

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al. }

- AGAINST - }

ARAKI, SADA0, et al. }

A F F I D A V I T

I, General UGAKI, Kazushige, do swear on my conscience that the following is true:

In 1924 I was a lieutenant general in the Imperial Japanese Army and held the Portfolio of Minister of War. In accord with the government policy of reducing armaments and retrenching expenditures, I ordered and succeeded in reducing the size of the Japanese Army. I became War Minister again in the HAMAGUCHI Cabinet. While occupying this position in January or February 1931, certain officers of the Military Police reported to me that Dr. OKAWA Shumei, a well-known ultra-nationalist leader, was planning some kind of a demonstration around the Diet Building when the Diet would be in session. I did not take this too seriously at the time. However, later on in March 1931, I received a letter from the aforesaid Dr. OKAWA Shumei in which he suggested that I become head of his movement to establish the Showa Restoration.

I continued to receive reports from various officers in the General Staff about the aforesaid Dr. OKAWA Shumei. As they seemed to be more serious than I at first believed, I conferred with the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau General KOISO Kuniaki and the Vice Minister of War General SUGIYAMA, Hajime. They informed me that there was a plot by which the aforesaid Dr. OKAWA Shumei and others were to seize the reins of the government, and that I was scheduled to become the head of this revolutionary government. The aforesaid General KOISO and the aforesaid General SUGIYAMA told me at this time that the aforesaid Dr. OKAWA Shumei desired the aid of the Army in the execution of this plot. I immediately ordered both of the aforesaid Generals KOISO and SUGIYAMA to stop all plans for the carrying out of this revolutionary coup by the use of the Army at once and to so advise the conspirators. This plot was later known as the March Incident. I resigned with the HAMAGUCHI Cabinet on April 13, 1931 and voluntarily retired from the Army.

In 1937 after the fall of the HIROTA Cabinet I was ordered by the Emperor to form a cabinet and attempted to do so. Under the laws then existing it was necessary that the Minister of War be a general or a lieutenant general in active service. Nominations for this portfolio were made by the Inspector General of Military Education, The Chief of the Army General Staff, and the retiring War Minister. The retiring War Minister was General TERUCHI, Hisaichi. The Vice Chief of the Army General Staff was General NISHIO, Jugo, who acted for the ailing Prince KANN. The Inspector General of Military Education was General SUGIYAMA, Hajime. The opposition of the military was such because of my prior activities as War Minister in reducing the size of the Japanese Army and because I refused to cooperate with the militaristic clique in the Army General Staff in carrying out the March Incident. Although the Army triumvirate submitted to me the names of three persons of sufficient rank to fill the post of Minister of War, all three of these persons refused the appointment, and it thus became necessary for me to advise the Emperor that I was unable to form a cabinet as commanded.

/s/ K. UGAKI
UGAKI, Kazushige

Sworn and subscribed to before the undersigned officer by the above-named UGAKI, Kazushige, at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, this 15th day of June, 1946.

/s/ Harryman Dorsey
Captain, JAGD

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jerry M. Sumiyoshi 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 UGAKI, Kazushige in Japanese, and in so doing,
truly and correctly translated the contents thereof from
English into Japanese; and that said UGAKI, Kazushige 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 UGAKI, Kazushige 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 trans-
lated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese
and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 15th day of June, 1946, at Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ Pfc. Jerry M. Sumiyoshi

Document 1828

Envelope:

(To) His Excellency UGAKI, Kazushige

(Note: Red-pencilled note on same side says:
"Troof regarding March Incident Left (Wing)."

Reverse: (From) OKA A, Shumei

I beg to state that according to what the rumors report, by the 13th, Premier HAMAGUCHI is intending to tender his resignation. Though this is not evident, yet that this will not happen cannot be guaranteed. And if it were so, the disturbance which would arise in the political world would be exceedingly great, and fearful muddy waves may swallow Your Excellency.

Now all hopes of the nation are concentrated on Your Excellency, and those who really feel anxiety over the nation earnestly desire Your Excellency to accomplish the great work of the SHOWA Renovation.

At the same time, the members of political parties too support Your Excellency, and intend to maintain their old influence. As the political situation is so acute, that conspiracy would undoubtedly be very vigorous.

During our unconsciousness, the progress of the nation has rapidly changed, with an increase in the many difficulties, and the nation's political path has now been followed to the very brink. Signs of disorder are already pressing upon us. Years of national vainglory fade in a moment, reckless and inactive industry is fast falling into decay, undeserved rewards are suddenly on the decrease and useless planning collapses of its own weight, as a sick man whose pains increase, but who has no place where he might appeal in his pain. The ready-made parties have entirely lost confidence under Heaven. Every mouth among the people has cursed parliamentary politics. Vital now is the need for a great man of ability to overcome disorder, and vindicate righteousness. Who else but you can we seek as one who can solemnly shoulder the burden of the Imperial soil! The whole nation is irresolute. Not that many are without wisdom and tact, but none of them has any courage to carry out his own belief according to righteousness.

Belief is always a power, and it is the greatest power today. The whole world has lost self-confidence. If you stand up with a belief that never hesitates, filled with patriotic lamentation, and warm yourself with dedicated blood, forgetting immediate trivial matters, thinking of great things only, and bravely stand and commit yourself to the great cause of your Emperor and Fatherland, men of the same mind would respond to you wherever they are, and a great thing would certainly be accomplished. The time is just ahead for a grand mission to descend on you. Please cherish self-respect, make up your mind to be the head of a group which will accomplish a great work, and don't be held by such common people as men of the political parties to become their leader. Oh, our comrades have been awaiting the approach of this day for thirteen years. Now, when I see that the life of the whole Empire is pending on your decision, I feel awe-inspired. Pray Your Excellency, do not let us fall into the abyss of despair. Further, under your leadership we comrades will devote all the best part of ourselves and each bearing his share of the great righteousness of our country completely change over the Empire. Let the Imperial dignity be uplifted within and without the country and let the time come soon, even one minute quicker.

(Sign.) OKAWA, Shumei

To General UGAKI, Kazushige

March 6, 1931