



# 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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# 第四册目录

Case 5 木户幸一(Kido Koichi)(二) ..... 1



INTERROGATION OF

(Marquis) KIDO, Koichi

(Continued)

DATE AND TIME: 11 March 1946, 1400 - 1600 hours

PLACE : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

PRESENT : (Marquis) KIDO, Koichi  
Mr. Henry R. Sackett, Interrogator  
Lt. Fred F. Suzukawa, Interpreter  
(Miss) S. M. Betar, Stenographer

Questions by : Mr. Sackett

- 
- Q Some time back, when you had Dr. TSURU bring in your diary and some other papers, included in the papers was this instrument. I want to ask you about it. I have a translation here. Can you tell me just what the text is, where it came from, where you got it and where Dr. TSURU got it?
- A I had this at home.
- Q Where did you get it?
- A I noted it down when I read the memoirs of Prince KONOYE. At the time the Prince wrote it, he showed me his memoirs.
- Q Is this your writing or Prince KONOYE's?
- A This is my hand-writing.
- Q In other words, these memoirs were the ones that were printed in the paper here shortly after Prince KONOYE died?
- A I believe it was printed in the paper. The day that Prince KONOYE died, I was confined here at Sugamo so I don't know.



Q When was it you wrote this - about what time?

A I believe about one or two years ago.

Q I see. You have had this for some time?

A Yes.

Q What was the occasion when you wrote this? Was Prince KONOYE present?

A I noted it down when I borrowed Prince KONOYE's memoirs.

Q In other words, he had written up some memoirs and showed them to you?

A Yes.

Q Had they been printed or published, or were they private?

A They were his own private memoirs. There was a type-written one.

Q And you made some notations just for your own information in order you might know his version of what took place?

A And at the time the request that every material be brought out, I believe they brought this out along with the rest of things.

Q Yes, I know. You didn't make notes of the entire memoirs but just picked out certain things you wanted to keep some records on? Is that right?

A Because the memoirs is so long, I could not take down all of it, so only those portions that concerned me, I noted down.

Q Do you know whether the memoirs that were printed in the press after he died were the same as he had written and displayed to you some two years ago?

A I did not read the memoirs that were written in the paper. I only read a portion of it, just one day's portion. I believe it is the same one.

- Q Do you know where the original memoirs that were written by Prince KONOYE are?
- A I believe it is at the home of Prince KONOYE.
- Q When was it, to your recollection, that Prince KONOYE wrote his memoirs about what happened around 1940 or '41?
- A I believe shortly after he left the Cabinet, he started on his memoirs. I have no accurate recollection but I believe it is 1942 or 1943.
- Q When was it he showed them to you - a couple years ago - 1943, perhaps?
- A Yes, he showed them to me at that time.
- Q They had not been published in book form, or anything like that in those days?
- A No, it was kept very secret because at that time divulgement of it would subject him to punishment under the peace provision law.
- Q What reason did he give you for having written these memoirs? Why did he write them or why did he tell you he wrote them?
- A He wrote it for the intent of clarifying the Japanese-America negotiations that were conducted.
- Q He wanted to leave a record of what he had done with reference to these negotiations so anyone could see the position he took. Is that right?
- A Yes.
- Q The way it starts out, does the first page pertain to what actually took place at the July 2 Imperial Conference?
- A This is just an extract and each paragraph does not join with the following paragraph.
- Q This is the way it starts out, referring to policy: "The Empire will eliminate whatever difficulty in order to attain the foregoing objective." I would like to ask with reference to that statement, was that something that was decided at the July 2 Conference?

A I believe so.

Q According to his memoirs, that is one of the things determined or decided at the Imperial Conference?

A Yes.

Q Reading further, when it says the Empire will continue diplomatic negotiations which are necessary from the standpoint of self-existence and self-defense in the southern zone and will hasten various other plans, was that also a decision of the July 2 Conference?

A I believe so.

Q In other words, KONOYE indicated that was one of the things decided on July 2, 1941?

A Yes.

Q Do you have any personal recollection or information that that was decided upon other than the fact you read it in his memoirs?

A Personally, I do not know anything about the decision reached at the July 2 Conference but I learned that only later after reading the memoirs.

Q I appreciate that you were not present at the Conference but you did talk to other people on or about July 2, 1941 that told you in effect what had taken place at the Conference? That is true, isn't it?

A I did not hear these clear-cut statements such as these at that time. Later on, after reading the memoirs, it sort of struck me as really being significant and for that reason, I noted it down.

Q Understand, I am only interested in honestly finding out what took place at the Imperial Conference. I only want to know what happened at the July 2 Conference. Your notations read further: "For that reason, she will make preparations for war against Britain and the United States." Prince KONOYE indicated that that was decided at the July 2nd Imperial Conference, did he not?

