

SHIGEMITSU Mamoru 重光葵

See CID 48258 FEA/EP-291 January 1944
I-2 30014 17 August 1943
Economic Who's Who in Japan

1941-1944 Foreign Minister, TOJO Cabinet
1943-1945 Foreign Minister, KOISO Cabinet
1944-1945 GEA, KOISO Cabinet

See WDC Publication "War Crimes Information Series Number 1" (Dossier 50a, OSS)

"Razor- Vice-Minister"; generally regarded as a moderate.

29 July 1887 Born, Oita-ken
Graduated Tokyo Imperial University Law School
Diplomatic Posts: Germany
London Embassy
1919 Consul, Portland
First Secretary, Peking Embassy
1929 Consul General, Shanghai
1931 - 1932 Minister to China
1933 Vice Minister, Foreign Office
1936 - 1938 Ambassador to Russia
1938 - 1941 Ambassador to Britain
1942 Ambassador to Nanking
Apr 1943 Foreign Minister under TOJO
22 July 1944 Foreign and GEA Minister
17 Aug 1945 Foreign and GEA Minister, HIGASHIKUNI Cabinet
As Ambassador to Nanking he was head of the field organization in occupied
China and Inner Mongolia; appointed by GEA Minister AOKI; a leading figure
in the signing of pacts which led Nanking to declare war against America and
Britain.

Seems to be a running dog of the militarists.

The Japanese deny the fact that a meeting was held between SHIGEMITSU, Japanese
Foreign Minister, and German Ambassador STAMMER (q.v.) to discuss the settlement
of the European War and peace goals.

Position insecure, having been endangered by STALIN's speech. Told STAMMER he
had had further attacks which he had been able to overcome. Should KOISO form
a new cabinet he would probably choose a new Foreign Minister.

1911-1930 Various posts in Tokyo, China and Europe
1931-1932 Minister to China
1933 Vice-Minister of the Foreign Office
1936-1938 Ambassador to Russia
1938-1941 Ambassador to Great Britain
1942 Took office as Japanese ambassador in Nanking. As such he was head
of the field organization in Occupied China and Inner Mongolia. He
was appointed by the Greater East Asian Minister, AOKI Kazuo (q.v.)
with the approval of the Foreign Minister.

("Jurisdiction, Reorganization and Personnel of Japanese Greater East Asia
Ministry", early 1943)

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005

SHIGEMITSU Mamoru (II)

Foreign Minister. It is said Subject has been close to STAMMER, new German Ambassador to Tokyo, for some time. (27 April 1943)

The recent elevation of Mamoru SHIGEMITSU to the post of Foreign Minister is considered a step toward a long-term replacement of the present tight military grip by a Government with civilians who would be responsible domestically for a negotiated peace. As a former Ambassador to Britain, Mr. SHIGEMITSU was regarded as favoring the democracies in the years before the war, but his present sentiments are unclear. (New York Times, 4 November 1943).

Reported to have told STAMMER that the Japanese wanted to preserve neutral relations with Russia in consideration of the rigorous fighting believed to be imminent in the Pacific. For this reason Japan was willing to make concessions with regard to Sakhalin and fishing rights. (CIRCLE Boston 219X, April 1944).

Subject denied that any arrangements exist between Japan and USSR, or that Japan is shipping supplies to the Soviets. (CIRCLE Boston 322X, June 1944).

Minister, Greater East Asia Ministry (Diplomatic Lists, 22 August July 1944).

Graduate of Imperial University Law School (1900). Diplomatic experience in Germany. Served in Home Ministry under former Foreign Ministers UCHIDA and HIRATA. "Devoted his entire strength for solidification of political power of the National Government of China to cope with the new situation of Japan-Nanking relations after Japan's declaration of war, and promotion of amicable relations between Japan and Nanking." He was the leading figure in the signing of pacts which led Nanking to declare war against America and Britain. 22 July 1944 Foreign and Greater East Asia Minister, KOISO-YONAI Cabinet. (FCG/FBIS, Special Report #130, 25 July 1944).

Minister for Foreign Affairs in the TOJO Cabinet (April 1943). Perhaps being groomed as negotiator of compromise peace. Stated when on his way back from England in 1941 that he opposed the Army's policy as personified in MATSUOKA, and that ~~had he been in Shanghai~~ had he been in Shanghai, Admiral SHIOZAWA and Consul-General MURIA would never have been allowed to provoke fighting by invasion of Chapei. (31040, 2 December 1944).

SHIGEMITSU has just received a report from SATO in Moscow that is said to state that CHURCHILL is trying to work Russia into the Allied operations against Japan. According to the report, the US has demanded a lease of the Kamchatka Peninsula to be used as a base of operations against Japan. After a conference with MALIK, SHIGEMITSU secretly issued orders to General YAMADA, head of the Kwantung army, to take precautionary measures along the vital borders, and gave like orders to General ITAGAKI, head of the Jap forces in Korea. (IKX/20, 6 December 1944);

SHIGEMITSU was visited at his official residence on 19 December 1944 by Dr. Thein MAUNG, Burmese Ambassador to Japan, and on the same day by Dr. CHU Min-yi, Chinese Foreign Minister. Subject attended a party at the Chinese Embassy on 22 December. Dr. STAMMER, the German Ambassador, called on him on 29 December and they held a long and important conference. (Press Survey, 5 Jan 45).

SHIGEMITSU Mamoru (III)

Following Turkey's severing of relations with Japan, 28 Jan 45, Subject said that the move did not represent the true policy of Turkey and protested Japan's desire to advance the Moslem cause (DOMEI; FIR#1, 28 January 1945).

Began diplomatic career in Berlin during World War I; Japanese Embassy in London.

1919 - Consul, Portland

First Secretary, Peking Embassy

1929 - Consul General, Shanghai

1931 - Charge d'affaires, Peking

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs under Ministers HIROTA Koki and ARITA Hachiro

1936 - Ambassador to Moscow

Ambassador to London; Ambassador to Peking; Foreign Minister under TOGO (IDC; 21 February 1945)

See Prominent Persons in Japan and Japanese-dominated Areas, 14 August 1945
Biographies of Prominent Japanese Navy, 15 September 1945

Subject is mentioned in interrogation of MATSUMOTO Shunichi (q.v.), 14 March 1946

Released on parole by SCAP Legal Section from Sugamo Prison effective 21 November 1950. Subject was the man who signed the surrender document on board the Missouri (FBIS, PAMA, 6 November 1950).

In custody since 29 April 1946. Convicted on six counts of war crimes. Was one of the two signers of Japanese surrender aboard Missouri. Released from Sugamo despite Soviet protest (Washington POST, 22 November 1950).

A segment of Liberal Party has started a movement to make former Foreign Minister SHIGEMITSU president of Liberal Party after YOSHIDA Shigeru's retirement 22 June 1951

His de-purge will cause a great stir in political circles, and, although some prominent Democrats oppose it, he may become Democratic president.
31 August 1951,

Member, KIUCHU (Palace Liberal) Group.