



# 国际检察局讯问记录

Numerical Case Files Relating to  
Particular Incidents and Suspected War Criminals,  
International Prosecution Section (1945-1947)

国家图书馆 上海交通大学 编

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INTERROGATION OF

SHIODEN, Nobutaka

Date and Time: 11 April 1947, 1000 - 1130  
Place: Room "F", SUGANO Prison  
Present: SHIODEN, Nobutaka  
Mr. William E. Edwards, Interrogator  
Sgt. Ode, Interpreter  
Miss H. O. Briggs, Stenographer

Q. My name is Mr. Edwards. I am on the International Prosecution Section of the Tribunal. Will you please state your full name?

A. SHIODEN, Nobutaka.

Q. You are a former Lieutenant General, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. It is true, is it not that in January 1946 you were interrogated by Commander Shea in this institution?

A. January 24.

Q. That is correct. I have before me, General, a copy of the transcript of that interrogation and so will not find it necessary to review your educational background or your military career. Moreover, I think substantially it will not be necessary to review in detail your political career. I think that will save us a great deal of time.

General SHIODEN, directing your attention to this card upon which appears in Japanese the names of all the defendants now on trial, I shall ask you if you know all these defendants?

A. There is difference in the acquaintance, but I know them all.

Q. Have you been subpoenaed or called to serve as a witness for anyone or all of these defendants, General SHIODEN?

A. No.

Q. Have you had occasion to confer with the lawyer, or lawyers, of any one or more of these defendants?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you please state with what lawyer or lawyers you have conferred and on the behalf of which one of the defendants?

A. KOISO--his assistant of counsel. I forget his name.

Q. Do I understand you correctly; you conferred with lawyers for the defendant KOISO?

Q. Just one assistant of counsel of KOISO. I met once with my counsel, KIKUCHI.

Q. Approximately when did your conference for the defendant KOISO take place?

A. I have the date in my diary, but I think it was early in January of this year. It may have been the end of last year.



Q. And that conference took place here in SUGANO Prison?

A. Yes.

Q. It is not my purpose at all, General, to inquire into the nature of the subject matter you discussed with KOISO's lawyer. My reason for making these inquiries is as follows. The International Military Tribunal has ruled that those of us on the Prosecution staff shall not interrogate any person who is to appear as a witness for anyone of the defendants, unless by special consent of the Tribunal. Therefore, for that reason, coupled with our own desire to abide by the dictates of professional ethics, I find it advisable to ask you a few questions regarding your contacts with the counsel for the defendants.

A. I understand.

Q. Did KOISO's lawyer indicate that he would like to have you appear as a witness for the defense?

A. He did not say so, but I asked him that question. I asked him if it was necessary for me to appear as witness. The lawyer counsel told me that at the present moment there was no need for me to appear but that later on he might have to ask me to appear as witness.

Q. Did the lawyer for the defendant KOISO ask you to give a statement in writing, or an affidavit?

A. No. There was no such request. It was not a formal investigation. The counsel came to me to ask for my opinion, to learn certain facts. Shall I elaborate on that?

Q. No, that is sufficient.

A. I don't mind telling you.

Q. Thank you, General. As I stated a few moments ago, it is not my intention or intent to probe into the contents of the discussion with the counsel. It is true, is it not, that you had a rather extended military career in the Imperial Japanese Army?

A. That is correct.

Q. And it is further true, is it not, that you ultimately attained the rank of lieutenant general?

A. That is correct.

Q. It is further true, is it not, that sometime ago you retired from active service in the army?

A. That is correct.

Q. When did your retirement take place, General SHIODEN?

A. Approximately eighteen years ago.

Q. Sometime in 1929?

A. That is correct.

Q. And is my further understanding correct that no time since your retirement in 1929 have you been called back into the service?

A. I have not been called back.

Q. Since your retirement from active service in the Army, your life has been largely devoted to a political life, has it not, General SHIODEN?

