

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE B-13WASHINGTON POST
27 April 1984**JACK ANDERSON****Hirohito Held
In Awe by CIA,
Japanese Public**

When Emperor Hirohito steps out on the balcony of his palace in downtown Tokyo this Sunday to greet thousands of adoring Japanese on his 83rd birthday, there'll be a CIA agent in the crowd—probably with binoculars.

It's one of the ways the CIA's Life Sciences Division can observe firsthand how the diminutive emperor looks. There have been recent hints that his health is failing.

Though he holds no direct political power, Hirohito has been a favorite subject of CIA surveillance for decades. My associate Dale Van Atta, who was recently in Tokyo, has had access to some of the secret CIA profiles of the emperor. They reveal that the CIA's remorseless analysts, like the Japanese people, hold this aged, bespectacled little man in awe.

"Despite all he has been through since he assumed the throne in 1926," notes the CIA, "Emperor Hirohito projects innocence and sincerity." The CIA describes him as "a shy, retiring man."

He and his 81-year-old empress like to watch soap operas on TV and putter in the imperial gardens. "Both

the emperor and empress [enjoy pursuing] their personal interests—marine biology and botany for the emperor, art for the empress," states another profile, this one stamped "Confidential." In fact, Hirohito is the world's chief authority on jellyfish and related creatures, with 16 books to his credit.

According to the CIA, the emperor "is briefed regularly on domestic and foreign affairs." Yet he "plays no part in policy decisions." There have been proposals to make him chief of state, but "most Japanese would not like to see him take on any more than his present symbolic role."

The CIA acknowledges "a few complaints from younger Japanese" about Hirohito, but little audible grumbling about the cost of maintaining the imperial household, now more than \$40 million a year.

"By and large," states the CIA, "most Japanese still view the emperor with considerable respect and affection." One reason: He "has traveled widely among the people, something a Japanese emperor had never done before."

At first, the Japanese had "grave doubts about the image the emperor would project" in the United States. But his reception during his 1975 visit to this country "greatly exceeded even the most optimistic Japanese expectations."

The CIA believes the visit contributed "significantly to popular [Jap-

anese] support for continued cooperation with the U.S. [and] opening an era of 'good feelings' in U.S.-Japanese relations."

Characteristically, Hirohito expressed his approval of America not in words but with a gesture. For years afterward, he wore a Mickey Mouse watch that he picked up in Disneyland.

Hirohito is the 124th emperor in Japan's unbroken, 2,644-year-old imperial line. When he ascended to the throne in 1926, he was a "tenno"—the "emperor of heaven." The Japanese considered him a god.

When the Japanese warlords sought his approval for the attack on Pearl Harbor, according to one account, Hirohito voiced his apparent disapproval by reciting a 31-syllable poem composed by his grandfather, extolling universal brotherhood and asking: "Why, then, do winds and water of conflict . . . disturb peace among us?"

The warlords went ahead with their plans anyway, and older Americans will remember Hirohito as a villain in propaganda cartoons, with buck teeth and Coke-bottle eyeglasses, features that took their place with Adolf Hitler's mustache and Hermann Goering's potbelly.

The emperor was able to reverse this image after the war. Today, Hirohito remains the only—and perhaps the unlikeliest—survivor of World War II's leaders.