

SECRET

2 JJ-25

APO 500  
29 April 1947

Subject: MATSUMOTO Shunichi

To : FBZ

O.I.  
2-1-1

1. Reference cable #WASH 1192, 11 April 1947,  
the attached information was obtained from CIS files.

2. Material in CIS files copies from Office of  
Strategic Services files was not copied.

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SOURCE METHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

76-780R  
329

FOR COORDINATION WITH US Army

Job 76-780R  
Box 329

SECRET

TKW-14

Extract from G-2 inter-office memorandum dtd 18 April 1947:

"No additional info in files of Compilation Br. However, investigation carried out by the Metropolitan Police Board reveals that subject had no connection with the VIET NAM movement."

# SECRET

3 April 1946

## MATSUMOTO, Shunichi

1887, June Born in Kure City, Hiroshima Prefecture; eldest son of MATSUMOTO, Katsutaro; married Toki, eldest daughter of YOSHIDA, Katsunoshin.

1921 Graduated Tokyo Imperial University, French Law.  
1921 Entered Finance Ministry.  
1921, June Entered Foreign Ministry.  
Served in Japan Office of Temporary Peace Treaty.  
1922 Delegate on Commission for Revision of Regulation of War Time at Hungary.

1923 Attache of Japanese Embassy at Brussels.  
1925 Vice-Consul at Antwerp.  
Served in 3rd Section of Foreign Ministry.  
Served in 2nd Section of Foreign Ministry.  
3rd Secretary of Embassy in France.  
1930 Delegate to International Codification Congress at Hungary.  
1930, Feb. Member of International Aviation Commission.  
1930 Member of Executive Committee of Peace Treaty; also delegate 12th Congress of League of Nations Assembly.  
1931 2nd Secretary of Embassy in France; also delegate to Temporary Congress of League of Nations Assembly; and delegate to 13th Congress of League of Nations Assembly.  
1932 Delegate to London Economic Conference.  
1933 Chief of 2nd Section of Treaty Bureau of Foreign Ministry.  
1933 Member of Perpetual Lease Commission.  
1933 Chief of 1st section of Treaty Bureau of Foreign Ministry.  
1938 Chief of Personnel Section of Minister's Secretariat of Foreign Ministry.

1940, Mar-Sept Counsellor of Japanese Embassy in China.  
1940, Sept -  
1942, Nov. Director of Treaty Bureau of Foreign Ministry.  
1942- Nov.-  
1944, Oct 21 Vice-Minister of Foreign Ministry; served under Foreign Ministers YANI Masayuki and SHIRAMITSU Masaru succeeded YAMAMOTO Kunichi who became Vice-Minister of newly established GWA Ministry.

1944 Aug 23 Appointed to serve as Acting Director of Treaty Bureau of Foreign Ministry.  
1944, Oct 21 Appointed Ambassador Plenipotentiary to French Indo-China; succeeded YOSHIZAWA Kenkichi.  
1944, Nov 12 Emperor grants interview to MATSUMOTO before leaving for French Indo-China.  
1945, Jan 11 In press interview in Saigon reviewed policy of Deoux and hoped that status quo would be maintained.

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1945, Mar 9

MATSUMOTO saw Governor-General Decoux to demand an answer in regard to agreements set forth in Japan-Thailand Joint Defense Agreement. Upon refusal to agree Decoux placed under arrest.

1945, Mar 13

MATSUMOTO appointed Supreme-Adviser to handle the affairs of the Secretary-General of French Indo-China.

SOURCE:

Japanese Personal Intelligence Collation Number I, OWI, Report #125, May 11, 1945.

INFORMATION:

(Besides identical information contained in biographical sketch of Japanese Personal Intelligence Collation No. 1 is MATSUMOTO's address: 135, Aoyama Minami-cho 6-Chome, Akasaka-ku, Tokyo) (Year of birth recorded as 1897).

SOURCE:

Who's Who in Japan, 1941-1942.

INFORMATION:

1897, June

Born in Hiroshima Prefecture (Date differs from previous biographical sketch).

1943

MATSUMOTO, Foreign Vice-Minister with other welcome Ba Maw and party (Tokyo Domei English 3/18/43; #122).

1943

Greater East Asiatic nations to assemble, roster given Attending from Japan will be ...Shunichi MATSUMOTO, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs... (Tokyo Domei English to America 11/4/43, #59).

1943

MATSUMOTO Shun-ichi, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and others, called to express condolence for Arsene Henri, late French Ambassador to Japan (Tokyo Domei French to Europe 11/15/43) #82.

Appointed to the concurrent post of acting director of the treaty bureau of the Foreign Ministry of Japan (FOG, 8/23/44)

Summoned Dr. Charles Gustave Idman, Finnish Minister of Japan and handed the Minister a note of the Japanese Government breaking off diplomatic relations with Finland. (RT 9/24/44)

1944 Shun-ichi MATSUMOTO, present Vice Foreign Minister, attended luncheon given by Shigemitsu to members of Soviet Embassy. (Tokyo Domei English to America, 4/13/44).

1944 Emperor grants interview to MATSUMOTO before he leaves for Indo-China (Far Eastern Propanal, 11/12/44).

SOURCE:

Personal Intelligence Volume II, "Kabayama" to "Onaki"

INFORMATION:

Foreign Service  
Member, House of Peers  
(biographical sketch)

SOURCE:

Who's Who in Japan, 1937, Japan-Manchoukuo Year Book, 1940 Office of Strategic Services Files.

INFORMATION:

MATSUMOTO, Shunichi was appointed Councilor to the Military Command and Director of the Bureau of General Affairs (Supreme Adviser) of French Indo-China on 3-14-45.

SOURCE:

(Enemy news broadcast and other sources.) Prominent Persons in Japan or Japanese Dominated Territories, 15 May 45, DIO, 14th Naval District.

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# SECRET

**INFORMATION:**

Supreme Advisor to French-Indo China, as of Mar 1945. (Biographical sketch similar to that contained in previous information. Further details: He was appointed Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in Nov 1942, then Vice-Minister of Home Affairs and Chief of the Examination Section, Cabinet Minister's Secretariat, but was transferred from the latter post on 20 Sept 43. As of July 19 he was also a member of the GEA Committee for Evaluating Government Investments and Property of the North China Development Company, Central China Development Company and of the GEA Ministry Liaison Committee.

**SOURCE:**

Not stated. Counter Intelligence Data on Japan. #1-B.

**INFORMATION:**

Former Ambassador affected by 4 Jan Directive. (Source: Yomiuri-Hoch Feb 28, 1946)

Falls under Category F of Jan 4 Purge Directive. (Asahi Shinbun, 28 Feb 1946. Source: ATIS Press Translations #1592, 2 March 1946)

**SOURCE:**

Counter Intelligence Files.

**INFORMATION:**

New Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs - Japanese Government.