- A. That is not altogether correct. Later on I was active; I appeared in political circles. I lent my efforts to civil aviation after retiring from active duty.
- Q. You have stated, General, that you are acquainted in various degrees with the defendants involved in the instant trial. I should now like to ask you as a result of your army career, or as a result of any private business relations, or as a result of your political career, do you bear ill will toward anyone or more of the defendants?
- A. There is no person against whom I particularly have ill feelings.
- Q. Let me ask you then, General, if to your knowledge any one or more of the defendants harbors ill feeling toward you?
- A. There may be, but I do not know what is going on in other people's heads.
- Q. Of course, I appreciate that, General, but on the other hand once in a while through overt acts or conduct or statements our fellowman lets us know what his thoughts may be.
- A. I have never felt any ill feeling.
- Q. My question was with regard to the possibility that anyone or more of the defendants might harbor ill feeling toward you as a result of some controversy which had taken place in the past.
- A. Among these people there are diplomats. I attended the League of Nations so I know a lot of diplomats. I consider myself not just a simple militarist, but that I have broad view points. But there may be among the diplomats with their view points those who consider me as a militarist.
- Q. Well, I think that is sufficient on that subject. Now, I should like to ask you if during the period when you were active in civil aviation circles you had occasion to be associated with, or affiliated with, any of the defendants in private business enterprises?
- A. I have asked people like ARAKI and OSHIMA to lend the army's aid to the development of civil aviation in Japan. Civil aviation in Japan was at a very primitive state and I asked them that they should lend their aid.
- Q. I understand. Were you and any of the defendants, including of course those to whom you have just referred, investors in any private enterprise?
- A. I was active in the HIKYŌ KYŌKAI Aviation Association. It was not a private company hauling passengers or freight and I was not associated with private companies.
- Q. Was that association also known as the Imperial Aeronautical Association, General?
- A. That is the association I was speaking about.
- Q. Have you been associated with anyone or more of the defendants in any one of the several prominent, political associations?
- A. I have never been associated with political parties.
- Q. What would you consider the Imperial Rule Assistance Association?
- A. Before it was organized it went through very complicated steps and I am not very sure what the organization was.
- Q. You were a leader or a director of that organization were you not, General?
- A. No. In regard to the IRRRA at one time I was requested to be a member of an investigation committee. I was requested to be one of the temporary

investigation members. After I became a member of the House of Representatives, I was appointed SŌMU (director) of the YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI, Imperial Rule Assistance Association. There were two kinds of SŌMU, the ordinary and the permanent. The permanent SŌMU drafted what they pleased and just brought the matter before the ordinary SŌMU for approval. I was just an ordinary SŌMU.

- Q. When did you first become a member of the Diet, General?
- A. In the elections of April 1943.
- Q. Were you a member of the House of Representatives or one of the Peers?
- A. I became a member of the House of Representatives.
- Q. From SAITAMA Prefecture?
- A. No, from Tokyo.
- Q. And for how long a period of time did you serve as a representative?
- A. Until December 1945--until I came here.
- Q. Now, a moment ago you stated that you were an ordinary SŌMU, in the YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI. If you will, I should like to have you relate the nature of the functions or the responsibilities and the authority of an ordinary SŌMU.
- A. As I mentioned a moment ago the JŌMIN (permanent) SŌMU drafted the policies and came to the ordinary members only to obtain the approval. The ordinary members had very little to do and unless there was something very wrong we could not do anything about it. That was the set-up.
- Q. Well then I gather from your answer that the authority and responsibility for the drafting of major policies within the organization reposed in the permanent SŌMU, is that correct?
- A. That is correct. It is, but it does not mean that we did not have responsibilities.
- (Recessed from 1045-1050)
- Q. I believe just before the recess, General, that while the permanent SŌMU had the responsibility for major policy making, nevertheless you chose to indicate that the ordinary SŌMU also had to assume certain responsibilities. Is that correct?
- A. We were forced to assume responsibility because they had this sōmukai, (Directors Council) and the members of the YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI would say that the matters had been decided by the SŌMU KAI.
- Q. During what period of time did you serve as an ordinary SŌMU?
- A. In the summer of 1942 until the summer of 1945. I think the organization of the YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI changed that summer.
- Q. Who was treasurer of YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI during that period?
- A. ENDO, Ryūsaku. I believe it was he.
- Q. General, was it the practice within the organization for the treasurer to render reports to the ordinary SŌMU?
- A. No. There were practically no occasions for such reports, and that is one of the reasons I did not remember clearly the name of the treasurer.
- Q. Well, wouldn't the members of YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI expect to be provided with a financial statement regarding receipts of money and expenditures thereof?

