

3369

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al



AFFIDAVIT OF
TANAKA, Tadakatsu

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. I, TANAKA, Tadakatsu, was born in Yamaguchi Prefecture on September 25, 1904. After graduating from the Military College, I successively served as staff-officer of various units and was then appointed adjutant of the War Ministry and concurrently secretary to the War Minister in February 1941, remaining in these offices up to April 1943. Throughout the whole duration of the then Lieutenant-General KIMURA's tenure of office of the Vice War Minister, I was always with him and assisted him as secretary attached to the Vice Minister. Documents to be read or reviewed by the Vice-Minister were all handled by me, except those directly brought and handed him by officers in charge. Moreover, as the Vice-Minister used to tell me of a greater part of what he participated in and besides I was in attendance on him in almost all his dealings, I am fully familiar with a greater part of KIMURA's activities during his tenure of office of the Vice-Minister.

2. Before his assumption of office as Vice-Minister, General KIMURA was in the same office with General TOJO for about six months as Director of the Ordnance Bureau at the time when TOJO was Vice War Minister. Excepting this, KIMURA never served in the same government office, school or army with TOJO, and he has had no connection whatever with General TOJO politically, ideologically or individually.

As to the reason for the appointment of General KIMURA to the post of Vice-Minister, I have heard that it was to make him help the Minister in regard to the special and technical administration of arms which is his forte and also to promote the intra-Ministry harmony and cooperation through his old acquaintanceship with different bureau directors at the time when he was Director of the Ordnance Bureau.

3. Vice-Minister KIMURA hails from Sagami Prefecture which had not many career soldiers and with but few noted seniors. I am not sure whether or not there was any clique or sectionalism within the Army. But in any case, KIMURA had no connection whatever with it. Until his assumption of office of Vice-Minister, he was

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exclusively a genuine soldier chiefly engaged in artillery education, technical administration of arms and army commander; and did his best in the field of ordnance administration with his profound knowledge and experience in this line.

During his tenure of office of the Vice-Minister, KIMURA was not in a position to play his role positively on account of the surroundings at that time. Minister TOJO was well versed in military administration, especially proficient in business affairs, besides being a man of special industry. With "Command at the head of the column" and "Simplification and despatch of business" as mottoes, he held power over principal bureau and department chiefs and ordered them direct, and conducted business positively and decisively. Most of these bureau and department chiefs were in their respective positions for a long time and they were all skilled men of ability; so they were conducting business promptly and correctly, faithfully complying with the intention of the Minister. Under such circumstances, the actual state of affairs at that time was that Vice-Minister KIMURA naturally used his ability principally in the sphere of ordnance administration, in which he was well versed; and simultaneously endeavored to facilitate the skilled and talented Minister as well as bureau and department chiefs to display their abilities to the fullest extent.

I recollect a part of General KIMURA's address at a farewell meeting held in March 1943 (18th year of SHOWA), when he was transferred from Vice-Minister to the post of head of the Ordnance Administration Headquarters, which follows:

"During my tenure of office of Vice-Minister, I thought it proper for me as an assistant of Minister TOJO, to make every effort for business simplification and despatch as well as the unity and conciliation of the whole Ministry, in order to contribute to the perfect realization of Minister TOJO's 'command at the head of the column', and at the same time facilitate bureau and department chiefs giving full scope to their abilities; and I acted accordingly. However, now I have been appointed head of the Ordnance Administration Headquarters, so I will display my ambition positively by means of the 'command at the head of the column' - - - -"

I believe these words of his are more than enough to reveal his frame of mind during his tenure of office of the Vice-Minister. Furthermore, I heard him reveal similar expressions on occasion, while I was in contact with him as his secretary.

As Minister TOJO was always extremely pressed with the heap of various miscellaneous business matters in addition to important state affairs, ceremonial matters of all kinds and other miscellaneous businesses were almost exclusively transacted by the Vice-Minister so that the Minister may concentrate his energy chiefly on important matters. Hence, the Vice-Minister was always very busy too.

5. General TOJO, even after his assumption of office of the Prime Minister and the concurrent Minister of War, abided by his principle of the "command at the head of the column" all the more; and conducted the business of the War Ministry himself

promptly and with extraordinary efforts, without entrusting important matters to others. Therefore, the functions and competence of Vice-Minister KIMURA were not subjected to any change compared with those of the days when General TOJO was the full-service War Minister. Nor was the Vice-Minister ordered to act as proxy to conduct Minister's functions.

