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(from the Washington Post, "Ar. 10, 1948)

SUSPENDING IN JAPAN...
...friends of Admiral Nomura and Shigemitsu...
to congratulate them on the news from Tokyo that they have been "depurged."
That means they will be allowed to resume public life. This will probably
not affect Admiral Nomura, Japanese Ambassador in Washington at the time of
Pearl Harbor, for he is getting along in years; but the news means that a
new life is beginning for the 68-year-old Mr. Shigemitsu, who, as Foreign
Minister of Japan, signed the surrender instrument on the USS Missouri in 1945.

The follies and injustices attendant upon the liquidating of the war
include the treatment of Mr. Shigemitsu. He was made a war criminal. The war
crimes tribunal sentenced him to seven years in jail. He had served almost
five years when he was let out on parole, and later his sentence was commuted.
The only reason that Mr. Shigemitsu was included among the war criminals was to
satisfy the Allies. They did not like Shigemitsu, perhaps because Shigemitsu,
as Ambassador to Soviet Russia, had their number, or perhaps because he was
well-known for his western friendships.

Neither Mr. Shigemitsu nor Admiral Nomura is said to entertain any rancor.
That is our good fortune. Much is done in the heat of war's aftermath that,
in the nature of things, is perhaps inevitable; and they are both big enough
to know it. What they both did to keep the peace is now being retold by their friends
and that must be a comfort. For instance, Editor William J. Cheney's autobiography
So It Seems says of Admiral Nomura - - "that long-headed gentleman" -- "I believed
in his sincerity in 1947 as I believed in it in 1941." Mr. Cheney quotes
FOR as saying in October, 1941, about Admiral Nomura: "He is an honorable
man who sincerely sought to aid in keeping Japanese-American relations on a
peaceful basis."

At about the time in 1941 that Mr. Cheney saw Admiral Nomura, Mr. Shigemitsu
was visiting the Ambassador on his way back to Tokyo from the Ambassadorship in
London. Both happened to be blood brothers, for Nomura lost an eye and Shigemitsu
a leg as a result of a Korean shooting 20 years ago in Shanghai. It was clear
in Washington that Shigemitsu as well as Nomura was distressed over the
darkening clouds. Since neither was privy to the Pearl Harbor plot,
neither knew that the clouds were much blacker than they seemed, but what

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