A Yes



Q On or about that time, didn't anyone else talk to you with reference to the conference and indicated that such a decision had been made.

A I did not hear any clear-cut statements like these at that time. At that time, they were saying that it was a Conference devoted mainly in order to take measures against Russia and for that reason, our entire attention was taken toward Russia and we did not hear anything. As written later on here, our immediate objective was to decide toward not being engaged in any action with the Soviet and for that reason, that matter of war with the United States and Britain did not come up. Prince KONOYE had his entire attention taken toward the prevention of any action against Russia.

Q I understand. You told me before that one of the main reasons they called the July 2 Imperial Conference was to decide whether or not to follow MATSUOKA's policy of attacking Russia and at that meeting, it was decided Japan would not engage in war with Russia. And, that is the reason, is it not, at the end of the notations, you have there with reference to the July 2 Conference, "Finally on July 2, I petitioned the Emperor for a council in his presence and for the present decided not to start any movement against Soviet Russia." A. Yes.

Q My next question is, I would like to know what was decided at that Conference with reference to the war against the United States and Great Britain. According to your notations from Prince KONOYE's diary, it was decided at that Conference that Japan would make preparations for war against the United States and Great Britain, and also, was it not decided that Japan would not avoid war with Britain and the United States in order to achieve her objective as set forth in these memoirs?

A Yes.

Q What I would like to ask you is, can you give me any other information, other than what you find in these notations with reference to what was decided at this particular conference concerning Britain and the United States?

- A In the beginning, part of this is the appendix to the memoirs of Prince KONOYE, while the latter part is the text of his memoirs and the most striking one is noted down here and I have marked paragraph 2 and paragraph 3. There are others, but I have no recollection.
- Q I don't quite understand you. What do you say paragraphs 2 and 3 from his memoirs are?
- A Paragraphs 2 and 3 are from his appendix to his memoirs.
- Q And what did the appendix to the memoirs purport to contain?
- A Relating matters to the other - the memoirs is a narrative while the appendix is reference matter.
- Q In other words, attached to his narrative statement, as to the story of the United States and Japanese diplomatic relations, Prince KONOYE attached an appendix where he referred to certain background material and other factual material in which he was referring to in the memoirs themselves, is that right?
- A I believe that the original in the Japanese-American negotiations was attached to the appendix.
- Q And this section of part two, concerning July 2, 1941, you copied from the appendix? Is that right?
- A Yes.
- Q And where did the appendix indicate this information that was therein contained came from? What was the source of this information we are talking about? Was it an official writing coming out of the liaison conference or some such thing as that?
- A Prime Minister Prince KONOYE had the bill or proposed plan and I believe that he wrote it from that plan.
- Q By that you mean that this appendix from which you made your notes refers to the decision that was actually made at the Imperial Conference on July 2, 1941, as shown by the original, or a copy of the decision of the liaison conference, and the conference, itself, which was in Prince KONOYE's possession?
- A I believe so.

- Q One reason I am asking is this. The other day when I was asking you certain questions with reference to what was decided on July 2, 1941, you told me very definitely about the Russian decision. When I asked you if there was anything further decided, you indicated you thought that was the principle decision. Then, I read to you from these notations I have, which are now before you and pointed out certain decisions had been made with reference to Britain and the United States, at which time you confirmed that you recalled conversations to that effect. What I want to know is how you know those things were decided at the July 2 Conference and where you got your information other than through this source?
- A Because I have no other sources of substantiation and for that reason, I had no recollection at that time.
- Q When I pointed out what Prince KONOYE had said, you recalled that you had read that in his memoirs. Is that what you mean?
- A At that time, that portion of Prince KONOYE's memoirs preventing action against Soviet Russia has taken my entire attention so that part was written in my memory while the other part, there weren't very many talks on it.
- Q Well, I am not complaining about your failure to remember everything that was decided on July 2. What I am honestly trying to find out is whether or not the items mentioned in this document you have were actually decided at that conference. You think they were?
- A I believe it was decided at that conference and because I was surprised, I noted it down.
- Q Doesn't this refresh your recollection as to conversations with leaders back in July 1941, at which time they told you that such decisions were made?
- A No, I did not hear anything about it.
- Q In other words, you remember the July 2 Conference because of the decision with reference to Russia and when you were reading Prince KONOYE's memoirs written in 1943, perhaps you were surprised to learn of these other decisions and that is why you wrote them down. Is that correct?
- A Yes.