Matsumoto was Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs until last October when he was appointed Special Envoys and Ambassador Plenipotentiary to French Indo-China. He is 49 years old and a native of Hiroshima Prefecture. He was graduated from the Law Department of the Tokyo Imperial University in 1921 and transferred from the Finance Ministry to the Foreign Ministry. His career includes service in Belgium, France and Switzerland and as a member of the Japanese delegation to the League of Nations. Matsumoto also served as chief of the First and Second Sections and the Personnel Section of the Ministry's Treaty Bureau, as counselor of the Japanese Embassy in China, and director of the Treaty Bureau.

**SOURCE:**

Domei in Rouji to GEA, May 11 and 13. From: Radio Report on the Far East No. 72, May 18, 1945.

INTERROGATION OF - MATSUMOTO, Shinichi

Date and Time: 23 March 1946, 1015 - 1115 hours

Place : Room 735, Meiji Building, Tokyo, Japan

Present : MATSUMOTO, Shinichi  
Gilbert S. Woolworth, Interrogator  
UYEHARA, Cecil, Interpreter  
Miss Clara B. Knapp, Stenographer

Questions by Mr. Woolworth.

Oaths of interpreter and stenographer administered by Mr. Woolworth.

Q. Mr. Matsumoto, what position did you occupy 8 January 1945?

A. I was in French Indo-China.

Q. Where were you on 30 April 1945?

A. I was still in French Indo-China.

Q. When did you return to the Foreign Office?

A. May 13, 1945.

Q. What position did you take up in the Foreign Office at that time?

A. Vice Minister.

Q. Vice Foreign Minister?

A. Yes.

Q. I show you a letter dated 30 April 1945, addressed to the Imperial Foreign Minister from the Legation of Switzerland. This letter is contained in a bound volume of correspondence from the Foreign Office, indicated as Volume 1. And I ask you if this letter ever came to your attention, and if so, what answer was made to it; what action was taken on it.

A. This letter was received May 2.

Q. Did that letter come to your attention at any time?

A. No. The other day you showed me another letter like this, but not this one. Concerning the execution.

Q. Yes, there are a number of them.

A. Yes, numbers. I never saw this one. If I saw it, no signature on it.

Q. Does this show that any response was ever made to that letter?

A. I don't remember.

- Q. Is there anything on the letter, any notation on the letter, to show that it was replied to?
- A. No. Simply this was received by the Swiss Minister here.
- Q. Received from the Swiss Minister?
- A. And signed by Mr. Suzuki.
- Q. He is the one down in Yokohama now?
- A. Yes.
- Q. As Vice Foreign Minister, you ordinarily would have been appraised of any letters which came from the Swiss Minister regarding prisoners of war, would you not? You would have known of the receipt of them?
- A. Oh yes.
- Q. That is when you were functioning as Vice Minister, you did know about it?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you have no present recollection of ever having seen that letter?
- A. No, not this letter.
- Q. What position did you occupy in the Foreign Office on 15 March 1943?
- A. I was Vice Minister, Foreign Vice Minister.
- Q. Did you recall the letter of 3 March 1943 from the Swiss Minister, addressed to the Foreign Minister?
- A. Minister TANI? No, I don't recall.
- Q. Who prepared the reply?
- A. This reply was prepared by the Director of the Treaty Bureau.
- Q. Who was the Director of the Treaty Bureau then?
- A. ANDO.
- Q. What was his given name?
- A. Yoshiro.
- Q. He was then the head of the Treaty Bureau?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is he still with the government?
- A. No, he is now retired.
- Q. He lives here in Tokyo?
- A. No, he is now in his native country. He is standing as candidate for the Diet.
- Q. Where is his home?
- A. Gifu Prefecture.
- Q. Where is that?
- A. Between Nagoya and Kyoto. And Mr. SUZUKI signed also.
- Q. And as Vice Minister didn't you usually pass on such letters?
- A. No, ~~for~~ this letter, and not this answer. If they show me, I must sign right here.

- Q. But it did come to the attention of Mr. Tani? Was he supposed to have signed it?
- A. I don't know. He didn't sign.
- Q. Doesn't he sign himself the letters received from the Swiss Legation?
- A. No.
- Q. It says "Signature of the Minister" here.
- A. But this letter was dispatched in Japanese, I think. That is a French translation.
- Q. But it apparently was prepared for the signature of the Foreign Minister, was it not?
- A. It is written like this in the translation, for the signature of the Foreign Minister. He doesn't sign it. In the Japanese they write it like this, and put the seal of the Foreign Minister on.
- Q. Well then it was, in fact, signed by the Foreign Minister if he puts a seal on it.
- A. Yes, seal. Seal of the Foreign Minister is kept by Documents and Archives Section, safe, and whether the Foreign Minister saw this reply, I don't know. By merely looking at the reply I do not know whether the Foreign Minister has seen the letter or not.
- Q. Well, isn't the Foreign Minister usually advised of correspondence coming from the legations of foreign countries?
- A. Naturally, the very important ones. The most important documents the Foreign Minister sees, but the other ones he does not see.
- Q. For example, if he should meet the Swiss Minister and the Swiss Minister inquired of him about a matter and he would not have been informed on it, it would be embarrassing to him, would it not?
- A. In regard to this subject, I think that the Foreign Minister is aware of it, but by merely looking at the reply it is impossible to assume this, to make sure of it.
- Q. It is your opinion, then, that matters of such importance as this would, in the ordinary course of business, come to the attention of the Foreign Minister?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was the matter of the reply to this letter of 3 March 1943 ever discussed with you by Mr. Tani, the Foreign Minister?
- A. With me? No, I don't remember.
- Q. Do these files from the Foreign Office in which this letter appeared contain all the correspondence from the Swiss Minister now in the Foreign Office-- those that were brought up to this office--do you know? Do they contain all the correspondence between the Swiss Minister and the Foreign Office, in connection with prisoners of war?
- A. I do not know. I hear that during the air raids part of the documents in regard to the prisoners of war were burned.

- Q. Was that while you were in the Foreign Office? Were you on duty in the Foreign Office at that time?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Well, do you know whether or not they were burned, yourself?
- A. I hear that part of the documents had been burned. I think documents in regard to the Swiss Legation have been collected--most of them--here.
- Q. Is this memorandum which I show you, dated 6 February 1943, is that from the Swiss Ministry?
- A. I don't think so. I don't remember this memorandum.
- Q. Is this a reply to that memorandum? It seems more or less to be on the same subject.
- A. Yes, same number here.
- Q. What is the complaint of the Swiss Minister in his memorandum I showed you, which is identified by the number CC 11?
- A. I haven't seen this document before. I think it states that the Swiss Legation asks the Japanese government to arrange the dates of visiting the prisoners of war at Shikoku and Korea on different dates, because it is better for the prisoners of war to have more frequent visits, and in reply to that the Japanese government said that they did not intend to arrange the dates on the same day.
- Q. It was just by chance?
- A. Yes, by chance it happens.
- Q. I show you a memorandum from the Swiss Legation, No. C C 123, which makes complaint about the treatment of the prisoners of war at Camps Keizyo and Zinsen. In this there is a complaint that they don't have sufficient warm clothes, have need of a dentist, there is no canteen, religious services are not conducted in English. That is the camp at Zinsen. At Keizyo the complaint was about the celebration of Mass being in Japanese instead of English, and the same complaint is made at Zinsen. At both camps they complain that they don't receive any letters or postal cards, or aid packets, since they have been in the camp, and then the officers at Zinsen were quartered with the enlisted men, and they asked for a change in that respect. The memorandum was dated 19 February 1943. Can you tell me if any response was made to that complaint, and if so what it was?
- A. I don't know this memorandum, but by this letter it was transferred to the Information Bureau of Prisoners of War of the War Ministry. Transferred by this document. I can't tell you whether it was replied to actually or not.
- Q. There is nothing to show in any of the correspondence attached that it was ever answered?
- A. No, I can't find in this document the answer. It simply is a letter referring the request to the Information Bureau.
- Q. To the Prisoner of War Information Bureau?
- A. Yes.
- Q. If you sent the request to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, if no reply came from them, would you follow it up?
- A. Oh, yes, yes.

