

ARAKI

The particulars with regard to him are to be found on page 519 of the Summary. To para. 3 further extracts from his interrogations have to be added. They are Exhibits 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222. To para. 4 is to be added Exhibits 221 and 2223A.

This account of the part played by Araki in the conspiracy is necessarily an account as given in evidence before this tribunal. With so vast a story to tell any account must be incomplete but, though nothing is here stated which has not been proved, this statement does not purport to be a complete account, for all purposes, of the part he played.

It is impossible to say exactly when Araki became a party to this conspiracy but, if he was not one already he entered the conspiracy at least in December 1931 when he became Minister of War. For the five months before this appointment he had been Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Inspectorate General of Military Training and President of the Permanent Examination Committee for Army Officer Students so that he held both these senior positions at the beginning of the invasion of Manchuria. He must therefore have clearly understood what the Japanese forces were doing in Manchuria and, by accepting the post of Minister of War whilst the invasion was in progress, accepted at the same time responsibility for the invasion. Moreover not merely did he, by accepting this position, accept responsibility for the military policy which was already being pursued but by ordering further acts of aggression, showed how fully he participated in the whole conspiracy.

He stated, during interrogation, that he himself decided on the occupation of General Chang's four provinces shortly after becoming War Minister and obtained the agreement thereto both of the cabinet and of the Privy Council (Exhibit 187A). He further stated, during interrogation, that he received a request from the Kwantung Army to set up Manchuria as an independent state, that he could have refused to forward this request to the Prime Minister, but that he forwarded it (Exhibit 187). Itagaki told Tanaka, according to the latter's testimony (p. 15854) that the Cabinet was opposed to Manchuria being proclaimed an independent state but that Araki was in favor of it and told him (Itagaki) so.

During interrogation Araki stated, in relation to the Shanghai Incident on January 28th, 1932, that: he first heard at a Cabinet meeting that the Japanese Navy had landed there, that, as the Navy Minister, who made the announcement, "said it (the incident) could be settled quickly no one was worried", that the Navy Minister later told him that the naval forces might be destroyed, he (Araki) thereupon agreed, as did the Cabinet, that more than a division (about ten thousand troops) should be sent in support and that when the first division sent suffered difficulties he sent another division in support (Exhibit 2221).

An affidavit by Mr. Stimson, the then United States Secretary of State, stated that on June 23rd 1932 he heard from Mr. Grew, the then United States Ambassador to Japan, that Araki had stated that the League of Nations resolutions about Manchuria and the Japanese Government's statements about Manchuria made before Manchukuo was proclaimed independent were not binding on Japan (Exhibit 1104).

Araki's responsibility for the acts of aggression during the period he was Minister of War is also shown by his statements during interrogation that (1) forces cannot be sent overseas without the consent of the War, Navy, and Foreign Ministers and the Premier (Exhibit 2216) and (2) if war had ensued as the result of Japan rejecting another government's protest the whole Cabinet could have been held responsible (Exhibit 2219).

If the government and Araki, the War Minister, had desired only peace with Russia is it conceivable that the Japanese Military Attache in Moscow should have spoken in a report of July 14th 1932, of being "ready to appeal to arms against Russia, China and under certain circumstances against America?" (Exhibit 701).

Perhaps even more significant, in this connection, is the despatch of July 16th 1932 by the Chief of the Russian Section of the 2nd Dept. of the Japanese General Staff to the Japanese Military Attache in Moscow of a statement that "it was decided that..... preparations for waging war against Russia should be completed before the middle of 1934". (Exhibit 702)

Moreover Exhibit No. 670, an affidavit of Takebe, Rosuko, stated that as a Governor, he heard Araki's speech to the Prefectural Governors in 1933

and that Araki, on a map of the U.S.S.R. and Manchuria, explained Japan's need for the maritime province of Siberia and Zabaikalye.

Significant for more than one reason is Araki's speech in the film "Critical Period for Japan." (Exh. No. 148A). It is significant both because of the aggressive sentiments it contains and perhaps even more so, because Araki should have been the government's spokesman to the public in this connection. It is evidence of the leading position he held as an exponent of aggressive nationalism.

Araki was a member of the Cabinet Advisory Council, which, on his own admission during interrogation, was set up to advise on the China Incident, from "almost immediately after its formation" in October 1937 till he became Minister of Education and again from September 1939 (a month after he ceased to be Education Minister) till August 1940. On his own admission the Council met once a week and it was compulsory to attend (Exh. 2217). One incident which occurred during his membership of this Council was the Rape of Nanking.

As Minister of Education, a position he held from May 1938 to August 1939 Araki is clearly responsible for the actions of the Japanese Government during that period. Not merely is his statement, already quoted, about the responsibility of the whole Cabinet for a policy resulting in war, relevant in this connection, but, on his admission, during the time he was Minister of Education foreign affairs were usually discussed at the usual Cabinet meetings held once a week, where the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Army and Navy Ministers would also bring up matters of importance (Exh. 2218). During this period the following incidents occurred:- Araki, as Minister of Education, made a speech on Japan's determination to fight to a finish with China and U.S.S.R. (Exh. 671).

Successive attacks on Soviet territory took place (Exhibits 753, 757).

The Japanese Government issued an official declaration about China (Exhibit 1291) stating that Japan had practically achieved her end in China, with the national government reduced to a local regime and the main territory conquered but would fight on until it was completely destroyed.

A cultural agreement was made with Germany (Exhibit 589).

Military training in boys' schools was increased by an ordinance.

issued on November 30th 1938 (Exhibit 135).

The Premier Kenoye on 22 December 1938 stated Japan's determination to exterminate the Kuomintang Government (Exhibit 972).

The Anti-Comintern Pact was strengthened by first Hungary and Manchuria and then Spain being admitted.

Hainan Island was seized by the "forcible landing of Japanese forces"

It was whilst such a policy was being pursued that Araki was appointed President of the General National Mobilization Committee on 28 March 1939. It is clearly inconceivable that such a post should have been confided at such a time to anyone who was not heart and soul in sympathy with, and an active supporter of the criminal conspiracy for world conquest on which the Japanese Government was engaged.

It is submitted that the confidence thus shown in Araki by his fellow conspirators after all these years of aggression is very significant of their confidence in him. It is further submitted that his whole record shows that this confidence was fully deserved.

Although he protests that he was friendly to Britain and America this is not in accord with his speeches on the teaching of the film in which he appeared, and we submit that the war against them was the logical result of the policy he all along advocated.