

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

ŌKURA KIMMOCHI

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. I have been a member of the House of Peers for many years, and since 1937 have been managing director of the Kokusaku Kenkyūkai (Society for Study of the National Policy). This society was an organization of purely private nature, maintained by membership fees and contributions from official and private sources. A detailed account of the nature and operations of the Society having been given to the Tribunal by the witness Tatsugi (Exhibit No. 678), I refrain from repeating it here, and shall state only the following facts in explanation of the relation of Mr. Tōgō Shigenori to the Society.

2. Membership in the Society was open to all, and withdrawal from membership also was quite free and voluntary. Accordingly there used to be continual change in the membership, and those members who did not belong to some committee of the Society were (with the exception of a few interested who sometimes expressed their opinions at some meeting or other) so little connected with the activities of the Society that the only benefit they derived from being members was that they were sometimes invited to the lecture-meetings which the Society held in compensation for the fees paid, and received the periodicals published by the Society. Many of the members failed to pay their membership fees, but so long as they did not express the desire to withdraw from the Society they were treated as members and received the periodical publications of the Society. But in no circumstances were the major, special, publications of the Society, such as those introduced as evidence by the prosecution (Exhibits Nos. 684 and 685) ever distributed to ordinary members.

3. Mr. Tōgō joined the Society, if I remember right, in 1942 after he had resigned his post of foreign minister. He was of course only an ordinary member, having never had any connection with any of the committees nor in any way participated in the management of the Society, as an officer or director. I did at one time approach him with the suggestion that he become a member of the Executive Committee, but he rejected the suggestion. Moreover, so far as I remember, he did not attend any of the meetings held by the Society, and I do not even remember whether he paid membership fees. To speak honestly, he was a half-hearted and uncoöperative member.

Def. Doc. 2747

4. About December 1941 I called on Mr. Nishi, then the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom I had long been acquainted, and asked for a contribution of ¥20,000 from the Foreign Ministry, explaining to him that the Society was soliciting contributions for the purpose of undertaking the study of various wartime problems. The Society received the money from the Foreign Ministry some two or three months later. At the time of the making of the above request, the concrete program of study of the Society had not yet been decided, and my explanation to the Vice-Minister naturally was sketchy and rather vague as to particulars. I submitted no written program in connection with the request for a contribution. It may be added that I have never seen Mr. Tōgō on any business concerning this or any other contribution to the Society.

On this 25th day of October, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT ŌKURA Kimmochi (seal)

I, Shichida Motoharu, 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: Shichida Motoharu (Seal)

O A T H

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

Ōkura Kimmochi (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  
15 November 1947