- A. We received reports, but these reports were very simple. The sources of income were very simple and I often had to guess where they came from. I sometimes guessed that the money came from the ZAIBATSU.
- Q. What other sources, General, if you please?
- A. From the members of the association.
- Q. Where would the funds so received be deposited?
- A. The treasurer received the money, but I do not know where the money was deposited, at the bank or anything like that.
- Q. But the treasurer would know, would he not?
- A. Of course, he would know very well.
- Q. Would the contributions be received in the form of cash customarily?
- A. Such things unless one is a permanent member he would not know.
- Q. Who were serving as permanent SŌMU during the time when you served as an ordinary SŌMU?
- A. There were approximately twenty people serving as permanent members and I do not remember all their names.
- Q. Please name the first three that come to your mind.
- A. From the House of Peers there was a man named HACHIJŌ.
- Q. His first name, please.
- A. I do not remember. I wasn't very familiar.
- Q. Did you state that he was from the House of Peers?
- A. Yes, he was from the House of Peers.
- Q. Was he a resident of the Greater Tokyo area?
- A. He may be in Tokyo. I haven't had any contact with outside for almost two years. HENDŌ, Ryūsaku, was from the House of Peers was a permanent member.
- Q. With respect to my previous question, General, I had intended to ask if HACHIJŌ was residing in the Tokyo area at that time rather than now.
- A. I remember in that manner, I wasn't intimate with him.
- Q. What was his name?
- A. I do not remember. There aren't many surnames called HACHIJŌ, so there is no mistake.
- Q. Had he enjoyed any rank in the army?
- A. No. I believe he was politician for a long time and in the house of Peers. From the House of Representatives, there was a Navy Vice Admiral YASUMI, Saburō.
- Q. To your knowledge did any one of the defendants involved in the present trial ever serve as a permanent SŌMU?
- A. I believe HASHIMOTO was an ordinary SŌMU. There aren't any others.
- Q. Now, you referred a few minutes ago to HENDŌ, Ryūsaku, as having served as treasurer. He, too, had served as Chief Secretary of the ABE cabinet?
- A. That is correct.



- Q. Were TSUGUMO, Kuniochi, and MIYOSHI, Hidenki, permanent or ordinary SŌMU?
- A. They were permanent members.
- Q. Was ABE, Nobuyuki, a permanent member?
- A. He was the SŌSAI (President).
- Q. Now, based on your experience in military life and your experience as member of the Diet and your experience as an ordinary SŌMU in YOKUSAN SEIJI KAI, will you relate as briefly as possible about the use of "kimitsuki" in connection with political campaigns.
- A. I believe that it is possible that the Government could have given money to political parties supporting the Government and that the parties gave money to the candidates. Some candidates were poor and it is possible that the party gave these people ¥ 5,000 each or ¥ 10,000 each. That is just what I think.
- Q. What do you know as a matter of fact, General?
- A. I do not know anything concrete. Speaking from my personal experience, when I was asked to stand as a candidate I told my friends that I was poor and that I could not run as candidate. Moreover, I was over sixty years of age. My friends told me that I need not worry about the money. They told me that they would supply the money. I told them that if I ran as candidate on other people's money I would be obliged to support that person's wishes. I told them that if it was all right for me to state my own opinions after I was elected I would run as candidate. I asked them who was going to supply the money. They told me not to ask such questions. The manner in which I was talked down is as follows. In my district, #2 District of Tokyo, we were to send five members to the Diet. Among the five there were three leftists, people like communists. My friends told me that unless I put into action what I believed and said to my friends it wasn't much good. That is how I happened to run for election.
- Q. What was your reply to your friends when they asked you not to inquire as to the source of the funds for the campaign?
- A. I told them that I wanted to know the source of the funds because in cases like these I would be forced to follow the wishes of the person who supplied the funds. They told me that I need not worry about such things and that I could do as I pleased.
- Q. So then, what did you say?
- A. For example, I told them that if a communist supplied the funds I would not want to follow his wishes. Neither would I want to follow a leftist. They told me that I was to do as I pleased. So I replied that in that case I would stand for election.
- Q. Well, do I understand you clearly, you expressed the feeling that you did not want to feel necessarily obliged to follow the wishes or views of a communist or a leftist, but you did not intend to say, did you, that you would not want to oppose the wishes of anyone of the members of those groups regardless of merit. In other words my thought is simply this. As I understand your statement you replied to your friends that you would not follow the wishes of a communist or the leftists, and the point I am trying to raise is this: did you not intend to say that you told your friends that you did not want to feel indebted or obliged to follow their wishes regardless of their merit?
- A. I told them that I would support the good policies but would oppose the bad ones; that I was to be free to choose.
- Q. By what criteria did you tell your friends that you would be guided in determining which policies were "bad" policies and which you would consider to be "good" policies?

