

The particulars with regard to him are to be found at Page 324 of Appendix B. Additional references are made on Pages 15952-15976, Record, Exhs. 2224-5.

In July 1932 HOSHINO went to Manchuria to become director of the General Affairs Bureau from 1932 to 1936 (5119-20).

During that time there was a constant liaison between the Bureau and Kwantung Army (5131, 5159). Throughout this period his most important activities appear to have been --

(1) in connection with contract for underwriting and subscription of Manchukuo Government National Foundation Bonds dated 19 November 1932. This he signed on behalf of Manchukuo. (Ex. 375, P. 4684). It provided for raising of 30 million yen for Manchukuo by issue of bonds in Japan secured by the Opium Monopoly Office and the Kirin-Heilung-Kiang Transport Toll Office; (2) that he worked with KISHI on the economic plans for the development of Manchukuo (5127), (3) that he took a prominent part in the drawing of the 5-year Industrial Plan for Manchukuo (Ex. 446). This was adopted in 1937 (5069). The Kwantung Army agreed to and supported the plan (5129).

In 1936, HOSHINO joined the Manchukuo Government as Vice Minister for Finance and in December 1936 he became Chief of the General Affairs Board of Manchukuo (5134). The Board took charge of the budget, statistics, personnel, legal matters and information. The Board controlled the other bureaux and it was one of the most important divisions of the government (5135). It had the duty of directing and guiding political and economic affairs in Manchuria in the interest of Japan as well as Manchukuo (1998). FU YI says that HOSHINO was engaged in exploiting Manchurian industries and in the control of economic affairs (4021).

The Five-Year Industrial Plan was announced in 1936 and adopted in 1937. Under the heading of Policy, the Plan states that emphasis has been placed on opening up resources in Manchukuo which

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may be required in time of emergency. The meaning of "Time of Emergency" is clearly indicated in sub paragraph 1 (a) "munition industries for weapons of war, airplanes, automobiles, and rolling stock will be firmly established". (Ex. 446)

In 1937 TOJO became Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army and HOSHINO and TOJO worked together (5172).

In May 1938 the Five Year Industrial Plan was revised. The revision more than doubled the original estimate of funds required. Heavy emphasis was placed on materials which could be used for production of munitions and weapons of war (Ex. 446, P. 30, 54). On the 29th of April, 1940, HOSHINO was decorated for meritorious service in the China Affair, Ex. 109.

As Chief of General Affairs Board in Manchuria, HOSHINO was the most powerful and influential man in the Government and took directions only from the Kwantung Army. He utilized his position to (1) enormously increase production of war potentials in Manchukuo (2) to enormously increase production of sale of narcotics. In the latter connection he fostered the opium monopoly in Manchuria and as previously stated, secured Manchukuan National Founding Bonds on this monopoly. This was definitely in furtherance of the policy of the Kwantung Army. In June 1932 revenue from opium monopoly was ¥10,200,000 (Ex. 227). In 1939 net profit from monopolies were estimated at ¥56,000,000 after payment of ¥15,000,000 to General Account Reserve Funds and National Loan Funds (4751). In July 1940 he left Manchuria and returned to Japan (5,136). The numerous reports from U. S. officials quoted in the Summary show that under the cloak of carrying out the League of Nations policy against narcotics (the policy of a committee of which Japan remained a member) the sale was in truth being vigorously pushed by the agencies for which HOSHINO was responsible. On his return to Japan he became Director of the Cabinet Planning Board and Minister without Portfolio in the Second Konoye Cabinet (5,136). The Board provided for the organization of industries in the same line of business into a

solid group which undertook to carry on under government control (p. 5,131).

The Planning Board made the necessary plans to supply materials required by the Army, Navy and civilian authorities. The Army and Navy demands increased year by year (5148-5150).

On 27 July 1940 at the Liaison Conference a decision was made concerning improvement of conditions at home and abroad and the acceleration of the China Incident and the settlement within limits of the southern problem. Policies of fostering strong political ties with Germany and Italy and obtaining by strong diplomatic policies raw materials from the Netherlands East Indies were also decided. HOSHINO was President of the Planning Board and Minister without Portfolio at this time (Exh. 1310).

In August 1940 (Exh. 1311) a draft of alternative demands to be made on the Netherlands East Indies set out various demands regarding enterprises and investments, mining, shipping, agriculture, fishing, newspaper propaganda, etc. HOSHINO was Minister without Portfolio and President of the Planning Board at this time.

In September 1940 (Exh. 550) Matsuoka gave an explanation regarding the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact. On 26 September 1940 (Exh. 552) there was a conference of the Investigation Committee of the Privy Council on the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact. HOSHINO was present and as Chief of the Planning Board gave estimates of Japan's strength stating she was not yet complete in supplies or self-sufficiency of reserves, however, they were quite prepared. He gave estimates on oil, petrol, etc., and stated that through the Commodity Mobilization Program provision has been made for civilian living. The same material is shown in Exh. 1030.

Exh. 553 is the record of the meeting of the Privy Council of the 26th of September 1940 regarding the strengthening of relations with Germany and Italy (Tripartite Pact) in view of the increasing difficulty of the international position. HOSHINO was present.

Exh. 554 is the Imperial Rescript of 27 September 1940 proclaiming the Pact. HOSHINO's name is on this document.

Exh. 1298, an entry in Kido's Diary of 28 September 1940, states that Kido had been informed by the Emperor of the government's present wish to avoid force against the Netherlands East Indies and Singapore and in view of the fact that eight months preparations are necessary for war, the later war comes the better. HOSHINO was still President of the Planning Board and Minister without Portfolio.

