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NSC BRIEFING

9 December 1954

JAPAN'S NEW PREMIER

I. Overnight press reports state that a coalition of Socialists and anti-Yoshida conservatives (new Democratic Party) in the Japanese Diet have elected Ichiro Hatoyama as Prime Minister in place of recently-resigned Yoshida.

A. The vote was 257 for Hatoyama and against 191 for Ogata, the new president of Yoshida's Liberal Party.

B. Hatoyama votes from 120 Democrats, 61 Right Socialists, 73 Left Socialists, and 3 minor parties.

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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C. Socialist's support for Hatoyama, leader of the anti-Yoshida conservatives, was apparently won at price of agreement on new national elections early next year.

1. Conservatives had opposed new elections, feeling only Socialists would benefit thereby.

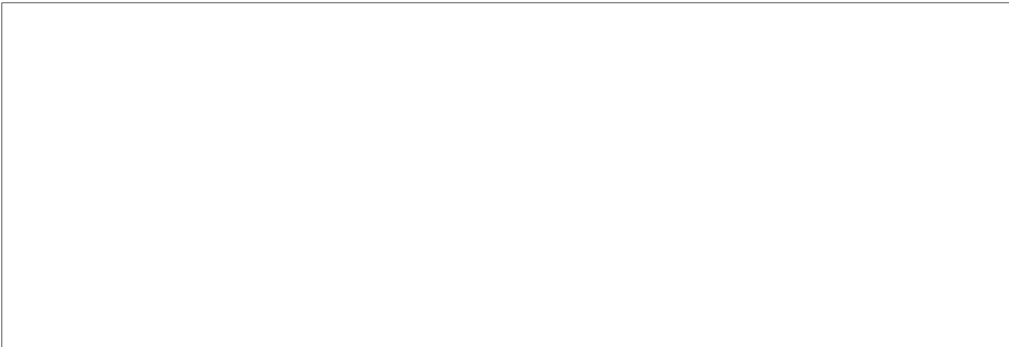
D. Still partially paralyzed by '52 stroke, Hatoyama will be a

figurehead in the interim regime.

E. The Diet will be dissolved in

and Japan elections follow

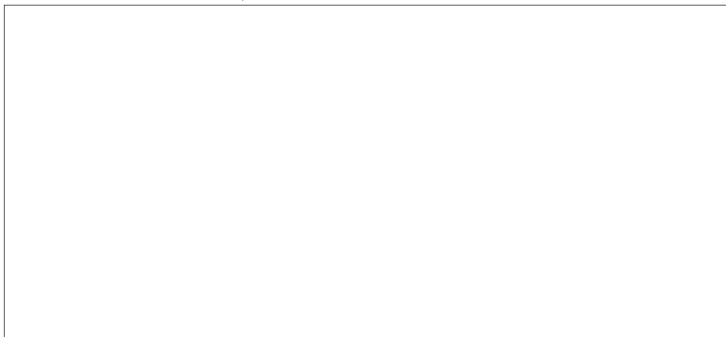
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- B. Told press, after Yoshida's resignation, "Japan survives only because of" security alliance with US.
 - C. Is strongly anti-Communist, but favors diplomatic relations, expanded trade with Communist China, USSR.
- III. Need not expect Hatoyama government to change Japanese foreign policy.
- A. Will be forced take cognizance increased popular favor toward "normalization" relations with Orbit, and Communist China in particular.



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IV. Probable results of an election.

- A. If elections are held next March, the conservative forces will lose ground but they are still sure to hold a majority because of their consistent mass support.
- B. The Right and Left Socialists are expected to increase their strength in the Diet by from 15 to 20 seats; they probably will make some gains in popular votes.
- C. Socialists are likely to then have sufficient strength to block constitutional revision which requires approval by two thirds of the 467 member lower

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D. Barring conservative amalgamation
bitter, deep-seated personal
rivalrie in a struggle for
control of the conservative
movement promises little prospect
for stable government in the
immediate future.

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