

Def. Doc. No. 2694

Exh. No. 3589

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: SAITO, Yoshie

I, SAITO, Yoshie, being first duly sworn, according to the customary formality in this country, depose and state:

1. I have already made an affidavit, Def. Doc. No. 332, in favour of defendant SHIRATORI, Toshio. I now desire to make the following additional deposition for the same defendant.

2. As I testified in Def. Doc. No. 332, I was appointed advisor of the Foreign Office, together with Mr. SHIRATORI, on August 28, 1940. I assisted Foreign Minister MATSUOKA in technical matters concerning the drafting and negotiation of the Tripartite Pact concluded on September 27, 1940. Mr. OHASHI, Chuichi was appointed Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs on August 19, 1940. Mr. MATSUMOTO, Shunichi, who was the Councillor of the Japanese Embassy at Nanking, China,

returned to Tokyo on September 5, 1940, and was made Chief of the Treaty Bureau of the Foreign Office on the same day, but he began assisting the Foreign Minister in technical matters concerning the Pact several weeks after that appointment.

3. Mr. MATSUMOTO states in Exhibit No. 3145-A (Def. Doc. No. 1656-A) that "On 5 September 1940 a plan, as Annex No. 1, was drafted by Vice Foreign Minister OHASHI, the advisors SHIRATORI and SAITO, and presented by Foreign Minister MATSUOKA to the Four-Minister Conference for consideration." (record, page 27,986). This statement is entirely erroneous. OHASHI, SHIRATORI and myself never made that plan on September 5, 1940, or on any other date.

4. The said Annex No. 1, attached to Exhibit No. 3145-A, is exactly the same as the document entitled "Strengthening of the Japan-Germany-Italy Axis" (Exhibit No. 541, record pages 6307-6308), which was adopted on September 4, 1940, at the Four-Minister Conference, and which was later confirmed by the Liaison Conference of September 19, 1940 (record page 27,994). It is unimaginable that the plan which was decided upon by the Four-Minister Conference on September 4th should be drafted the following day by OHASHI, SHIRATORI and myself to be presented by MATSUOKA to a Four-Minister Conference.

5. At the top of the document entitled "Draft of Basic Principles Concerning Negotiations for a Military Alliance", that is to say, on page 2 of the English translation of Annex No. 1 to Exhibit No. 3145-A (page 12 of the original Japanese text of same Exhibit and page 9 of Exhibit for identification No. 3145), there are two dates and two marginal notes. One date is "6 August 1940", which is crossed out (in the original Japanese text, the date is in black colour, which is crossed out by a red line), and the other "4 September 1940" (in the original Japanese text, the date is in red colour). The first marginal note reads: "The draft is a revised draft made by Army-Navy officials concerned", and the second "The red letters are a revised draft by the Foreign Office." The two marginal notes in the original Japanese text are in red colour. The revision in red colour in the original Japanese text extends over the whole document, that is to say, pages 12 - 26 of the original Japanese text of Exhibit No. 3145-A, and pages 9 - 29 of Exhibit for identification No. 3145 (pages 2 - 16 of the English translation of the Annex No. 1 to Exhibit No. 3145-A).

These facts show clearly that the document entitled "Draft of Basic Principles Concerning Negotiations for a Military Alliance" (pages 2-16 of the English translation

of the Annex No. 1 to Exhibit No. 3145-A), was a revised draft made by Army-Navy officials concerned on August 6, 1940, and that it was again revised by the Foreign Office on September 4, 1940. That will unmistakably show that the original document had been drafted before Mr. OHASHI was appointed Vice Minister, and SHIRATORI and myself became advisors.

6. I have no knowledge as to who drafted the original of the document adopted by the Four-Minister Conference on September 4, 1940, in other words, Annex No. 1 to Exhibit No. 3145-A. I was shown this document by Foreign Minister MATSUOKA after it had passed the Four-Minister Conference, but it was not shown to Mr. SHIRATORI at any time. as I stated in my affidavit, Def. Doc. No. 332. I had nothing to do with the revision of this document by the Foreign Office on September 4, 1940, and I know for certain that Mr. SHIRATORI also had no connection with it.

M 7. On or about September 5, 1940, Foreign Minister MATSUOKA invited Mr. OHASHI, Mr. SHIRATORI and myself, together with other officials of the Foreign Office, to a luncheon and told us in a rather desultory way that since Mr. Stahmer was shortly expected to arrive in Tokyo, he intended to broach the question of strengthening the three power axis. But neither on that occasion nor at any other

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time was there any discussion among us on the plan adopted by the Four-Minister Conference (namely, Annex No. 1 to Exhibit No. 3145-A) or any other plan in this matter.

On this 3 day of October, 1947,
at Tokyo, Japan.

/S/ SAITO, Yoshie (seal)

Sworn to, deposed, and stated, and subscribed before
me on the above mentioned date at the same place.

Witness: /S/ SAKUMA, Shin (seal)

OATH

I swear according to my conscience to state the whole
truth, reserve nothing that I know, nor add anything that
I do not know.

/S/ SAITO, Yoshie (seal)