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FROM Embassy Tokyo

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

Aug 13, 1956

REF

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SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER HIGASHIKUNI ON SEA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Enclosed is a copy of a letter of June 1, 1956 addressed by Mr. Shirohito HIGASHIKUNI to Mr. SHALLO on the occasion of the latter's visit to Tokyo in early June. An attachment to the letter is a paper setting forth the purposes and organizational outline of a proposed Asia Economic Cooperative Organization, a project in which the writer has been interested for several months. Mr. Higashikuni, an Imperial Prince until all titles except those of the Imperial family were abolished during the occupation, formed Japan's first post-war cabinet and served as Prime Minister for two months in 1945. He is now 69 years of age.

The Embassy has previously received several letters and personal calls from Mr. Higashikuni in connection with his interest in an organization to promote SEA economic development. It has long been apparent, however, that he has had little success in interesting other Japanese leaders in the organization which he appears to sponsor, and that he had no clear idea as to the manner in which his objectives might be achieved. On several occasions, he has stated that former Prime Minister FUSHIDA will "soon" take a leading position in the organization, but the Embassy has learned from other sources that Mr. Fushida is not particularly interested. Mr. Shingoro TAKIEMI (see page 3 of the enclosed letter), a former director of the Ministry, during a recent call at the Embassy stated that he thought Mr. Higashikuni's proposals too vague. These and other developments suggest that certain Japanese interests may be attempting to use Mr. Higashikuni and his prestige as a front. After a recent call on Prime Minister HATAJIMA, Mr. Higashikuni announced that the Prime Minister fully endorsed and would support the proposed organization. A few days later, the Chief Cabinet Secretary publicly denied the claim stating that the Prime Minister had merely expressed sympathetic interest in the objectives outlined. Earlier, after Mr. Higashikuni had discussed his proposals with the Embassy, the Foreign Office inquired whether, as reported, the Embassy was prepared to support the proposed organization financially and otherwise. The report was, of course, firmly denied.

While the Embassy also is sympathetic with the objectives outlined by Mr. Higashikuni, it believes that he himself has no clear idea as to how these might be achieved. For this reason, and because Mr. Higashikuni or those who may be using him have on several occasions given misleading impressions

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regarding the report has been prepared organization sign, the answer has already
been given during the my correspondence.

Enclosed is a copy of the Agency's reply regarding the report of
Mr. [Name] dated [Date]. The reply is available to you by [Name].

For the Director:

John A. [Name]
Special Agent in Charge
Internal Security

Enclosure:

1. Letter and attached exhibits from Mr. [Name]
2. Agency reply

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(CONF)

Honorable Earl Warren
U.S. Supreme Court
Washington, D.C.

June 1, 1954.

The Honorable William Joseph Sebald
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I deem it a great honor to tell you, on the occasion of your visit to this country, of my project now being completed on the problem of the neutralization of Asia and World Peace, which has been studied since the end of the war both by me and my friends at home and abroad, and then to express a phase of my belief and determination to you.

My project originated from your writing, which you made when you were here, on the Communist aggression and regarding how to defend against it. On reflection, living among Japanese people as a member of the Imperial family, I was obligated to express also to readers worldwide by my country. And my prior efforts failed to save Japan and lead her to peace and let her rush into the war.

It happened at the termination of the war that I received the Imperial mandate to form a new cabinet. The difficult task of the disposing of the post-war affairs fell on my shoulders, and I carried all my power to manage it. I now recall to mind the hard times which I had when I found not you and had talks with you. It is my only consolation that my little efforts could open the window for the ever-lasting friendship between Japan and America.

It is an unforgettable memory remembered with deep emotion by every Japanese people as well as myself, that you understood the difficult position and trying circumstances in which Japan was then laid, and strive energetically to save both the government and people of your country to help us with heart-rendering confidence.

Two years have passed since then. During this period not only Japan but Asia has undergone a drastic metamorphosis. Through the wars in Korea and in French Indo-China, the continuous aggression of the Japanese have found a means to peace and liberty. But of late Communists have withdrawn off from the military aggression to powerful ones and are now spreading economic infiltration based on political insinuation over the whole Asian area. It is really regrettable that your working has taken shape as reality.