A. We did not discuss such small details.

Q. I am sorry, but I shall <sup>have</sup> to interrupt you, General. I can not agree with you at all that the criteria for judging "good" and "bad" policies is a small detail. I gather very definitely from your statements that you desired to retain independence of thought and action. That would mean that you would impute great importance to the guide posts of the criteria which you would follow in approving or disapproving any measure.

A. This was wartime, so the main objective was to unify the people. It would be bad if the communists raised labor movements and impeded the national effort. I told them that I would oppose such movements.

Q. I am sorry. I shall have to interrupt. If you will explain to the General that our car is here and that we shall call a recess and that we shall be back here sometime between 1:30 and 2:00 this afternoon and shall confer with him between 2:00 and 3:30.

(Recessed at 1130)

#### Afternoon Session

#### INTERROGATION OF

#### SHIODEN, Nobutaka

Time: 1445 - 1530

Place: Room "O", SUGAMO Prison

Present: SHIODEN, Nobutaka  
Mr. William E. Edwards, Interrogator  
Mr. James Lambert, Interrogator  
Sgt. Ode, Interpreter  
Miss M. O. Briggs, Stenographer

#### Questions by Mr. Edwards

Q. General SHIODEN, just as we adjourned for the afternoon recess, I believe you and I were discussing the criteria, or factors, which would enter into your decision in approving or disapproving any measure. Isn't that right?

A. That is correct. I was explaining factors in regard to the leftists which I explain in regard to the rightists.

Q. Well, General, I feel that our discussion has gone a little far afield, and in view of the short time we have I think I shall proceed along some other lines. Now you stated that a group of your friends came to you and advised you that they would make available funds necessary to conduct your campaign for the Diet. You have also, of course, informed us that they requested you not to ask from what source they obtained those funds, and as I recall we had a rather extended discussion as to that.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, I should like to ask whether or not you had a campaign manager?

A. I had a campaign manager, but he was an old man like I am and didn't know much about the work. The man who did the work was a young man. He went out to the Burma Front, and unfortunately fell in combat. His name was WATANABE, Susumu. I found out about the source of the money later on.

