



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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FORM 2

SUBJECT SHIRATORI, Toshio
Ambassador to Italy

FILE NO. 324

SUMMARY OF EVIDENTIARY FACTS

MADE BY Major Gen. Ott

ADDRESS Tokyo

MATSUOKA stated to Ott, Sept. 1940, that he had selected SHIRATORI and SAITO to act as his advisors in negotiations for the tri-partite pact. SHIRATORI did not attend conferences but he visited the German Embassy regarding matters which Ott and MATSUOKA had discussed in conference.

SUMMARY EXTRACTED FROM FILE 324 SERIAL 19 PAGE 11-14

NAME OF INTERROGATOR Frank S. Tavenner Jr.

NAME OF BRIEFER Frank S. Tavenner Jr.

(Note to Stenographer: Use mimeographed form for Original only; use onion skin for copies and type in mimeographed parts)

SUBJECT: General MINAMI

FILE NO.

EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT AGAINST
ANOTHER DEFENDANT

Shiratori says General Minami was War Minister at the time of the Mukden Incident and that he and Baron Yoshizawa conferred daily, but nothing was done as they were kept in the dark by the army. (See p. 15 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 19, 1946.)

Shiratori admits that neither the War Minister nor the Foreign Minister tried to find out about the plan or execution of the Mukden Incident, but says that the lower got the better of the upper, as it was in the hands of the minor officers. (See p. 16 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 19, 1946.)

Name of Interrogator: North E. McKinney
Name of Briefer: North E. McKinney

SUBJECT: General MAZAKI

FILE NO.

EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT
AGAINST ANOTHER DEFENDANT

Shiratori says that the idea of Greater East Asia was spread pretty widely in Japan and again names General Sanaki and Kikuchi as leaders in this thought and have probably made a great many statements. (See pp. 2 and 3 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 28, 1946.)

Name of Interrogator: North E. McKinney
Name of Scribe: North E. McKinney

SUBJECT: TANI

FILE NO.

**EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT AGAINST ANOTHER
DEFENDANT**

Shiratori says Tani, head of the Asiatic Bureau, could give such information concerning the Mubden Incident. (See p. 29 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 19, 1946.)

Name of Interrogator: Worth E. McKinney
Name of Briefer: Worth E. McKinney

SUBJECT: General ARAKI

FILE NO.

**EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT
AGAINST ANOTHER DEFENDANT**

Shiratori says General Araki was appointed War Minister and nothing was done to remove the two officers above mentioned (Lt. Iahimara and Commander Itagaki). (p. 17 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 19, 1946.)

Name of Interrogator: North E. McKinney
Name of Briefer: North E. McKinney

SUBJECT: General HONJO

FILE NO.

**EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT AGAINST
ANOTHER DEFENDANT**

Shiratori says that General Honjo was in charge of the army in Manchuria without much influence, but that Lt. Ishiwara and Commander Itagaki were the leaders of the Mukden Incident. (See pp. 16 and 17 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 19, 1946.)

Name of Interrogator: Worth E. McKinney

Name of Briefer: Worth E. McKinney

SUBJECT: K. ISHIHARA

FILE NO.

EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT
AGAINST ANOTHER DEFENDANT

Shiratori names Lt. Gen. Itagaki and K. Ishihara as leaders in the Manchurian Incident. (See pp. 2 and 3 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 20, 1946.)

Shiratori says Kanjo Ishihara organized an Asia League and a number of Japanese were members. (See p. 4 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 28, 1946.)

Name of Interrogator: North E. McKinney
Name of Griever: North E. McKinney

SUBJECT: General KANAYA

FILE NO.

**EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT AGAINST
ANOTHER DEFENDANT**

Shiratori says that General KANAYA was Chief of Staff in 1931 and was probably responsible for the increase of troops into Manchuria. (See pp. 21, 22, and 23.)

**Name of Interrogator: North E. McKinney
Name of Briefer: North E. McKinney**

SUBJECT: KIKUCHI

FILE NO.

EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT
AGAINST ANOTHER DEFENDANT

Shiratori says that the idea of Greater East Asia was spread pretty widely in Japan and again names General Suzuki and Kikuchi as leaders in this thought and have probably made a great many statements. (See pp. 2 and 3 of Interrogation of Toshio Shiratori dated March 26, 1946.)

Name of Interrogator: Worth E. McKinney
Name of Briefer: Worth E. McKinney

SUBJECT: Toshio SHIRATORI

FILE NO. 244

EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT
AGAINST ANOTHER DEFENDANT

Shiratori tells Ohima and Stahmer that the agreement between Japan and Russia was very important and must be perfected under all conditions. (See p. 9 of Interrogation of Heinrich Stahmer dated March 8, 1946.)

Shiratori and Ohima tell Stahmer that Ribbentrop talked to them and said he did not believe Japan wanted to make a treaty. Ohima and Shiratori said that they wanted an agreement very keenly and were very much interested. (See p. 9 of Interrogation of Heinrich Stahmer dated March 8, 1946.)

Shiratori was more clever than Ohima. He believed in Ribbentrop's ultimatum. (See p. 9 of Interrogation of Heinrich Stahmer dated March 8, 1946.)

Shiratori tells Stahmer about sending a telegram to his government in regard to Ribbentrop's ultimatum. (See p. 10 of Interrogation of Heinrich Stahmer dated March 8, 1946.)

NAME OF INTERROGATOR: North E. McKinney
NAME OF BRIEFER: North E. McKinney

Statement made by TANAKA, (General) Ryukichi,
about SHIRATORI, Toshio.