- Q. Does this memorandum show that there was more than one request made for the information?
- A. I think this memorandum of the Swiss Legation does not receive a reply, it does not necessarily require an answer. It is just merely asking the kind attention of the Japanese government in regard to these requests that they put to the Japanese government.
- Q. So it was not customary to answer memorandums submitted by the protecting power, as to Prisoner of War camp conditions?
- A. If the Swiss Legation requested the Japanese government to improve the conditions of the prisoners of war, they would naturally give a reply, but in this case the Swiss Legation merely asks the kind attention of the Japanese government in regard to the treatment of the prisoners of war.
- Q. All right. Well, I think that is all for this morning. Thank you very much.

INTERROGATION OF MATSUMOTO, Shunichi

Date and Time: 14 March 1946, 1000-1130 hours.

Place : Room 735 Meiji Bldg., Rokyo, Japan

Present : MATSUMOTO, Shunichi  
Address: Mitani-Machi 80, Meguro-Ku, Tokyo

Gilbert S. Woolworth, Interrogator  
Denis Kildoyle, Interpreter  
Edna Nickam, Stenographer

Oath of Interpreter: Administered by Mr. Woolworth.

Mr. Woolworth: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you in this proceeding?

Denis Kildoyle: I do.

Questions by Mr. Woolworth:

Q. During what years were you Vice Foreign Minister?

A. I was Vice Foreign Minister from November 1942 to October 1944. I was twice Foreign Minister, and the second time it was from May 1945 to September 1945.

Q. You left the Foreign Ministry when the Cabinet changed in 1944. Was the Cabinet change why you left the Foreign Ministry?

A. No. I was appointed Ambassador to French Indo-China.

Q. How long have you been connected with the foreign service of Japan?

A. About 24 or 25 years.

Q. As Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, what did you have to do with the correspondence affecting prisoners of war and civilian internees in the period 1942-1945?

A. Correspondence in connection with prisoners of war and internees was actually handled by Mr. SUZUKI, Tadaka. As Vice Minister I only superintended his work, to help the Foreign Minister.

Q. Who was the Foreign Minister from 1942 to 1944 while you were Vice-Minister?

A. From Nov 1942 to April 1943 it was Mr. FANI, Masayuki. After that it was Mr. SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru.

Q. What was done with the requests from the Swiss Legation made in behalf of the United States for visiting prisoner-of-war camps?



- A. Requests from the Swiss Legation were transmitted to the War Minister. The Foreign Office did everything in their power to have these requests met by the War Ministry, but was not successful.
- Q. Did the War Ministry handle those requests through the Prisoners-of-War Information Bureau, do you know?
- A. Matters were usually taken up with the Prisoners-of-War Information Bureau by the Foreign Office; but this seemed to be a very uninfluential organization, and actually the power was in the hands of the War Ministry. Visits and inspections of camps in Japan proper were allowed, but in places where military action was in progress the Army authorities on the spot took an independent attitude and inspections and visits were not permitted; that is where combat was in progress and in occupied territories.
- Q. What do you mean by military action? Do you mean combat?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What do you mean by occupied territory? All Japan was occupied by Japanese troops wasn't it?
- A. I refer to overseas territory.
- Q. By occupied territory then you mean overseas territory? So no prisoner-of-war camps were permitted to be visited except in Japan proper?
- A. Later on visits were allowed in several overseas camps.
- Q. What do you mean by later on, what years?
- A. I do not remember the date, but I am sure visits were allowed towards the end of my tenure of office.
- Q. In what countries?
- A. Do not remember the countries.
- Q. Lt Gen UEMURA was the head of the Prisoners-of-War Information Bureau from 1941 to 1942, was he not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And I believe from 1942 to 1944 Maj Gen HAMADA, Taira was in command of that department?
- A. Yes. I know the two Generals.
- Q. And do you know Lt Gen TAMURA, Hiroshi?
- A. Yes, by name.
- Q. He was in command of the Prisoners-of-War Information Bureau from 1944 to the end of the war.
- A. I know him by name, but have never met him.
- Q. You had no direct personal contact then with the Prisoners-of-War Information Bureau?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Did they prepare in the War Ministry the answer to the Swiss Legation's request?
- A. The replies were prepared in the War Ministry and transmitted through the Foreign Office.



- Q. Did the Foreign Office ever change or make any effort to change the replies to the Swiss Legation?
- A. While the replies were not changed, these were often referred back to the War Ministry with the information that the replies were not satisfactory from the point of view of international law or diplomacy.
- Q. Do you recall how many times you did that?
- A. I do not remember, but this happened quite often.
- Q. Do you remember any particular instance in connection with any particular request which the Swiss Legation made on behalf of the United States or Great Britain?
- A. I have no recollection of any special incident.
- Q. Were any of your requests for reconsideration ever affirmatively acted upon by the War Ministry?
- A. Several requests were affirmatively acted upon by the War Ministry, but these were only obtained after difficult negotiations.
- Q. Do you recall who gave the order that all war prisoners were to be employed in various labor efforts?
- A. I think this order came from the Minister of War.
- Q. Who was the Minister of War during your tenure of office?
- A. Gen TOJO.
- Q. And after Gen TOJO?
- A. Then Gen SUGIYAMA; Gen TOJO was concurrently Prime Minister.
- Q. Gen TOJO was Minister of War from 1940 to the end of July 1944?
- A. And after July 1944 it was Gen SUGIYAMA.
- Q. Do you recall any complaint being filed by the Swiss Legation on behalf of the United States and Great Britain in connection with the employment by Japan of prisoners of war on munitions work?
- A. Yes, I remember these complaints.
- Q. What was done about them?
- A. It was pointed out to the War Ministry that demands from the United States would have to be seriously considered in this connection.
- Q. What was done, if anything?
- A. Nothing could be done, as the demands could only be transmitted to the War Office.
- Q. What action did the War Office take on those demands?
- A. I think the War Office also gave some consideration to these requests.
- Q. Do you mean by that, that the work on munitions by war prisoners was stopped?
- A. I do not know whether the work was stopped in this connection.
- Q. Did you make any final reply to the Swiss Legation in regard to this matter of employment of prisoners on munitions work?
- A. I do not remember at the moment just what replies were given to the Swiss Legation.