Q. How much money was made available?

A. ¥ 20,000.

- Q. Now, you say you later learned about the source of the money. What did you later learn about the money?
- A. Before the YOKUSAN SENJI KAI was formed, there was an organization called the YOKUSAN SENKYO IIN. I am not sure about the name, but I think it was something like it. The YOKUSAN SENJI KAI was formed from the YOKUSAN SENKYO IIN. ABE was president of the YOKUSAN SENKYO IIN and later became president of the YOKUSAN SENJI KAI. While he was president of the former organization he gathered the funds. The money for campaign expenses came from this source.
- Q. Do you refer to ABE, Nobuyuki?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. And from what source did ABE obtain those funds?
- A. As I mentioned, it was mainly from the Zaibatsu.
- Q. How much did ABE obtain from War Ministry "kimitsuki"?
- A. I don't know anything about that.
- Q. Did you discuss with ABE the source from which he obtained the money?
- A. No.
- Q. Who was Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau at that time?
- A. I am not sure, but it was either SATO, Kenryū, or MURŌ. It was either one of those defendants.
- Q. Who was Vice War Minister at that time, General?
- A. KIMURA, Heitarō.
- Q. And so it would have been KIMURA and MURŌ or SATO who would have made "kimitsuki" available for this purpose, would it not?
- A. That is if the army supplied the money. I don't know whether they did or not.
- Q. Well, you do know, General, do you not, that that practice was followed by the War Ministry?
- A. That is why I say I think that they might have, but I can not say for a fact because I do not know.
- Q. What can you say for a fact on this score?
- A. In regard to the gathering of funds, I can say nothing on that point. I mentioned in the morning that before I would stand for election I called these friends of mine and told them I was not going to follow the policies of the persons who supplied the money. I dwelt on that point this morning. If TOJO did supply the money, I would have been in a position to admonish him if he did wrong because I am his senior.
- Q. Well, you do know, do you not, General, that substantial funds were derived from "kimitsuki" during that election.
- A. It is just that I think that way, and I felt that several million yen was supplied by the ZAIBATSU. I felt that most of the expenses and that small portion came out of the army secret funds.
- Q. What do you consider as "small portion" as you mention?
- A. It is beyond me, I can't imagine.
- Q. And what have you heard by way of report or rumor in that regard, General?
- A. I haven't heard anything more than what I have said right now.

- Q. Have you heard the report, for example, that TOJO gave about a million yen each to TSUNOMO and MIYOSHI, the two gentlemen we referred to this morning?
- A. I don't know anything about the million yen but I heard rumors that TSUNOMO and MIYOSHI received substantial sums.
- Q. Did you hear that several hundred candidates received several thousand yen apiece from army "kimitsuhi" prior to the April 1943 elections?
- A. No. I personally did not receive any such money. It is possible that of the ¥ 30,000 that I received there may be some money which came from the army, but I can not say that for a fact.
- Q. Well, that is what I was just going to ask, General. It occurred to me that if you didn't know the source from which your money came it would be possible that it all came from army "kimitsuhi."
- A. That is right.
- Q. What have you heard in the way of rumors or reports about how much the defendants MUTO and SAFO had disbursed for campaign purposes?
- A. I can not say anything concrete on that point. If SAFO and MUTO did give out any money they must have given the money to the YOKUSAN SHENYO INN and ANN must have given out the money to the various people.
- Q. Now, based on your experience as Lieutenant General, you are familiar with the fact that no accounting had to be rendered with respect to the ultimate use of "kimitsuhi", are you not?
- A. Yes, I know that.
- Q. But you retired from active service in 1929, as I recall, did you not?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. What do you know of the use of army "kimitsuhi" to bribe journalists and representatives of the public press and radio?
- A. I do not know anything about that. I haven't received any money and I don't know whether they did receive any or not.
- Q. Well, I am all aware of the fact, General, that you did not receive any money. My question, however, had to do with any rumors that may have come to your attention in that regard.
- A. I haven't heard anything on that; but if you should ask me if it was possible for that to happen, I would say that it was possible.
- Q. Well, at one time early in your military career, General, you were attached to the Military Affairs Board, were you not?
- A. I was attached to the Aviation Section of the Bureau. The Personnel Section took care and handled policies and other such things. I did not know anything in regard to this question.
- Q. Well then, I take it by your answer it is your understanding of the operations of the Military Affairs Bureau that matters pertaining to "kimitsuhi" would be handled by the Personnel Section, is that correct?
- A. My mistake. The Military Affairs Section.
- (The General was referring to the Military Affairs Section within the Military Affairs Bureau.)

Questions by Mr. Lushert

- Q. Who used the largest amount of army secret funds to gain favor for the militarists group?
- A. I believe you are asking me in regard to recent times, that is since the



war broke out. I think that seeing that MUTO and SATO were very active, that these people handled these things.

Q. Is this true since 1931?

A. I am speaking of the time since MUTO and SATO took office. I don't know the names of the people who were in office before then.

(Mr. Edwards told Sgt Ode to explain to General SHIODEN that Mr. Lambert is one of the IPS Staff. At this time, Mr. Lambert showed one of his personal cards in Japanese to General SHIODEN.)

