislation	21 Mar 1928
Granted 2nd Grade Salary	2 July 1929
Appointed Chief public procurator of the Nagoya District Court	8 sept 1932
Granted 2nd Grade Salary	"
Conferred 3rd Class of merit with the order of Sacred Treasure	8 Feb. 1933
Conferred with 4th Court Rank, Jr. Grade	Jun 1933
Granted 1st Grade Salary	26 Dec. 1934
Conferred rank of high Official 1st Class	15 Feb 1935
Appointed Chief Procurator of Tokyo District Court	2 Apr 1936
Appointed director of the Bureau of Criminal Affairs	8 Apr 1936
Conferred rank of high official 1st Class	
Appointed a member of the Opium Committee	20 Apr 1936
Appointed Chairman of the Committee for Education and Religion	18 Nov 1936
Appointed temporary member of Investigation Committee of the House Administration	Nov 1936
Appointed Government representative for business under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice at 68th Diet	

Appointed government representative for business under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice at 69th Diet	2 May 1937
Appointed as Chairman of the Commission for the Investigation of the Election System	15 Jul 1937
Appointed a member of the Committee for investigation of Lawyers	20 Aug 1937
Appointed member representing Government for business under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice at 70th Diet	24 Dec. 1937
Appointed a member of the Preparatory Committee for Limitation of Common Officials	7 Jan. 1938
Appointed prosecutor	8 Mar 1938
Conferred rank of high official 1st Class	"
Appointed prosecutor of the Supreme Court	"
Granted 2nd Grade Salary	
Appointed member of Investigation Committee of lawyers	14 Feb. 1937
Appointed prosecutor at Official Reprimand Court of Auditors	2 Apr 1937
Appointed the President of the Court of Administrative Litigation prosecutor at Official Reprimand Court	
Appointed temporary examiner of High Officials examinations	29 May 1937
Conferred 4th Court Rank, Sr. Grade	15 Jun 1937
Appointed Vice Minister of Justice	27 Dec 1937
Conferred rank of high official, 1st Class	"
Appointed adviser to Kikakuin (Planning Board)	28 Dec 1937
Appointed an adviser to Manchurian Administrative Bureau	
Appointed member of the Central Statistics Committee	
Appointed Councillor for the celebration in connection with 2600th Anniversary	
Appointed a member of the Cabinet Information Board	28 Dec 1937

Appointed a Member of Committee on Rules and Regulations.	28 Dec 1937
Appointed the director of committee of examiners of common officials	27 Nov 1937
Appointed a member of the investigation committee of Weights and Measures System	12 Jun 1938
Appointed a member of the investigation committee of the National Properties	27 Jan 1938
Appointed a member of Preparatory Committee for constructing Central Government Buildings	
Appointed a member of the Central Committee for City-planning	15 Feb 1938
Appointed a member of Investigation Committee for Planning	19 Feb 1938
Appointed a member of the Opium Committee	7 Mar 1938
Appointed a member of the Committee for Investigating Religious System	24 Mar 1938
Appointed a member of Investigation Committee for Diet System	10 Jun 1938
Appointed a member of Committee for National Mobilization	30 Jun 1938
Appointed a member of Investigation Committee of Judicial System	14 Jul 1938
Appointed a member of Preparatory Committee for Limitation of high officials	15 Sept 1938
Awarded a silver cup for meritorious service in the Japan-German United anti-comintern movement	2 Nov 1938
Conferred with 2nd grade of merit and the Order of Sacred Treasure	14 Dec 1939
Appointed a member of the Committee for national mobilization	28 Mar 1939
Appointed a member of Central Price Committee	24 Apr 1939
Appointed acting manager of the Investigation Division of the Ministry of Justice	31 May 1939

IWAMURA, MICHIO

(Source -- Who's Who in Nippon -- 1943-44)

Justice Minister; b. Aug. 1883; 5th s. of Michitoshi I.; m. Yae, e.d. of Naonojo Miyake. Educ.: Tokyo Imp Univ., law, 1910. Career: public procurator; chief public procurator, Tokyo District Court, 1934; director, Criminal Affairs Bur. of Justice Ministry; Procurator-General of Supreme Court, 1937; present post, July 1941.. Address: 103, Ogikubo 2-chome, Suginami-ku, Tokyo.

(Source -- Japanese Personal Intelligence Volume I)

1943 Minister of Justice.

1940 Procurator-General of Supreme Court; Appointed Dec. 1937.

Born: Aug. 1883; 5th s. of Michitoshi IWAMURA; m. Yae, e.d. of Naonojo MIYAKE, Tokyo.

Career: Grad Tokyo Imp. Univ. law, 1910.

Public Procurator;

1934 Chief Public Procurator Tokyo District Court
Director of Criminal Affairs Bureau of Justice Dept. (Ministry).

COPY NO. 92

RE : IWAMURA, NICHIO
STATUS: PENDING

AGE : 62 years
ADDRESS : 2, 103, Ogikubo, Suginami-ku, TOKYO.
GOVT POSTS : Minister of Justice, Oct. 41 - July 44.
FAMILY : Wife, Yae - Son, Michio Jr. - 3 other sons & 2 daughters.
INCIDENTAL : War Criminal List Interned 15 Sept 45. Turned in by
Jap Govt. Prisoner XI Corps Stockade as of 17 Sept. 45.

SOURCE: CIS Files 19 Nov. 45

J. J. GAINES, JR.
Capt. Inf.

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