Q. You know, as a matter of fact, do you not, that United States prisoners of war were employed in Manchuria on machine tool work for airplane construction?  
A. I do not remember this.

Q. Do you remember that a complaint was made about that?  
A. I do not remember that either.

Q. Were you Vice Minister of the Foreign Ministry at the time of the close of the war?  
A. Yes.

Q. What prisoner-of-war records of the Foreign Office were destroyed at the end of the war? Do you know?  
A. I do not remember any records pertaining to prisoners of war having been destroyed. And I did not give orders for any such documents to be disposed of.

Q. Was there an order issued on or about the 15th of August to the effect that all secret documents in the Foreign Office be destroyed?  
A. No. As a matter of fact, the Foreign Office was destroyed in the raid of May 25 and a lot of documents must have been destroyed then.

Q. Do you recall a complaint having been made by the Swiss Legation in connection with the employment of 150 American prisoners of war in Zentsuji who were sent to Osaka to work in munitions factories?  
A. No I do not remember this. Perhaps Mr. SUZUKI of the Foreign Office will remember this.

Q. Where does Mr. SUZUKI live now?  
A. He is now in Yokohama. He is chief of the Liaison Office in Yokohama.

Q. What is his given name?  
A. Tadakatsu.

Q. And do you recall a complaint being made by the Swiss Legation in connection with the employment of about 2,000 prisoners of war in the Mitsubishi Ship Yard in Nagasaki Prefecture?  
A. There were many such cases, but I do not remember individual instances.

Q. Do you recall any complaints in connection with the employment of about 1,000 prisoners of war in the Koshe Ship Yards?  
A. I have never heard of this Ship Yards; I think it is misspelled.

(Comment by Interpreter: Koshe means arsenal.) There must be some misunderstanding.

Q. As a matter of fact then, as I understand you, the final decision as to the employment of prisoners of war was made by the War Ministry and not by the Foreign Office.  
A. The Foreign Office has no authority to make decisions on this subject.

Q. Under the Prisoner-of-War Conventions, in your opinion was it legal to employ prisoners of war in coal mines during this war?  
A. I do not think it would be legal if the coal mines were producing coal for military purposes.

- Q. Are you thoroughly familiar with the provisions of the Prisoner-of-War Convention to which Japan agreed to adhere during this late war?
- A. No, I do not know these in detail.
- Q. Do you know of any provision of treaties which permitted the summary execution of pilots of enemy airplanes who were shot down over Japan?
- A. I do not think there are any articles permitting this type of execution.
- Q. Was the Foreign Office, while you were in it, consulted about the order which was given out ordering the summary trial of pilots who were apprehended in Japan?
- A. No, the Foreign Office was not consulted.
- Q. Do you recall the decision of the Army Administrative Department for war prisoners made on 15 August 1942, which permitted the employment of prisoners of war in defense construction?
- A. No, I do not remember this order.
- Q. Who makes up the Foreign Affairs Monthly Report published in Japan?
- A. Of international affairs?
- Q. The "Foreign Affairs Monthly Report" is the title.
- A. I do not remember this being compiled in the Foreign Office. Perhaps it is the Information Bureau in the Cabinet.
- Q. Are you aware that during the war the prisoners of war were employed in the building of war ships in Japan?
- A. I do not know this. I am under the impression that this contravenes the Hague Convention, and I did not think it would be permitted.
- Q. Do you know Gen UMEZU, who commanded the Kwantung Division of the Army?
- A. I met him after he became Chief of Staff. He was in that position when the war ended.
- Q. Did you know that while he was in command of a division of the Kwantung Army he issued an order to the effect that enemy pilots apprehended would be punished by death?
- A. I have not heard of this.
- Q. Do you know of any reason why enemy pilots apprehended by Japan should not be given the same treatment as any other prisoners of war?
- A. I do not know for certain, and it is not my idea; but I believe there were certain elements in the Army who advocated the trial and punishment of enemy aviators who bombed or attacked non-military objectives and civilians.
- Q. Do you know if there was a decision published by Imperial General Headquarters to the effect that all such pilots should be summarily executed?
- A. Yes, I remember this.
- Q. Was the Foreign Office consulted before that decree was issued?
- A. I do not remember the Foreign Office having been consulted about this.

- Q. Do you know of any reason why the Foreign Office failed to answer the requests made by the Swiss Legation in many instances, in connection with complaints by the United States as to the treatment of prisoners of war?
- A. This was due to the non-receipt of replies from the War Ministry and caused the Foreign Office great concern.
- Q. What did you do toward correcting that situation?
- A. The War Ministry was continually being dunned for replies, but this was in effect when Mr. SHIGEMITSU became Foreign Minister, and he stressed to all of us the necessity of doing our utmost to ameliorate the treatment of prisoners of war. He often discussed this with Gen HATA and later with Gen SUGIYAMA.
- Q. It is true, is it not, that the Foreign Office of the Japanese Government informed the Swiss Minister in January 1942 that Japan would strictly observe the Geneva Red Cross Convention, and secondly that although not bound by the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 it would apply the provisions of that Convention to American prisoners of war in its power, mutatis mutandis?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You were aware of that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And were you aware that on the 24th of February 1942 the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified the Swiss Government that neither prisoners of war nor internees would be forced to perform labor against their will.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why was it that Japan did not live up to that agreement?
- A. The Foreign Office did their utmost to have these promises adhered to. The War Ministry never stated that they would oppose or break these promises.
- Q. You know, as a matter of fact, that evidence came to your office constantly of the enforced labor of prisoners of war, do you not?
- A. Yes. And the War Ministry was always warned when these came to the notice of the Foreign Ministry.
- Q. In other words, the power of the Foreign Minister was absolutely limited during the war and the decisions were made by the War Ministry. Do I understand that to be correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who was the Japanese Minister, TANI? Was he Foreign Minister in 1943?
- A. Yes, 1943 until April, and after that he was named Ambassador to Nanking.
- Q. Do you recall the incident of the execution of three American prisoners of war in a Manchurian Camp on the charge of murdering a police inspector while attempting to escape?
- A. No, I do not remember.
- Q. Do you remember that the Swiss Government complained that there was no notice of the trial of these prisoners given to the protective power?
- A. I do not remember this either.

- Q. Did the Foreign Office make any provision for the turning over to the United States of its prisoner of war records at the termination of hostilities?
- A. I think preparations were being made to hand these over. I think this was contained in the terms of the surrender.
- Q. Did you know Mr. Wirth, head of the Swiss Legation?
- A. I am sure I have met him.
- Q. Did you have much to do with the International Red Cross representative?
- A. Yes, I saw him several times, because I knew Dr. Paravicini.
- Q. Do you recall an order being issued by TOJO countermmanding the order that prisoners of war should be treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention?
- A. I do not remember this.
- Q. You probably would have heard of it, wouldn't you, in the course of your duties?
- A. From what I heard from Mr. SHIGEMITSU I was under the impression that Gen TOJO agreed and supported Mr. SHIGEMITSU's views regarding the treatment of prisoner.
- Q. Mr. SHIGEMITSU was the Foreign Minister?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That's all, I think, for this morning, and I thank you for coming up. I wonder if it would be convenient for you to come up here tomorrow afternoon at, say, two o'clock?
- A. That would be difficult -- Saturday morning would be better.
- Q. It would be better for me, too -- Saturday morning, say at 9:30.