- Q In your own mind, you are confident that these things were actually decided on July 2, are you not?
- A I noted it down because I believe it was decided.
- Q Did you ever talk to Prince KONOYE about it and tell him you were surprised to learn about the southern expansion and Britain and the United States, and did not know it?
- A I remember telling him that serious things has been decided when all that time I thought they dealt mainly with Russia.
- Q What did he say in answer to that?
- A I have no recollection as to what he said. Because Prince KONOYE doesn't say much, I have no accurate recollection.
- Q What was there in particular about what you read with reference to the July 2 Conference that surprised you? As I understand it, you were not surprised about what was decided concerning Russia because you knew that. What was there in there that surprised you in particular?
- A I always felt that decision of war against Britain and America will be made in the Imperial Conference of September and here it is written down that it has been decided at the July 2 Conference that Japan will not avoid war with America and Great Britain. I was greatly surprised, although it is written here that war will not be avoided. It consequently means that war will be decided upon.
- Q And it was for that reason you called it to the attention of Prince KONOYE but you don't remember what he said about it?
- A I have no accurate recollection. I believe that Prince KONOYE has been thinking of things like this in order to avoid war with Russia.
- Q I don't quite understand that last answer.
- A I believe that KONOYE compromised.
- Q Explain a little more what you mean by compromised.
- A I believe in order to prevent incursion into the North, he started to give his attention toward the South.

- Q Do you think it was discussed at that July 2 Conference and decided upon by those present as a sort of compromise and diversionary program in order to take emphasis off of Russia?
- A I believe so, although I am not too clear about it. Hardly anyone knows much or remembers much about this July 2 Imperial Conference because everyone's attention has been taken by the German-Soviet War.
- Q Do you think it is possible that Prince KONOYE was mistaken as to these decisions with reference to the United States and Great Britain being made on July 2 or do you think it actually happened that way, as written in his memoirs and in your notes?
- A I believe that it is an actual fact; that it is not a mistake. Although I did not see the original, I believe this is true.
- Q This that is written in your notations, is it an exact copy of what was contained in the appendix to Prince KONOYE's diary, or is it just a summary that you have written out in your own words? In other words, does this contain your language or is it an actual copy of what was in the appendix?
- A This is an actual copy.
- Q I still am not very clear in my mind as to where Prince KONOYE got this information that he put in his appendix as reference material with reference to what happened on July 2, 1941?
- A As Prime Minister, Prince KONOYE has a copy of the Imperial Conference and I believe that he wrote it down from his copy.
- Q In other words, it is your belief that these notations you made from the appendix to Prince KONOYE's diary came in the first instance from the copy of what happened at the Imperial Conference of July 2, 1941; which was in the possession of Prince KONOYE and that when he was writing his memoirs some time later, he referred to that copy in order to write out his narrative and attached a copy of it as an appendix as authority for what he was talking about?
- A Yes.

- Q To be perfectly fair with you, the reason I am asking these questions is that certain other people who were actually present at the July 2, 1941 conference didn't seem to have any recollection of any such decisions having been made, other than the Russian question, just like you did when I first asked you about it and I would like to know the truth of the matter as to whether these things were decided with reference to the United States and Great Britain in July or whether it was in September.
- A I honestly felt that it was a matter decided at the September Conference but because it was decided at the July Conference, I was surprised, because at that time, it was completely a matter concerning Soviet Russia. I wish to make one place correct in order to avert any misunderstanding. It is the beginning of the second paragraph here where it says, "The foreign minister reported to the Emperor". That matter that was reported to the Emperor was the operation against Soviet Russia and it does not refer to the preceding paragraph.
- Q I don't quite understand you. I wish you would explain that again.
- A The narrative has no relation with the appendix.
- Q I see. In other words, down to that point in your notations, you had copied word for word what Prince KONOYE had set forth in the appendix, then that paragraph starting, "Besides reporting to the Emperor, the Foreign Minister made similar explanations to the Lord, Keeper, etc.", that is your language?
- A No.
- Q That is which language?
- A This is the actual extract from KONOYE's memoirs. There is a phrase that I omitted here and should be included in the beginning of the sentence in the narrative that I have extracted. It says, "The Foreign Minister reported to the Emperor about the operations against Soviet Russia which the Foreign Minister advocated." Therefore, the narrative has no relation with the appendix.



Q Just in all fairness to both of us, will you please read and translate what your notations say as to what actually was contained in the appendix to Prince KONOYE's diary so we may have it correctly? In other words, to make it more accurate, I would like for you to tell me just what was contained in the appendix to Prince KONOYE's diary, according to your notations concerning the July 2, 1941 Conference.

A "Policy. 3) The Empire will eliminate all obstacles in order to attain its above mentioned objective.