Q. In what way was the largest amount of secret funds used to further militarist efforts?

A. I can not imagine. Since I left office, I did not maintain very close relationship with the people in office so that when I did come to see people occupying positions of Chief of Military Affairs Bureau, etc., I had to go through complicated steps, and in some cases they brushed me off. They gave me the impression of brushing me off.

Q. While you were in office was more army secret funds used as bribes or for the purpose of army propaganda?

A. As I said before, I was in the Aviation Section. I did not ask, and I do not know.

Questions by Mr. Edwards

Q. General, during your tenure of office as a member of the Diet, which as I recall extended from 1942 to the end of 1945, do you recall any debate taking place in the Diet regarding the use of "kimitsuhi" or complaints with respect to the magnitude of the sum which was being spent?

A. That matter was considered "taboo" and we weren't able to go into that subject very deeply.

A. Then, as a member of the Diet you would simply know the amount which had been approved and appropriated for the temporary emergency military fund, out of which it is my understanding that "kimitsuhi" was obtained, is that correct?

A. Yes, I remember the general facts on that point, but I can not give you any figures.

Q. At that time did the members of the Diet voice dissatisfaction over the fact that they were not given any accounting or report with respect to the expenditures of "kimitsuhi"?

A. At that time there were discussions on that subject, but being wartime the general attitude was to pass the budget and to get on with the war. But members of the House of Representatives, we were responsible to know everything that went on in the Diet. I am ashamed to say that we did not go into these things fully, and I think that was one of the reasons why we lost the war.

Q. Sergeant, will you ask the General to excuse my interruption. I see it is 3:30. We must be back to the War Ministry by 4. I am very sorry. Therefore, we shall have to conclude the interrogation with the General.

A. We were told that the money was used for operations and for political purposes in the newly acquired territories and that we shouldn't ask so many questions.

(The interrogation was concluded at 1530.)

INTERROGATION OF  
SASAKAWA, Ryoichi

Date and Time: 10 Apr 47, 9:30 - 11:30 A.M., 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.  
Place: Sugama Prison  
Present: SASAKAWA, Ryoichi  
Wm. E. Edwards, Interrogator  
J. G. Lambert, Interrogator  
Sgt. Ode, Interpreter  
Leila M. Davis, Stenographer

MR. EDWARDS:

Q. Please state your full name.

A SASAKAWA, Ryoichi.

Q How old are you, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A 49 Japanese age--48 Western style.

Q Where were you born, please, sir?

A OSAKA.

Q Have you been interrogated before by any representative of IPS?

A Yes.

Q What was the date of your birth, please, sir?

A 4th of May of the 32nd year of MEIJI--1899.

Q Do you speak English, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A No.

Q Do you understand English?

A No.

Q When and by whom were you interrogated?

A March of last year.

Q Do you remember the name of the lawyer or investigator who questioned you?

A I have forgotten.

Q Did the interrogation take place in the War Ministry Building or Sugamo Prison?

A Here.

Q Are you familiar with the trial now in progress at the War Ministry Building before the International Military Tribunal?

A I see the papers. I am quite familiar.

Q Are you familiar with the names of all the defendants involved in that trial?

A I know the names of them all.

Q Have you in the past been particularly friendly with any one or more of those defendants?

A Yes.

Q Which ones, please, sir?

A The ones with whom I am very familiar--SHIGEMITSU. I have met SHIGEMITSU tens of times in the past years.

Q What was your vocation at the time when you had so frequent meetings with SHIGEMITSU?

A I was the head of the KOKUSUI TAISHUTO, but I knew him even before that.

Q In what year or years were <sup>you</sup> the leader of that party you have just named?

A 1931. From about August, 1931. The name changed once.

Q What was the name by which that same party was known after its name was changed?

A KOKUSUI DOMEI. The reason the name was changed is because the TOJO Cabinet objected to the name "TAISHUTO".

Q Upon what grounds did the TOJO Cabinet object to that name, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A They said the name "TAISHUTO" was bad.

Q Let the record show I am asking the interpreter if he knows the English meaning of the name "TAISHUTO". If you do, will you please state for the purpose of the record the meaning in English.

A "Great Gathering". The TOJO Cabinet objected to the name because it meant a large number of laborers gathered to talk.