INTERROGATION OF

MATSUMOTO, SHUNICHI, formerly Vice-Minister  
of Foreign Affairs in 1944

Date and time: 9 March 1946, 1030-1200

Place : Meiji Building, Tokyo, Japan

Present : MATSUMOTO, Shunichi  
Hiroshi Matsuda, Interpreter  
Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., Interrogator  
Worth E. McKinney, Interrogator  
Roy Morgan, Interrogator  
Ingeborg Ryden, Stenographer

Oath of Interpreter: Administered by Mr. Morgan.

Mr. Morgan: Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you, in this proceeding?

Mr. Matsuda: I do.

(Note: A large part of the interrogation was conducted in English, Mr. Matsuda giving assistance as required.)

Questions by: Mr. Morgan

Q. I understand, Mr. Matsumoto, that you were Chief of the Treaties Bureau in 1940 during the time negotiations were being conducted for a military alliance between Japan, Germany and Italy?

A. Yes.

Q. As Chief of the Treaties Bureau with a legal background, it is my understanding that you read over the Tripartite agreement in detail before its final presentation to MATSUOKA?

A. Yes, and I noticed peculiarities in the Preamble and in Articles 1 and 2, and in Article 3. There was some ambiguity and vagueness legally.

Questions by: Mr. McKinney

Q. What would say in Article 3 that you thought was illegal?

A. Not illegal, but vague.

- Q. What did you notice in Article 3 that was vague? Wasn't the language of Article 3 very clear so that anyone could understand what was meant by reading it?
- A. In Article 3 there is a wording "is attacked by." Legally speaking it is very difficult to define this phrase. Defining the words "is attacked by" legally can't do it because if the United States attacks and sinks Japanese vessel, or something, they could more or less define it as an attack in the meaning of war, but there are all kinds of attack that may be just small incident that might be something that would lead to war or excuse for war.
- Q. At the time you talked to MATSUOKA about this agreement which was to be proposed, did you explain to him that Article 3 was not clear?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you also tell him that such treaty would undoubtedly cause great consternation among neutral powers, particularly the United States?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did he say when you explained to him that this Treaty, with such a provision, would possibly cause complications with the United States?
- A. Yes MATSUOKA said that the principal object of this Treaty was to keep the United States out of this war.
- Q. When you suggested that there should be changes made to explain what the Treaty actually stood for, what was his answer?
- A. That everything in the Treaty has been approved with Germany and changes would be impossible.
- Q. Did Mr. MATSUOKA tell you whom he had contacted and reached an agreement in connection with this proposed pact?
- A. Through OTT and STARMER with Ribbentrop.
- Q. Mr. MATSUOKA did not care to take your advice at all concerning this fact that this Treaty was improper as far as diplomatic relations were concerned?
- A. My advice was too late. I came back from Nanking 5 September and Mr. MATSUOKA told me about the Pact about the middle of September.
- Q. That was just after you were made Chief of the Treaties Bureau?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was there any secret agreement between MATSUOKA and Von Ribbentrop, as well as OTT and Starmer, as to the definition of the word "attacked"?
- A. I want to explain that concerning the word "attacked." Finally the definition of the word "attacked" was given in personal letters between MATSUOKA and OTT and STARMER.



Questions by: Mr. Tavenner.

- Q. Before there was an exchange of letter, did not MATSUOKA attempt to have STARMER and OTT agree to a secret Pact as a part of the Treaty?
- A. Yes, he tried.
- Q. Is it a fact that the German Government refused to have any secret understanding or agreement as a part of the Treaty?
- A. Yes. First Mr. MATSUOKA tried to get a special protocol attached to the Pact but the German Government - Von Ribbentrop - refused to make a formal protocol; and finally Ribbentrop agreed to exchange secret letters between MATSUOKA and OTT.
- Q. Before MATSUOKA received Von Ribbentrop's answer about the secret protocol, do you know whether MATSUOKA talked to the Emperor and obtained general approval of what he had done up to that time?
- A. I don't know this. But I know well that Mr. MATSUOKA tried to make a special protocol between Japan and Germany and Italy but Ribbentrop refused to make a formal protocol and finally Ribbentrop agreed to approve personal letters between MATSUOKA and OTT.

Questions by: Mr. Morgan

- Q. Was that Ribbentrop or was that OTT and STARMER acting on their own responsibility?
- A. Yes.
- Q. It was OTT and STARMER acting on their own responsibility?
- A. No. No. With Ribbentrop's consent.
- Q. How do you know this?
- A. Mr. MATSUOKA showed me draft protocol to arrange the wording--I was legal advisor to him. He asked me to arrange the protocol and I know, but Mr. MATSUOKA told me that draft protocol was refused by Ribbentrop.
- Q. Where is that draft of that protocol which was never adopted?
- A. Somewhere in Foreign Office but I don't know.

Questions by: Mr. Tavenner

- Q. Can it be found there?
- A. I don't know. But the authenticity of the document is not--would be very difficult to establish.
- Q. But you could recognize the language, could you not, since you prepared the draft?
- A. This protocol was drafted in English. Mr. MATSUOKA and OTT and STARMER initiated the protocol and treaty in English so each draft was in English.

Questions by: Mr. Morgan

- Q. What wouldn't effect the authenticity of the document being established would it, the fact that it was drafted in English?
- A. As far as I remember I can attest to the authenticity but my memory is not very sure.



Questions by: Mr. Tavenner

Q. If the German Government refused to let this understanding be made a part of the Treaty by secret clause, how could it be that it would be binding on the parties by mere letters between the representatives? Do you understand? In other words, wasn't the exchange of letters merely a personal obligation between the representatives to do what they could at later days to carry out that understanding, without it being a direct contractual obligation of the Governments?

A. It is very difficult. Yes, if the special protocol attached to the pact, signed same time as the pact, the protocol must be an integral part of the pact, but letters exchanged here in Tokyo between MATSUOKA and OTT is not integral part of the Treaty. This is only the understanding between German Ambassador and Foreign Minister of Japan, and I think that Italy did not know the matter.

Q. That is a well recognized principle of International Law that you have just stated, isn't it?

A. Yes. This is not an integral part of the Treaty. This is a mere understanding between MATSUOKA and the other two and also Ribbentrop naturally.

Questions by: Mr. Morgan.

Q. How did you know that Von Ribbentrop authorized OTT and STARNER to write such letters of understanding?

A. I remember that in the letter itself there was some mention about that.

Q. Did MATSUOKA tell you that Von Ribbentrop understood that these letters were written by OTT and STARNER at the request of Von Ribbentrop?

A. Yes.

Q. As a lawyer of International Law, as well as a diplomat, do you think that these letters of understanding which we mentioned above, have any legal effect and would be binding on either Germany or Japan?

A. Yes. Not integral part of the Pact but naturally the letter was signed by Foreign Minister and Ambassador in Tokyo and this was sort of exchange of notes-- diplomatic note--naturally there is some legal effect. Private letters were presented to Privy Council but not presenting the mere letters.

