

COUSENS DENIES ANY FRIENDSHIPS WITH JAPANESE

• SYDNEY, Monday.

During his cross-examination today Major Cousens denied at the Central Police Court where he is being tried on a charge of treason, that he had accompanied a Japanese to the Fifty-Fifty Club in Sydney before the war or that he had ever visited the home of the Japanese Consul General at Point Piper.

He also denied visiting the homes of other Japanese in Sydney.

A stir was caused in the court by a woman who called out "In the name of truth and justice I demand that Mr. Fanning be called as a witness for Major Cousens," she was removed from the court by police.

Describing conditions at Bunka prison camp Cousens said that the food was shocking. Bathing facilities consisted of a wooden tub in which the Japanese invariably bathed and washed their clothes before making the filthy water available to the 25 Allied P.O.W's. in the camp. Sometimes they bathed once a week and sometimes once a month, depending on the fuel supply.

An American officer, named Kaibfeish, who was engaged in broadcasting and writing, had been taken away by the Kempei men because he had underlined some parts of his script for special emphasis. Witness believed that he had missed out the word "No" while broadcasting. He had been told by one of the commandants, Uno, that Kaibfeish had been executed.

Cousens said that he collapsed in June, 1944. After spending some time in a prison hospital he returned to Bunka but again collapsed. He then spent about 100 days in a civilian hospital before returning to Bunka where he remained until after the Japanese surrender.

About April, 1945, a Jap. named Domoto, said it was obvious that Japan had lost the war. He said that it was a very good thing because the only way to make anything of Japan in the future would be for the Americans to come in and organise.

Cousens said he had often discussed with Ince, Henshaw, McNaughton and Smith what they intended to do to sabotage Jap propaganda.

A meeting was called about February, 1945, to consider steps to increase the sabotage of Japanese broadcasts. After the surrender in August, 1945, Domoto suggested that Cousens, Ince and Henshaw do

that Cousens, Ince and Henshaw do a final broadcast to wind up, but he (Cousens) refused. Henshaw and another prisoner named Quille, had told him that the Japanese Army had planned to execute them after the broadcast.

At the conclusion of Cousens' evidence, Mr. Dovey referred to a request made earlier by Mr. Shand, K.C. for the production of an order from General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz, instructing prisoners to obey Japanese orders rather than submit to torture.

Mr. Dovey said that inquiries had been made and he had been informed that the Public Relations Officer who had been at General MacArthur's headquarters from 1942 to 1945, had no knowledge of the alleged order.

In evidence earlier Cousens said that he had pleaded with a Major Itsul to spare the lives of some Australians at Tavoy who had escaped but had been re-captured.

Mr. Dovey: I put it to you that the men whose fate you claimed to have been debating with Major Itsul somewhere about June 13, 1942, had been executed in the presence of Brigadier Varley and the padre on the morning of June 6 before you got to Tavoy.

Cousens: That is absolute rubbish.

The hearing was adjourned until Wednesday.