

Heated Clashes Between Counsel At Treason Trial

—
SYDNEY, Thursday.

Heated clashes occurred between counsel at the Cousens treason trial to-day during the cross-examination of Foumi Saisho, a Japanese woman journalist, who was asked to leave the court while the clashes were ironed out.

In her evidence, Foumi Saisho said she had not heard a Japanese, called Uno, threaten Cousens and other prisoners with a firing squad and the tortures of a gestapo dungeon if anyone questioned his orders. She also had no knowledge of Cousens having interceded on behalf of other prisoners.

Witness also denied she had heard Cousens say to Major Tsunetshi, who demanded that he broadcast, "If that is what you want, then as one officer to another, give me a revolver and one round of ammunition and leave me alone for five minutes."

Saisho also denied knowledge of Cousens refusing to broadcast a violent attack on President Roosevelt, and following that he was badly beaten up by the Kempel Tai.

To Mr. Dovey, witness said that, in telling Cousens that it was easier to die than to live, she meant to discourage him from the act of suicide which, he said, he was going to commit.

She said she did not have the slightest interest in the result of the present proceedings.

In further answer to Mr. Shand, as he continued quoting from photostat copies of Henshaw's diary, Miss Saisho said that she had not heard Cousens threatened for trying to get extra food for some Americans. She had not heard a Japanese, Hamamoto, tell Cousens and others that the slightest deviation in orders would result in the immediate death penalty. She had no knowledge whether it was common knowledge that Cousens and the other prisoners were to be used as long as the Japanese considered them useful, and that they were then to be murdered.

She had never heard that on June 5, 1943, Captain Ince, an American prisoner, while ill, had been tripped up, kicked and slapped by Hamamoto because Hamamoto said he looked too tired. She did not know that the prisoners at Bunka Camp were

starved and were reduced to eating oats they stole.

Asked whether she had known that Cousens's collapse in June, 1944, was due to starvation and heart trouble, Saisho said it was not due to starvation.

Mr. Shand: You thought all prisoners of war in Japan were well treated and fed?

Saisho: Yes; but I do not say so now.

Witness said she had no knowledge of an order that the prisoners should broadcast the names each day of seven Allied prisoners who had died in the Japanese camps.

Mr. Shand: Do you deny you knew that Uno said he wanted the prisoners' people to know that the prisoners were dying from such diseases as beri beri, pellagra, acute stomach disorder and pneumonia, and that Uno said, "Perhaps that will end the damned war."

Witness: I deny I knew that.

Saisho said that Uno was a very decent man. As far as she knew he treated the prisoners with every respect. She did not know that he was "a brutal barbarian Jap."

Mr. Shand had produced photostatic copies of a diary by Lieut.-Commander Henshaw, of the U.S.N. Intelligence, purporting to detail experiences in the Bunka P.O.W. camp, and said that the Crown should have called Henshaw as a material witness. He added that the Commonwealth was determined to secure a conviction at all costs against Cousens.

Mr. Chambers, who is assisting Mr. Dovey, for the Crown, said he had no knowledge of the existence of the diary when the case opened, but a copy was now being examined. Mr. Shand then accepted the explanation and withdrew the remark.

Saisho also told Mr. Shand that she did not know that Cousens was suspected of sabotage in his work at Tokyo broadcasting station nor did she know that an American civilian, called Streeter, and a sergeant named Provo, were considered by

other prisoners to be traitors to the Allies and that at the end of the war Cousens put them under close arrest.

She admitted knowing fairly well a man named John Holland, but she denied that he had visited her home.

After peace was declared she had given the American authorities some report on Holland.

Shown a letter, Saisho said it had Holland's signature.

Questioned concerning a sentence, which was not read to the court, she said, "It is incorrect. It is fantastic."

In an earlier cross-examination Saisho agreed with Mr. Shand that it would be against the policy of the

Naisno agreed with Mr. Shand that it would be against the policy of the Japanese to have Cousens broadcast movements of shipping, particularly of food ships.

Practically the whole of the afternoon was devoted by the Crown to reading in detail some of the commentaries said to have been written by Cousens for broadcast by Japanese commentators.

Only 10 of these had been read when the court adjourned until tomorrow.

A commentary, entitled "The Pursuit of Happiness," on which had been pencilled the note, "Fouml. This is rather a good one I think, Bill"; and another called "The Unforgiving Minute," which carried the note, "This is rather poor," were among those read.