Q. Do I understand you to say that these letters of understanding were presented to the Privy Council?

A. For information. Not integral part of the Pact.

Q. Did the Privy Council understand the effect of these letters upon the Pact?

A. Effect?

Q. Yes. Did MATSUOKA explain to the Privy Council that these letters, although they were not an integral part of the Pact, had binding effect along with the Pact?

A. Binding effect. Yes, some kind of binding effect. I want to explain that the Privy Council approved the Treaty by the pact as it is, and the personal letters were used as reference and presented to Privy Council; have no legal connections and the letters were not presented for approval to the Privy Council.

- Q. With your background and knowledge of the treaties which were in effect at the time, did you advise MATSUOKA that such a pact would be in violation of the Nine Power Treaty, or any other existing treaties?
- A. No, I didn't mention that.
- Q. You did not advise him that such a pact would be in violation of any existing treaties to which Japan had entered into?
- A. No, I did not.
- Q. Didn't you think that this pact might violate existing treaties between Japan and other countries?
- A. I don't think so.
- Q. However, you did realize that this pact was an improper one?
- A. Improper one? In legal sense? Yes. But Preamble and Articles 1 and 2 were quite peculiar.
- Q. In what way were they peculiar?
- A. Quite new ---,
- A. Explain in your own way what your idea is concerning the pact, that these particular provisions of the proposed pact were peculiar and new as far as treaties are concerned?
- A. Although I don't remember the particular points, but the idea of the word "leadership" which was used extensively in the Preamble is very difficult to establish legally.

Questions by: Mr. Tavaner

- Q. In other words the declarations in the Preamble show on their face that in order to accomplish them it would virtually require military action, isn't that true?
- A. Not necessarily.
- Q. Who were the advisors of MATSUOKA in the preparation of the Treaty?
- A. It was Mr. SHIRATORI - Ambassador SHIRATORI - and Mr. SAITO.
- Q. What SAITO is that?
- A. SAITO. He was in the Diplomatic Service, retired diplomat.
- Q. What was his first name?
- A. He was diplomatic advisor to Mr. MATSUOKA.
- Q. Could you give us his first name?
- A. Yoshiye, or Ryoys. I don't know which one. It can be read either way.
- Q. Did you talk with SHIRATORI regarding the Treaty?
- A. Very little. SHIRATORI at that time -- SAITO was always in private residence of MATSUOKA but SHIRATORI very seldom. But SHIRATORI was an intimate friend of STARNER so that SHIRATORI was interested personally with STARNER.

- Q. Let us talk again about the unusual phases of this Treaty. The Preamble of the Treaty proceeds to outline certain purposes, namely, to establish the New Order in Europe and Africa and the New Order in Asia, that is correct, isn't it?
- A. Mr. MATSUOKA told me that the Preamble to this Treaty is exact expression of Sakkoichin.
- Q. Otherwise known as the "Imperial Way of the Japanese"?
- A. Yes.
- Q. The bringing of the eight corners of the earth under one sphere of influence?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And the Japanese, through MATSUOKA at least, believed that that was the destiny of Japan?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Now, MATSUOKA believed, did he not, that the Preamble to this Treaty set forth the purposes of Japan in bringing about such an era, or such a period in history? Is that right?
- A. Yes. But he told me always the sole object of this Pact is not involving the United States in the war. He told me so.
- Q. When MATSUOKA said he wanted this Treaty to keep the United States out of the war did he not mean by that that he desired to keep the United States from interfering with what Japan proposed to do in establishing the New Order in the Pacific?
- A. No, not his idea. His idea was to prevent the United States to enter into war by expressing the strong idea of Japan if the United States attacked Japan, Germany must enter war with United States. He explained also in the Privy Council—I was then present in the sessions of the Privy Council. He, MATSUOKA, said many times that this Treaty strong expression of Japanese idea - policy - to prevent United States involved in the World War.
- Q. But was it not meant that Japan while keeping the United States out of the war with one hand, so to speak, could proceed with the other hand into the South Pacific to carry out her policy of the New Order?
- A. Possibly. Maybe so. But Mr. MATSUOKA —.
- Q. Mr. MATSUOKA believed that Japan had to control Greater East Asia. Is that right?
- A. Yes.
- Q. He told you that?
- A. No. Not especially told me.
- Q. But you have heard him express it?
- A. Yes.

- Q. Now, taking into consideration the fact that MATSUOKA expressed the desire and the idea that Japan had to control Greater East Asia under the New Order--
- A. Without waging war with the United States --.
- Q. Then this pact would be very good in keeping the United States from bothering Japan in its expansion under the New Order in Greater East Asia.
- A. But MATSUOKA's first idea to prevent war with United States. Mr. MATSUOKA was somewhat in a dilemma but he told me always that war with United States was a great disaster for Japan, United States also. He detested war with United States because he was in United States - he was in Oregon. He knew very well United States--the power of the United States but he was somewhat in a dilemma.
- Q. In other words, Mr. MATSUMOTO, MATSUOKA on many occasions, particularly in July and August 1940, spoke openly to the effect that Japan's policy of expansion to the South Pacific must continue, and if he could obtain a treaty in which Germany and Italy were parties agreeing to support Japan in the event that United States should attack Japan, by so doing he was making it certain, so he thought, that the New Order would be established?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And this New Order was set forth in the language of the Preamble to the Treaty which formed the basis and background of the Treaty?
- A. Yes.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Permanent  
Domicile - No. 10, 1 Chome, Naka Street, Kure-Shi, Hiroshima-Den

Name ; Shunichi MATSUMOTO

Born - 7 June 1897

DATE	APPOINTMENT, DISMISSAL REWARD, PUNISHMENT, ETC.	NAME OF DEPT.
18 March 1915	Graduated from Hiroshima Prefectural. Kure Middle School	
1 July 1918	Graduated from the First Higher School	
30 Sept 1920	Passed the Higher Civil Service Examination in the administrative course	
30 April 1921	Graduated from the law course of the Law Department (also learned French Law), Tokyo Imperial Univ- ersity.	
11 May 1921	Appointed part time member of the Finance Ministry. Granted the 6th class salary.	Finance Ministry
	Ordered to serve at the Bank Bureau.	Finance Ministry
10 June 1921.	Appointed secretary of the Foreign Office.	
	Conferred the 7th rank of the higher civil service.	Cabinet
	Awarded the 10th class salary.	Foreign Office
	Ordered to serve at the Tem- porary Bureau of Peace Treaties.	