Exh. 868A contains the Ordinance of Organization of the Total War Research Institute. HOSHINO was Director of this Institute from 1 October 1940 to 11 January 1941 and Councillor from 2 May 1941 to 24 November 1941. He was also a member of the committee to establish this Institute and for part of the time was Minister without Portfolio and for another part of the time was Chief Secretary of the Cabinet (8,862).

The outline of the Ten Year Plan for Block Economy of Japan, Manchukuo, and China was announced by the Government Information Bureau on 5 November 1940. The carrying out of this plan envisaged Japan exercising rights of sovereignty over China with which Japan was then at war. The plan was stated to be the result of the government's study principally with the Planning Board. HOSHINO was then President of the Planning Board (Exh. 2224, p. 15,952).

On January 22 1941 the Cabinet outlined its population policy stating that it was the mission of the Empire to establish the East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere to secure Japan's leadership in East Asia. HOSHINO had given explanations and opinions at the meeting and the plan was unanimously adopted (see Exh. 865 and 1067). As the object of the plan was stated to be to increase the population in order to provide greater war strength, it destroys the excuse sometimes put

forward for Japanese aggression that an outlet was required for surplus population.

On 8 March 1941 it was publicly announced that the detailed regulations of the National Mobilization Law would be put into force on 20 March. HOSHINO was Minister of State and Director of the Planning Board at this time (Exh. 1055), but resigned on the 4th of April 1941.

Exh. 870A dated August 1941 is a record of Table Top Maneuvers held by the Total War Research Institute. It shows that under these maneuvers the general policy of Japan concerning Third Power problems was that Japan would not give to the United States a clear explanation of her position nor expect a peaceful settlement but did adopt a delaying policy by diplomatic negotiations at the same time completing war preparations. HOSHINO was a Councillor of this Institute.

On 25 September 1941 the Total War Research Institute reproduced a secret document containing particulars in framing a program for extension of important industries. This included a summary of five years program of important industries prepared by the War Ministry 29 May 1937, a resume of policy relating to execution of essentials of a five year program -- trial graph prepared by the Army -- 10 June 1937, and summary of a program for extension of productive capacity, prepared by the Planning Board in January 1939. HOSHINO was a Councillor of this Institute (843).

On 18 October 1941 HOSHINO became Chief Secretary of Tojo's Cabinet. On 4 November 1941 the Cabinet made and issued instructions to the Information Board in connection with releasing news on preparation for war and strategic news. This provided that the suppression of reports on the tenseness of diplomatic relations with Great Britain and the United States should be eased and the people given hope for the future. News and speeches enabling the enemy to see Japan's war preparations were excluded as well as all activities which might incite the public to take action against residents of Third Powers (Exh. 1167).

At the Imperial Conference held on 5 November 1941, measures toward foreign countries in relation to the plans of execution of national policy towards the Empire were decided upon (Exh. 1169).

On 11 November 1941 a Liaison Conference was held and at this meeting the principle reasons alleged for commencement of hostilities against the United States and Great Britain were stated (Exh. 1175). Although the names of those present were not listed, it may be assumed that HOSHINO by virtue of his official position attended.

Exh. 1176 dated 12 November 1941 sets out the general outline for extending the conclusion of war against the United States, Great Britain, Netherlands, and Chungking. This provided in essence the plan to be adopted towards foreign powers which has already been set out in Exh. 1169 relating to the Imperial Conference of 5 November 1941. Exh. 878 dated 13 November 1941 is a record of the meeting of the Liaison Conference held on that date. It is substantially the same as Exh. 1169 with some additions in respect to China. There is no list of those who attended but it may be inferred that HOSHINO was present.

On 25 November 1941 it was officially announced that the Anti-Comintern Pact had been signed (Exh. 496).

At a Cabinet meeting on 28 November 1941 a new press system was approved. This placed the Japanese press on a wartime basis. HOSHINO attended the Imperial Conference on 1 December 1941 (Exh. 1107). Early in December he attended a Cabinet meeting at which was decided that in the event of Japanese negotiations with the United States being unsuccessful, Japan would go to war (15,971).

On December 7, 1941 Kido's Diary (Exh. 1220) states that HOSHINO visited Kido to consult about the war with the United States and England.

At 9 a.m. on the 8th December 1941, after Japanese forces had already attacked Great Britain and the United States he was present at the meeting of the Privy Council when war was declared on the United States and helped to compile necessary Imperial Rescript relating thereto (15,968, 15,976).

On October 9, 1942, he was present at the meeting of the Privy Council relating to the Greater East Asia Ministry. There Tojo explained that in order to achieve victory it was an absolute necessity

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for the combined fighting power of East Asia to be strengthened and that it was desirable to establish a Ministry to achieve those aims and to ensure swift and decisive action (Exh. 687). He was also present at subsequent meetings of the Privy Council dealing with the same matter on 12th and 14th October 1942 (Exh. 687). On 6 November 1942 he attended the Assembly of East Asiatic Nations at which the joint declaration of the meeting was approved (Exh. 1346).

He retained his post as Chief Secretary until 22 July 44 serving on various Government Committees during the interim.

Except for the brief period between 4 April 1941 and 18 October 1941 Hoshino was either a Minister of State or Chief Secretary of the Cabinet. Whilst a Minister of State he was also President of the Planning Board. In these capacities he was privy to and took an active part in the continuance of the war with China and preparations for war with the Allies.

From October 1941 onwards he attended all Cabinet meetings and knew that Japan whilst pretending to negotiate with the United States intended to strike. Later he knew that Japan had attacked without any declaration of war but still retained his Cabinet post.

One cannot resist the conclusion that from at least 1936 onwards Hoshino favoured the expansion of Japan even at the expense of peaceful neighbours, that he joined in the various conspiracies charged and lent powerful assistance towards their fulfillment.