Besides, it was rather rare that the Minister was absent from Tokyo on account of official tours, and if any, the duration was very short; and there was not a single instance of the Vice-Minister's conduction of the functions of the Minister in his place even during this period.

6. (1) The bureau chiefs conference was held twice weekly as a rule. This was not a conference in the true sense of the word but was merely a business liaison to make necessary reports to the Minister and Vice-Minister by different bureau and department chiefs concerning matters in their respective charges, and simultaneously make mutual exchange of information among themselves for the purpose of establishing smooth business operation.

The bureau directors' conference was presided over by the War Minister both in name and reality and he was very careful in guiding it even in minor matters. Although there were cases where the Minister was prevented from attending the conference, and consequently the Vice-Minister presided over it, they were very few and the conference was often given up because of the absence of the Minister. When the Minister was absent, his secretary used to make a record of the main points of the conference to report it to the Minister afterwards.

I have no memory of having heard at either the bureau directors conference or any other occasions during my term of office in the War Ministry any protest or information regarding ill treatment of prisoners of war.

(2) The contents of the communication issued in the name of the Vice-Minister by order of the Minister, concerning the disposal of prisoners of war at present (Court exhibit No. 1955-A) were reported by Chief UEMURA of the Prisoner of War Administration Division at a bureau directors' conference, and the decision and approval were obtained therefore direct from the Minister at that time.

7. The KEMPEI or the military police is a special army under the direct control of the Minister of War based on the Ordinance concerning the KEMPEI and the Vice-Minister of War has no right to control it.

8. The decision on the purport of "The Vice-Minister's communication by order of the War Minister concerning the treatment of the enemy air crew members who entered Japan with the object of raiding its territory", bearing RIKUMITSU (TN: Army secret) No. 2196, dated July 28, 1942 (Court exhibit No. 1992) was made by the War Minister, with his consent given to the direct demand of the Chief of the General Staff.

9. The matters concerning the employment of prisoners of war in the construction works of the Burma-Siam Railways were decided through direct negotiations between the Chief of the General Staff and the Minister of War. The relative construction order was drafted and issued by the General Staff Office.

10. The Vice-Minister of War had no material connection whatever with the drafting of the bill for the revision of the Disciplinary Law for Prisoners of War (Court Exhibit No. 1965-A). To be more precise, the bill was drafted and formulated by the Bureaus and Sections concerned to meet the actual requirement, and after consultations with the Legislative Bureau, it was decided at a Cabinet Council and then approved by the Diet. The fact is that Vice-Minister KIMURA knew the bill and the reason thereof only a few days prior to its introduction to the Diet and that he explained the reason before the Diet session.

11. Like Vice-Ministers of other Ministries, Vice-Minister KIMURA was entrusted with the task of either a member or a councillor of various committees, but many such committees were established customarily in each Ministry and most of them were only nominal. Vice-Minister KIMURA did not attend most of these committee meetings, and even if he attended them on very rare occasions, his attendance was nothing but formal or conventional.

12. Vice-Minister KIMURA did never attend the meetings of the commanders of the prisoner of war camps in the Ministry of War.

13. At the time when the Minister of War delivered instructions to the Commander of the Zentsuji Division on May 30, 1942 (Court Exhibit No. 1960), Vice-Minister KIMURA did not attend on the Minister's tour of inspection. Nor did the Vice-Minister participate in drafting the manuscript of the instructions.

14. I have never seen nor read "The Report on the Violent Conducts in Malaya Peninsula" (Court Exhibit No. 476), nor have I heard of it from Vice-Minister KIMURA.

15. I have never heard that Vice-Minister KIMURA supported the German-Japanese Military Alliance.

16. The contact of Vice-Minister KIMURA with the German military officers in Japan was limited to the exchange of ceremonial greetings or compliments on festival days and so forth. He never met them on other business.

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Def. Doc. 954 (2nd Rev.)

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE ATTACHED
TO DEF. DOC. NO. 954 (2nd Rev.)

On this 12th day of September 1947

At HARU-MACHI, SHOBU-CHO, MINAMI-
SAITAMA-GUN, SAITAMA-KEN

DEPONENT: (s) TANAKA, Tadakatsu (seal)

I, ABE, Akira, 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 the same place

WITNESS: (s) ABE, Akira, (seal)

OATH

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

(s) TANAKA, Tadakatsu (seal)

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