30 June 1921	Conferred the junior grade of the 7th class court rank.	Imperial Household Ministry
14 Dec 1922	Rewarded 265 yen for distinguished diligence.	
30 June 1927	Granted the 9th class salary.	Foreign Office
5 Oct 1922	Ordered an attendant of our Imperial representatives to the War-time Regulations Revision Committee held at The Hague in Holland.	
12 Oct 1922	Leave Tokyo.	
1 Dec 1922	Arrive at The Hague.	
15 Dec 1922	Rewarded 330 yen for distinguished diligence.	
20 Feb 1923	Appointed a probationary diplomat.	
	Conferred the 7th rank of the higher civil service.	
	Awarded the 2nd class salary.	
	Ordered to serve in Belgium.	
10 March 1923	Arrived at post.	
21 April 1923	Due to the adjournment on Feb 19 of the War-time Regulations Revision Committee held at Hague, Holland, the post of attendant to the Committee is automatically abolished.	
1 Oct 1923	Conferred the 6th rank of the higher civil service.	Cabinet
	Granted the 2nd class salary	Foreign Office
10 Dec 1923	Conferred the senior grade of the 7th class court rank.	Imperial H. D.
11 Oct 1924	Start for London.	
18 Oct 1924	Returned from London.	

15 May 1925	Ordered to make an official trip to Geneva.	Foreign Office
12 June 1925	Appointed on eleven-consul.	Cabinet
	Conferred the 6th rank of the higher civil service.	Cabinet
	Awarded the 2nd class salary.	Foreign Office
	Ordered to serve at Anvels.	Foreign Office
30 June 1925	Granted the 1st class salary.	Foreign Office
1 July 1925	Arrived at Anvels.	
28 Aug 1926	Ordered to return to Japan.	
18 Oct 1926	Leave Anvels.	
8 Dec 1926	Arrived at Tokyo	
27 Dec 1926	Appointed secretary of the Foreign Office.	
	Conferred the 5th rank of the higher civil service	Cabinet
	Granted the 5th class salary.	
	Ordered to serve in the 3rd Section of the Treaty Bureau.	Foreign Office
1 Feb 1927	Conferred the junior grade of the 6th class court rank.	
24 March 1927	Ordered to serve in the 2nd Section of the Treaty Bureau.	Foreign A. M.
17 Dec 1928	Ordered to make an official trip to Formosa.	Foreign A. M.
21 Dec 1928	Leave Tokyo.	
29 June 1929	Granted the 4th class salary.	Foreign Office
20 Jan 1930	Appointed 3rd class secretary of the Embassy.	
	Conferred the 5th rank of the higher civil service.	
	Granted the 1st class salary.	
	Ordered to serve in France.	Foreign Office

15 Feb 1930	Leave Tokyo.	
12 Feb 1930	Ordered an attendant of our Imperial Representatives to The International Law Code Compilation Committee at The Hague in Holland.	Cabinet
5 March 1930	Arrive at Paris.	
20 May 1930	Ordered an attendant of our Imperial representatives to the International Airways Committee.	Cabinet
19 Jan 1931	Appointed member of the Peace Treaty Execution Committee.	Cabinet
1 June 1931	Granted the 1st class salary according to the amendment of the salary regulation for higher civil service officials.	
14 July 1931	Ordered to serve concurrently as an official in our Imperial Secretariat at the League of Nations.	Foreign Office
31 July 1931	Ordered an attendant of our Imperial representatives in the 12th General Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva in Switzerland.	Cabinet
14 Oct 1931	Relieved of the post as attendant of our Imperial representatives to the International Airways Committee.	Cabinet
26 Feb 1932	Conferred the senior grade of the 6th class court rank.	Imperial Household
26 Feb 1932	Ordered an attendant of our Imperial representatives to the Extraordinary Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva in Switzerland.	Cabinet



20 April 1932	Appointed 2nd class secretary of the Embassy.	
	Conferred the 4th rank of the higher civil service.	
	Granted the 2nd class salary.	
	Ordered to serve in France.	
	Ordered to serve concurrently as an official in our Imperial Secretariat at the League of Nations.	Foreign A. M.
	Ordered to serve in Paris.	
	Appointed member of the Peace Treaty Execution Committee.	Cabinet
	Ordered an attendant of our Imperial representatives to the Extraordinary Conference Geneva in Switzerland.	
12 Aug 1932	Ordered an attendant of our Imperial representatives to the 13th General Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva in Switzerland.	Cabinet
17 May 1933	Appointed an attendant of our plenipotentiary to be present at the International Economic Conference in London.	Cabinet
20 May 1933.	Relieved of the post as attendant of our Imperial representatives to the Extraordinary Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva in Switzerland.	Cabinet.
29 May 1933	Ordered to return to Japan.	Foreign A. M.
19 Sept 1933	Arrived at Tokyo.	

5 June 1935	Relieved as member of the committee for Ordinary Civil Service Examinations.	Foreign A. M.
19 June 1935	Ordered to make an official trip to China.	Foreign A. M.
25 June 1935	Leave Tokyo.	
21 Jan 1936	Relieved as temporary member of the committee for Higher Civil Service Examination.	Cabinet
2 June 36	Appointed temporary member of the committee for Higher Civil Service Examinations.	
1 July 1936	Granted the 2nd class salary.	
1 Aug 1936	Ordered to serve concurrently as chief of the 1st section in the Treaty Bureau.	Foreign Office
18 Jan 1937	Relieved as secretary of the Perpetual Lease Committee.	Cabinet
21 Jan 1937	Relieved as Temporary member of the committee for Higher Civil Service Examinations.	
23 Jan 1937	Relieved as part time secretary of the Airways Project Investigation Committee.	Communications Ministry
1 Feb 1937	Conferred the junior grade of the 5th class court rank.	Imperial H. D.
22 Feb 1937	Appointed member of the committee for Ordinary Civil Service Examinations.	Foreign A. M.
5 April 1937	Appointed chief of the Personnel Affairs Section of the Minister's Secretariat.	Foreign A. M.
	Appointed member of the Civil Service Common Disciplinary Committee.	Foreign A. M.
	Appointed member of the Civil Service Common Limitation Committee.	Foreign A. M.

7 April 1937	Appointed member of the Police Disciplinary Committee.	Foreign A. M.
13 April 1937	Appointed member of the standing committee for the Higher Civil Service Examinations.	Cabinet
	Appointed member of the standing committee for the 2nd Division of the Higher Civil Service Examinations.	Cabinet
19 April 1937	Appointed member of the Civil Service Common Limitation Committee.	Dept. of Justice
14 April 1937	Part time official of the Japan Red Cross Society.	
1 July 1937	Granted the 1st class salary.	Foreign Office
11 Dec. 1937	Decorated with the 5th Order of Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasure.	Bureau of Decorations
28 Dec 1937	Appointed member of the Civil Service Common Limitation Committee.	Cabinet
13 April 1937	Charged with the extraordinary examination business of the 1st Division.	Cabinet
13 Jan 1938	Relieved of duty with the extraordinary examination of the 1st section.	Cabinet
18 April 1938	Ordered to take charge of the extraordinary examination of the 1st section of the higher civil service examination.	Cabinet
18 Jan 1939	Relieved of duty with the extraordinary examination of the 1st section.	Cabinet
26 April 1939	Ordered to take charge of the extraordinary examination of the 1st section.	Cabinet
16 Jan 1940	Relieved of duty with the examination of the 1st section.	Cabinet

