

## INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al )

- AGAINST - )

ARAKI, SADAO, et al. )

A F F I D A V I T

I, YONAI, Mitsumasa, do swear on my conscience that the following is true:

I was connected with the government of Japan for many years. I was Navy Minister in the HAYASHI Cabinet, the first KONOYE Cabinet, the HIRANUMA Cabinet and the SUZUKI Cabinet. I was Prime Minister from January 16, 1940 to July 21, 1940. While I was Navy Minister in the First KONOYE Cabinet the Marco Polo Bridge Incident took place in China in July 1937. I remember this incident very well and the subsequent discussions of this incident in cabinet meetings. The Army commenced hostilities in China at this time without authority from the cabinet or without any notice whatsoever to the cabinet. General SUGIYAMA, Hajime was War Minister, Prince KANIN was Chief of the Army General Staff but was rather inactive and the burden of his office was carried by the Vice-Chief of the Army General Staff, General IMAI, Kiyoshi. The Inspector General of Military Education was General HATA, Sunroku. The Vice-Minister of War was General UMEZU, Yashijiro; the Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army was General UEDA, Kenkichi, and General TOJO, Hideki was Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army. These aforesaid officers held leading positions in the Army at the time of the beginning of the China Incident.

I served as Navy Minister throughout the HIRANUMA Cabinet. During this time the conclusion of the Tri-partite Pact with the Axis Powers was vigorously advocated by the military clique, mainly through the person of General ITAGAKI, Seishiro, who held the portfolio of Minister of War. The Chief of the Army General Staff was still Prince KANIN, General IMAI, Kiyoshi was Vice-Chief of Staff of the Army General Staff and carried the burden because of Prince KANIN's infirmities. The Inspector General of Military Education was General NISHIO, Juzo, General UEDA, Kenkichi was Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army and General ISOYA, Goro was Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army. The Prime Minister HIRANUMA held what was known as the Five Ministers' Conference on this Pact. The Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the War Minister, the Finance Minister and myself as Navy Minister met many, many times in lengthy debate on the consideration of this Pact. Finally the Prime Minister, HIRANUMA, and I, the Navy Minister, joined against General ITAGAKI, Seishiro, the War Minister and decided the conference against ratification of such a Pact. As a result the War Minister ITAGAKI, Seishiro and the militarists whom he represented were so displeased that Prime Minister HIRANUMA resigned with his Cabinet October 29, 1939.



I became Prime Minister of Japan in January, 1940 and served as such until July 21, 1940. General HATA, Sunroku held the Portfolio of Minister of War in my cabinet. Prince KANIN was Chief of the Army General Staff, though very inactive. The Vice-Chief of the Army General Staff was General TSUKADA, Osami; the Inspector General of Military Education was General YAMADA, Otozo; the Chief of Military Affairs Bureau was General MUTO, Akira and the Vice-Minister of War was General ANAMI, Korechika.

The militarists, through the aforesaid Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau, General MUTO, urged that my cabinet resign because of its policies in regard to world affairs. There was great agitation in the public press of Japan at this time by militaristic and ultra-nationalistic elements in favor of the proposed tripartite Pact with the Axis Powers. My cabinet agreed, after much discussion, not to conclude this Pact. At this time the aforesaid General HATA, Sunroku, the War Minister, spoke to me and said that "with a weak cabinet such as the YONAI Cabinet, I, the War Minister, would not be able to control my subordinates in the Army so that I want to resign from the Cabinet." Then I asked the aforesaid General HATA to confer, in accordance with law and custom, with the other two members of the military triumvirate, that is, the Army Chief of Staff, Prince KANIN, who was very inactive and whose official responsibilities were carried by the Vice-Chief of the Army General Staff, General TSUKADA, Osami; and the Inspector General of Military Education, General YAMADA, Otozo; and to furnish me with a nominee to succeed to the Portfolio of Minister of War. The aforesaid General HATA, Sunroku, returned some time later and said that he had conferred with the aforesaid Army Chief of Staff, General TSUKADA, Osami and the aforesaid Inspector General of Military Education, General YAMADA, Otozo and stated "It is my opinion that you will not find another General willing to accept the Portfolio of War Minister today". I understood that he meant as long as I was Prime Minister. I, therefore, resigned with my cabinet and went into retirement. The collapse of my cabinet was due to five reasons: (1) Army's ill-feeling towards my cabinet from the very beginning; (2) this attitude continued right along; (3) in early July there was an unsuccessful attempt to attack my private home; (4) the active opposition of the aforesaid Chief of Military Affairs Bureau, General MUTO, Akira; and (5) the submission, on July 15, of the resignation of the aforesaid War Minister, General HATA, Sunroku.

To put it briefly, the fall of my cabinet was forced by the Army and other militaristic and aggressive-minded organizations.

(s) Yonai, Mitsunasa  
YONAI, Mitsunasa

Sworn and subscribed to before the undersigned officer by the above-named YONAI, Mitsunasa, at War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, this 16th day of June, 1946.

(s) Harryman Dorsey, Captain JAGD

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, (s) Thomas Wild, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages, and that I, this day, read the foregoing Affidavit to the above-named YONAI, Mitsunasa in Japanese, and in so doing, truly and correctly



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translated the contents thereof from English into Japanese; and that said YONAI, Mitsunasa stated to me that the contents of said Affidavit were the truth, and that he was willing to sign said Affidavit under oath; and that said YONAI, Mitsunasa was duly sworn in my presence and signed said Affidavit under oath in my presence; and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said Affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 16th day of June, 1946, at Tokyo, Japan.

(s) Thomas Wild  
2nd Lt. M-1.

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