

Def. Doc. # 2118

Exh. No. 2217

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition (translation)

Deponent: KOBAYASHI, Seizo

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.

1. Prior to my retirement in November 1945. I, Seizo KOBAYASHI, held the following positions: Navy Vice Minister; Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet; Full Admiral in 1933 (the 8th Year of Showa); placed on the reserve list in March 1936 (the 11th Year of Showa); appointed Governor-General of Taiwan in September of the same year and retired in November 1940; and State Minister without Portfolio from December 1944 to March 1945.

2. I was present at the Geneva Naval Disarmament Conference of 1927 as a Chief attendant from the Navy with

the Japanese delegation and Mr. KAYA was with us as an attendant from the Finance Ministry. In the course of his duties in this connection Mr. KAYA worded out many figures to demonstrate how, when the disarmament treaty is concluded, our naval expenditures necessary in building and maintaining battleships would be cut down; and how the anticipated increase of our naval expenditures could be prevented. His purpose in so doing was to encourage the Japanese delegation to reach an agreement on Naval limitations; he made clear to them how effective and important the conclusion of the treaty was for the lightening of the burden of the treasury and the people and enthusiastically pleaded with the delegation and attendants for the necessity of bringing the Treaty into being.

3. I served as Chief of the Naval Affairs Bureau of the Navy Ministry from December 1923 to March 1927; as Chief, Naval Technical Dept. from February 1929 to June 1930; and as Vice Navy Minister from June 1930 to November 1931. During this time, when necessary, I negotiated personally with the Finance Ministry officials concerned. Mr. KAYA was giving most careful attention and study. During this period to the War and Navy budgets and was exerting every effort to cut them or check their increase as far as possible.

Def. Doc. # 2118

4. Hailing from the same province as myself, Mr. KAYA had been an intimate friend of mine. In May, 1938, I, who was then the Governor-General of Formosa, came to Tokyo and called on Mr. KAYA, the then Finance Minister, at his official residence to talk with him on the budget for the Government-General of Formosa.

After having carefully listened to my explanation on the budget scheme, he said to me in a serious tone that he understood my point put as he was going to resign his post as Finance Minister that day he would transfer my business to his successor.

It was quite a revelation to me. So I asked him the reason. He answered in substance that when last summer the so-called China Incident broke out at Lukouchiao the Government promptly decided upon a policy of "non-expansion and settlement of the incident on the spot."

In compliance with this Government policy, he said, he endeavored to minimize the military appropriations for the incident, and had taken only temporary, emergency measures in the matter of source of revenues to cover those appropriations. But contrary to their wishes, the incident spread wider and wider with the consequent increase in the military appropriations which the present temporizing revenue measure was incapable of meeting. It would become inevitable to

Def. Doc. # 2118

impose a heavy burden upon the people. The thought, he said, was unbearable to him.

Moreover, as the incident spread there seemed to grow in the influential circle an atmosphere of dissatisfaction with him as Finance Minister, so he made up his mind to resign.

5. On 18 October 1941 the TOJO Cabinet was formed and Mr. KAYA was appointed Finance Minister. On the day following his appointment he came to talk to me. Since the Japanese-American problem had become the subject of much discussion I inquired of Mr. KAYA, in the course of this conversation, how he came to enter the TOJO Cabinet. In reply there-to he stated: "If the TOJO Cabinet is all-out for war of course, I would not have accepted a seat in it. Since that was a matter of utmost concern for me, when I was asked to join his Cabinet the first thing I questioned him was about this. He answered that the U.S.-Japanese negotiations would be continued and that he was resolved to do his best to arrive at an understanding, so I came to accept his offer." I also recall that in the course of this conversation with Mr. KAYA he expressed his desire to bring the U.S.-Japanese negotiations to a peaceful conclusion by all means.

Def Doc No. 2118

On this 12 day of August, 1947

at Ichigaya, Tokyo

DEPONENT KOBAYASHI, Seizo (seal)

I, Kobayashi, Yosnio, 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 same place

witness: (signed) TAKANO, Tsuruo (seal)

oath

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

KOBAYASHI, Seizo (seal)