20 March 40	Appointed an embassy councillor.	
20 March 40	Conferred the 2nd rank of the higher civil service.	Cabinet
	Ordered to serve in China.	Cabinet
	Granted the 3rd class salary.	Foreign A. M.
	Ordered to make a business trip to Nanking and to serve there.	Foreign A. M.
5 April 40	Leave Tokyo.	
10 April 40	Arrive at Nanking.	
6 April 40	Appointed an attendant of our Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary to China.	Cabinet
15 April 40	Conferred the senior grade of the 5th class court rank.	Imperial H. D.
	Decorated with the 4th Order of Merit with the Order of Sacred Treasure.	
31 Aug 40	Ordered to return home.	
1 Sept 40	Leave Nanking.	
5 Sept 40	Arrive at Tokyo.	
5 Sept 40	Appointed chief of the Treaty Bureau of Foreign Ministry.	
	Conferred the 2nd rank of the higher civil service.	Cabinet
	Appointed member of the Civil Service Common Disciplinary Committee.	
	Appointed member of the Civil Service Common Limitation Committee.	Foreign A. M.
	Appointed chief of the Cultural Projects Section in the Foreign Ministry.	Foreign A. M.
5 Sept 40	Take office as the chief secretary of the Cultural Projects Investigation Committee for China.	

10 Sept 40	Appointed attendant of our Envey Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary to China.	Cabinet
	Appointed member of the China Incident Damage Investigation Committee.	
10 Sept 40	Appointed member of the Consular Trials Committee.	Cabinet
21 Sept 40	Appointed member of the standing committee of the Higher Civil Service Examinations.	
	Appointed member of the Pension Investigation Committee.	Cabinet
	Appointed member of the standing committee of the 2nd Section of the Higher Civil Service Examinations.	Cabinet
1 Oct 40	Appointed advisor of the Imperial Museum.	Imperial H. D.
2 Oct 40	Appointed member of the Opium Committee.	Cabinet
31 Oct 40	Appointed member of the Cabinet Celebration Committee.	Cabinet
	Appointed vice chief of the 2nd reception section in the Cabinet Celebration Committee.	
28 Nov 40	Leave Tokyo.	
22 Nov 40	Appointed member of the Copyright Investigation Committee.	Cabinet
5 Dec 40	Arrive at Tokyo.	
6 Dec 40	According to the abolition of the Cultural Projects Section as a result of a reform in the government regulations, automatically relieved from duty as the chief of the above section and the chief secretary of the Cultural Projects Investigation Committee for China.	

17 Dec 40	Appointed member of the Assets Estimation Committee for the Oryokko Lumber Co.	Cabinet
	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 76th Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
	As the Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary, ABE Nobuyuki was released from his post owing to the completion of his task on 26 December, was automatically relieved of duty as attendant of the above on the same day.	
6 Jan 41	Due to the abolition of the government regulations on the Civil Service Limitation Committee, the post as a member of the Civil Service Common Limitation Committee in the Foreign Ministry was automatically abolished.	
7 Feb 41	Appointed attendant of our Imperial Committee for the Mediation of the issue between Thailand and French Indo-China.	Cabinet
5 Dec 40	Due to the abolition of the Cultural Projects Section as a result of a reform in the Foreign Ministry regulations, the post of chief of the Imperial Museum was automatically abolished.	
15 Nov 41	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 77th Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
15 Dec 41	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 78th Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
Dec 41	Appointed investigator of the Higher Prize Court.	

25 Dec 41	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 79th Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
22 April 42	Relieved of post as member of the Assets Estimation Committee for the Oryokko Lumber Company.	Cabinet
29 Dec 41	Appointed to a member of the Enemy Assets Control Committee.	Cabinet
22 April 42	Ordered to take an official trip to China.	
	Appointed to government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 80th Imperial Diet.	
29 May 42	Leave Tokyo.	
24 June 42	Arrive at Tokyo.	
29 Oct 42	Ordered to conduct business for the chief of the Bureau of Commercial Affairs in the Foreign Ministry.	
1 Nov 42	Appointed Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs.	
	Conferred the 1st rank of the Higher Civil Service.	Cabinet
	Appointed member of the communication Committee of the Ministry of Great East Asia.	Cabinet
	Ordered to conduct business for the chief of the Investigation Section of the Minister's Secretariat.	Foreign A. M.
	Appointed chairman of the Civil Service Examination Committee.	

10 Nov 42	Appointed secretary of the Deliberation Committee for the construction of Greater East Asia.	Cabinet
1 Dec 42	Appointed councillor for the Total War Research Institute.	Cabinet
5 Dec 42	Appointed temporary member of the Extraordinary Funds Adjustment Committee.	Cabinet
9 Dec 42	Decorated with the 3rd Order of Merit with the Order of Sacred Treasure.	Bureau of Decorations
17 Dec 42	Appointed Imperial delegate to the Japan-German-Italian Joint Special Committee in Tokyo.	Cabinet
19 Dec 42	Appointed member of the Government Loan Management Committee.	Cabinet
21 Dec 42	Appointed member of the National Mobilization Committee.	Cabinet
24 Dec 42	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 81st Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
28 Dec 42	Appointed member of the Customs Investigation Committee.	Cabinet
	Appointed member of the Foreign Exchange Control Committee.	Cabinet
	Appointed member of Enemy Assets Control Committee.	Cabinet
9 Jan 43	Appointed Councillor for the Technical Board.	Cabinet
11 Jan 43	Appointed member of the Navy Deliberation Council.	Cabinet
2 Feb 43	Part time councillor of this Council.	



16 March 43	Appointed member of the Estimation Committee for government investments in the North China Development Company and the Central China Promotion Company.	Cabinet
1 May 43	Conferred the junior grade of the 4th class court rank.	Imperial H. D.
6 May 43	Appointed councillor of the Planning Board.	
15 June 43	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 82nd Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
4 Aug 43	Discharged from the duty to conduct business for the chief of the Investigation Section of the Minister's Secretariat.	Foreign A. M.
2 Oct 43	Appointed member of the National History Compilation Preparation Committee.	Cabinet
25 Oct 43	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 83rd Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
24 Dec 43	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 84th Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
30 June 44	Appointed councillor for the Munitions Department.	Cabinet
1 July 44	Appointed member of the Higher Civil Service Disciplinary Committee.	Cabinet
23 Aug 44	Ordered to conduct business for the chief of the Treaty Bureau of the Foreign Ministry.	Foreign A. M.
6 Sept 44	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 85th Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
21 Oct 44	Appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary.	

	Ordered to take an official trip to French Indo-China.	
20 Nov 44	Leave Tokyo	
24 Dec 44	Arrive at Saigon.	
7 May 45	Leave Tokyo.	
11 May 45	Arrive at Tokyo.	
13 May 45	Appointed Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.	
	Conferred the 1st rank of the higher civil service.	
	Specially treated as an official of the Shinmin rank.	Cabinet
	Appointed chief of the Civil Service Common Examination Committee.	Foreign A. M.
8 July 45	Appointed to the Government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry, at the 87th Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
1 Aug 45	Serve at the State Affairs Justice Room (Hibiya office).	
1 Sept 45	Appointed to the government committee for matters under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry at the 87th Imperial Diet.	Cabinet
25 Sept 45	Relieved of post at own request.	Cabinet