Q Were you particularly friendly with any of the other defendants involved in this case?

A There are no other people with whom I am particularly intimate, but I know the names of all the defendants.

Q As a result of any of your past experiences, do you bear ill feeling toward any one or more of those defendants, Mr. SASAKAWA?

A Yes.

Q Which ones, please?

A SATO, MUTO.

Q Are those the only ones, Mr. SASAKAWA?

- A TOJO, HOSHINO, SHIMADA, SHIRATORI.
- Q What occurred in the past that caused you to harbor ill feeling toward the defendant SATO, Mr. SASAKAWA?
- A The TOJO Cabinet had an election of the House of Representatives. They recommended the people the army liked, gave them money, and elected them. And people who opposed even slightly they did not recommend and had the police suppress them.
- Q Which police organization do you refer to, Mr. SASAKAWA?
- A The police throughout Japan.
- Q Under the direction of the Home Ministry?
- A Yes.
- Q Tell him to proceed.
- A And I was one of those suppressed.
- Q Why did they suppress you, Mr. SASAKAWA?
- A I am a person who will agree with a good thing and will disagree with something that is bad, even if it is something that my father or brother says, and that was the reason. In the Diet I made the following statement: "It is bad for the government to recommend people whom the army likes and suppress the people the army does not like. That is bad." I made a report and presented it to the TOJO Cabinet. I made the notice and presented it to the Diet telling them that I was going to make this question, the question why the people whom the army prefers should be recommended and the others suppressed. At that time SATO was Chief of Military Affairs Bureau.
- Q Mr. SASAKAWA, you have not been subpoenaed as a defense witness, have you?
- A No.
- Q Have you conferred with any one or more of the lawyers representing any one or more of the defendants in this case?
- A Yes.
- Q With the counsel for which defendant or defendants have you conferred?
- A SHIGEMITSU. USAMI, the counsel for SHIGEMITSU.
- Q When did that conference take place, Mr. SASAKAWA?
- A I think it was about two weeks ago. I forget the date.
- Q Mr. SASAKAWA, it is not our purpose to pry into the details of your discussion with the lawyer for the defendant SHIGEMITSU. However, because of certain rulings handed down by the Tribunal, it is necessary for me to discuss your conference with the defense lawyer to a sufficient degree to enable me to determine whether I can properly proceed with this interrogation. I will therefore ask you if the defendant SHIGEMITSU's lawyer asked you if you would be willing to testify as a witness for the defense?



- A He did not ask me.
- Q Did he ask you to give him a statement in writing or an affidavit?
- A No, he did not. The thing is SHIGEMITSU and I are very friendly, but SHIGEMITSU is in one corner of the prison and I am in another. His counsel came to tell me that he is well and asked me if I was.
- Q Very well, Mr. SASAKAWA. I believe in the light of those facts and circumstances we can proceed with the interrogation. Therefore, please proceed with your statement regarding your past relations with the defendant SATO.
- A I made the notice to the government that I was going to ask this question. I do not scare very easily, and the Japanese Government would have had a difficult time with these questions. Therefore, SATO came to meet me. He said that he heard that I was going to ask the government why these suppressions were taking place. He asked me not to ask these questions. He said that he was asked by TOJO to make this request.
- Q Approximately when was it that SATO came to you on the occasion to which you refer?
- A 1942, when I first became a member of the House of Representatives.
- Q What month in the year 1942, Mr. SASAKAWA?
- A It was the first session. I do not remember the month.
- Q Where did this meeting take place?
- A At the Diet.
- Q Was the defendant SATO Chief Military Affairs Bureau at the time of his coming to you on the occasion to which you are now referring?
- A Yes, he was the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau.
- Q And who was Vice War Minister at that time?
- A I do not remember. I did not have much to do with the Vice Minister.
- Q Very well, proceed, please sir.
- A I was going to criticize the Japanese Government, but SATO came and asked me not to make these questions but to make the questions prepared by the army. He said that it would be much better for both of them. The Japanese press would carry these statements.
- Q Do I understand correctly that you were a member of the Diet when this occurred?
- A Yes.
- Q Mr. SASAKAWA, would you be inclined to relate the same story