Interrogation dated 18 March 1946
19 March 1946
21 March 1946

File ~~200~~

Q. Suppose we go on to another one, SHIRATORI, Toshio.

A. He is a friend of mine. He was a diplomat. About 1931 he was at the head of the Information Bureau of Foreign Ministry. At that time he established close contact with the army. Practically all the statements made by SHIRATORI right around that time were challenging to the League of Nations. That was because of the military influence behind him. Because of his rather antagonistic attitude toward the League of Nations he was criticized by some people in Japan, the result of which he was assigned as Ambassador to Sweden. While he was stationed in Sweden he frequently visited Germany and Hitler, and he became a worshipper of Hitler so much that he later advocated the formation of a Tri-Partite Pact. In the summer of 1935 he returned to Japan from Sweden by way of Manchukuo. At that time I was a staff member of KWANGTUNG Army. I met him at the home of the Assistant Chief of Staff, ITAGAKI, and had a talk with SHIRATORI, at which time he confided in us saying, "Although it is still a secret, Hitler intends to invade Ukraine before long, therefore when Germany would start that war it would be an opportune time to attack Russia from the other side." For a period of one year after returning to Japan he spent most of the time in preaching for the formation of a Tri-Partite Pact. Either toward the end of 1936 or early 1937 he was made Ambassador to Italy. While he was in Italy, he strongly urged Japan to participate in the Pact and dispatched very many cablegrams to that effect. From the end of 1938 to the 31st of August, 1939, when the army was busy arousing public opinion for the Tri-Partite Pact in this country, SHIRATORI in Rome and OSHIMA in Berlin had been furnishing necessary information for that purpose, and when Col. ARISUE returned to Japan after serving in Italy as Military Attache he was the leader in promoting the Tri-Partite Pact in Japan. However, all of these attempts had failed, and on August 25, 1939, Germany entered into a non-aggression pact with Russia as a result of which SHIRATORI returned to Japan by resigning Ambassadorship to Italy. Even after he returned to Japan, he did not cease advocating for the pact.

Statement by TANAKA about SHIRATORI - 18, 19, 21 Mar 1946 (Cont'd)

Q. What position did he hold in Japan when he returned?

A. He was Ambassador-in-Waiting-for reserve.

Q. How long did he remain in that category?

A. He remained in that category until April of 1942, that is to the best of my recollection. From about the Spring of 1940 he gained renewed sentiment in Japan for the Tri-Partite Pact, and toward the end of September the pact was entered into. For the consummation of this Tri-Partite Pact Stahmer arrived from Germany and took a very active part in it. At that time both OSHIMA and SHIRATORI were in Japan, thus the Tri-Partite Pact was entered into as a result of the activities of these three people. The Foreign Minister then was MATSUOKA, Yosuke. SHIRATORI was one of the most strong advocates for Great Asiatic War. In April of 1942 he was elected as a member of the House of Representatives from Chiba prefecture. He praised Mussolini so highly, even after Mussolini failed in Italy. During the war he frequently made a statement that Italy and Germany would win this war, and thus misled the people of Japan until some of the people in Japan began calling him "crazy". He now is in Sugamo.

Q. What did he do after 1942?

A. He became a member of the House of Representatives.

Q. That is all?

A. He served as influential member of Yokusan Seiji-kai. (Discussion off the record as to Japanese words for IRAA and IRAPS). Yokusan Seiji-kai represents a political party, the only political party then existing in Japan and Tai-Seiyokusan-kai controlled almost all of Japan's political, economical, structural, sociological and practically all other matters except military, administrative and judicial matters.

Q. Was SHIRATORI advisor to the Foreign Office after 1942?

A. Yes, sir, he was advisor to the Foreign Ministry.

Statement by TANAKA about SHIRATORI - 18, 19, 21 Mar 1946 (Cont'd)

Q. How influential was he in advising the Foreign Ministry?

A. I think he was a most influential man as long as the Tri-Partite Pact was in force.

Q. Was he still advisor to the Foreign Office in the KOISO and SUZUKI Cabinets?

A. No. Almost simultaneously with the fall of Italy he lost his prestige.

Q. Is there anything else that you can tell me about him which is not in connection with the formation of the Tri-Partite Pact?

A. All I could add is that he was quite influential in formulating public opinion in Japan.

Q. How?

A. He used to contribute articles in favor of the pact to our newspapers and magazines. SHIRATORI and OSHIMA were the originators and the builders of the pact, and they died with it.

SUBJECT: Toshio SHIRATORI

FILE NO.

EVIDENTIARY STATEMENT MADE BY ONE DEFENDANT AGAINST
ANOTHER DEFENDANT

Kato says Shiratori was very closely allied with the military group.
(See p. 2 of Interrogation of Masuo Kato dated Feb. 7, 1946.)

Kato says Shiratori and Oshima paved the way for the Tri-Party Pact.
(See p. 3 of Interrogation of Masuo Kato dated Feb. 7, 1946.)

Kato says Shiratori said that Japan and Germany could go along better together. (See p. 3 of Interrogation of Masuo Kato dated Feb. 7, 1946.)

Kato says Shiratori was very strong for the Tri-Party Pact. (See p. 8 of Interrogation of Masuo Kato dated Feb. 7, 1946.)

Kato says Shiratori, Oshima, and Matsuoka knew that the Tri-Party Pact meant war with America. (See p. 9 of Interrogation of Masuo Kato dated Feb. 7, 1946.)

NAME OF INTERROGATOR: Roy Morgan
NAME OF BRIEFER: Worth E. McKinney