"Essentials. 2) The Empire will continue necessary diplomatic negotiations concerning the vital regions of the South from the standpoint of its self-existence and self-preservation, and will promote various measures in addition. For this purpose, she will prepare for war against Britain and America and firstly, it will complete various measures against French Indo-China and Thailand on the policy of "measures against French Indo-China and Thailand and matters dealing with promoting measures toward the South; thereby, she will strengthen the situation for southern advancement. The Empire will not avoid war against England and America in order to attain or carry out its objective as listed here."

Q In other words, that part you have just stated represents what you copies from the appendix of Prince KONOYE, memoirs?

A Yes.

Q The writing that follows that immediately came from the memoirs, themselves?

A Yes.

Q I would like to ask you, was this statement which you took from the appendix and which you have just recited all that the appendix contained with reference to the July 2 Conference or was it just that part you were surprised about and wanted to keep a record of?

A This is just a part.

Q In other words, the appendix, itself, contained additional statement with reference to the decision concerning Russia but you did not write that down because you already knew about that?

Yes.

Q If you were in my shoes and were trying to honestly and accurately ascertain just what was decided at the July 2 conference, where would you go to try to find a record or a statement as to the decisions of that conference, other than what Prince KONOYE wrote a year or so later?

A These decisions should be kept by the Cabinet and the Supreme Command.

Q Are they something that you think would be destroyed or still in existence?

A I believe they were destroyed.

Q Who is there that is living and available that might through direct personal knowledge verify that these things were decided, if I should talk with him?

A I believe that he would have to be a person of the Supreme Command, otherwise, they would not know.

Q Well, of course, there were other people present at that Conference. Who would you suggest I might talk to who would tell me the truth as to what was decided?

A I believe MATSUOKA knows it because he was Foreign Minister.

Q In other words, it is your belief that if I would ask Mr. MATSUOKA if this was decided at the Imperial Conference, he would verify that this did take place?

A Yes.

Q Is there anyone else you think of besides Mr. MATSUOKA who I might refer this to and ask to verify it?

A Perhaps the Chief Secretary of the KONOYE Cabinet.

Q TOMITA?

A Yes.

Q How about General SUZUKI? Would he be one who would likely be able to verify this?

A I do not know if SUZUKI attended the Conference.

Q I am inclined to think that some of these people who were present who have told us that they did not think that was decided on that occasion but that the decisions against the United States and Great Britain took place in September, like you felt, the emphasis was on the Russian matter and did not pay a great deal of attention to these other decisions be made. Perhaps they are honest in not being able to remember these things were decided, but I would like to find someone who can establish the truth of the matter.

A Yes.

Q You would suggest MATSUOKA and TOMITA as the most likely people who would be able to verify this statement from the appendix of KONOYE's memoirs.

A Yes.

Q Let us look at your diary on October 2. You refer to a conversation with War Minister TOJO regarding Premier KONOYE's resolution, according to my translation. What was that conversation as near as you can remember?

A The War Minister said that the deadline has been made for the tenth of October and the War Minister said that the time is now imminent, but he complained that the Prime Minister did not yet show a clear-cut attitude in regard to that.

Q What did War Minister TOJO indicate to you that he thought the decision on the part of Japan should be with reference to the war?

A I believe that TOJO had the determination and the decision of entering into war if the negotiation was not concluded by the 10th of October.

Q And what was he complaining about Prince KONOYE's attitude?

A TOJO was complaining that KONOYE's attitude was not clear.

Q Well, he seemed to feel that Prince KONOYE might want to negotiate further if successful negotiations had not been completed by the 10th of October. Is that right?

A KONOYE's attitude was not clear but I believe he was greatly in favor of continuing negotiations.



- Q In other words, the gist of your conversation with TOJO on October 2 was that TOJO indicated that at the Imperial Conference, it had been decided that if negotiations were not decided by October 10, he was in favor of carrying out the decision to go to war with the United States?
- A Yes.
- Q And he was also concerned that Prince KONOYE would not agree with him on that point and indicated he might want to do something else to try to settle the difference s with the United States.
- A I believe so.
- Q He also, did he not, indicate to you on that occasion he did not think there was any hope of negotiations with the United States being successful?
- A TOJO was of the opinion that the negotiations would not be settled by October 10.
- Q And he took the position that if the United States would not agree to the position that Japan had taken in its negotiations, Japan should make no further concessions but should declare war.
- A Yes, that was the attitude of TOJO.
- Q Do you remember your conversation with the Emperor on the morning of October 4? In order to help your recollection, I might say that it was on October 2 that the United States sent a note to Japan making inquiry as to what she was going to do about withdrawing troops from China and French Indo-China.
- A At this time, I believe Prince KONOYE reported to the Emperor of that note of inquiry from the United States so the audience had previous to that dealt with general political matters.
- Q In other words, there was nothing significant about your talk with the Emperor that morning?
- A Yes.