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Open stands position of present against her long-time function. All groups of agencies has been lost and political instability has nothing to do with it. The world situation against open has been established since the 1950s and their subsequent open has been established since the 1960s. I am not sure, but I believe of the actual status of open, because I believe in the past 10 years, I believe that they will take over the distribution of the product and will lead against the Communist influence on the present level of the free world. They will consider of the new open's status.

I have been working over of project to form the "New Economic Development Organization" with my friends both at home and abroad. It was to try to help American people to join their energy and resources with general education of the world and then render service to the free democratic camp.

This organization, though intended for economic cooperation, has political function against Communism. It was the active operation to help to join and to the new idea requires the cooperation of the United States and other countries in the free democratic camp. This is the first step in understanding of the people or various countries to help to prevent the war in this way I believe it to cooperate in the case of world peace.

As you are an authority both for politicians and diplomats, did you also worked in the actual situation in Asia, you know that open education was a field of war. There is a long standing, now being, independent and financial after a long period of colonial days, now entering into a new phase. They have to understand the political stabilization of the present level. The reconstruction of economy and the opening up of economy are the main concern of open, especially to develop the world economy. This is not a simple economic problem but has a political significance. In the future of the world, various countries have proposed to be a priority that open should cooperate in the project.

As the present American people look to energy. They think only of the present and have not been considered to put to them for our future. I don't agree of the negative way of looking which is caused by Communism and industry. I neither find happiness in our in looking a little presently devoted to the world as well as to open and Asia.

I am starting day and night on my responsibility for the creation of "New Economic Organization". Despite the various difficult circumstances the people of the American country in they have already given us private cooperation and guidance, for which I am not thank sufficiently.

The details of this project are in the enclosed documents and I hope you will appreciate them. The utmost personal of the organization will be decided shortly. As long as we are to do not only the open education but there is energy and service to Asia, but especially of the United States of America to expect a request from cooperation and guidance on the representative of cooperative nations.

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I have already told of my project to Mr. Paul G. Brennan. For the materialization of the project it may be necessary to take time, but the Communist influence has been extended to Japan, the final target in the Asian area. I think, therefore, the establishment of the organization is pressing. UNIO is important in itself to defend Asia, but the national co-operation is absolutely necessary behind it. In this sense of organization, I think, will serve a very important mission.

The United States has arrived at the stage to re-investigate its Asian policy, and we hope it will take during steps to counter to the Asian crisis. I consider the execution of my mission as forming a link in the chain of the world policy of the United States.

Now I have to avoid to impose upon your precious time by giving more details. But on earnestly request that you will kindly take trouble to connect with your absence so that we can confer with the people in the Embassy. The friends with whom I talk at present about the organization are: Mr. Shigeru Yoshida, Mr. Tadamasa Yamamoto, Mr. Shunjiro Ueda, Mr. Yoshitaka Ueda, Mr. Katsuro Ishihara, Mr. T. Ito Miki, Mr. Akira Kurihara, Mr. Shoji Arakawa, Mr. Shigeru Yoshida, Mr. Shigeru Yoshida. Also I have connection with many other leading figures in various fields.

Excusing you for having spared your precious time for me during your busy trip, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Li J. Shunshun
Executive Director

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Co-operative Organization relating to the Economic Rehabilitation and Industrial Development in the Middle East - A-102 -

(In secret)

Such Economic Co-operative Organization?

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Every-day, nations in Asia are not satisfied with existing energy facilities under the complicated international relations and various economic conditions of their own countries. In establishing the needs of these nations, we should first take a survey of the situation of the world, the South of Indochina and get the detailed situation of each country. There is no other way but covering the present energy, economic and military, which they have suffered in order to take a look at the future clearly.

We further believe that it will be impossible to build such the life of these nations to an improved and stabilised state in the way which protect themselves from the attack of hostilities and the economic depression that gets under way and have the firm confidence of existing treaty breaks.

Such problems as of economic rehabilitation, industrial development and cultural promotion of Asiatic countries are undeniably their basic respective nations have to handle as their responsibilities. Nations in fact, these projects will be highly established if Asian peoples support their efforts in the spirit of solidarity and independence. Subsequently, when they are given co-operative form of interlocking and cooperation of various nations of the world, their application will be greatly facilitated and progress with more desirable results.

Proposed hereby to the establishment of "Co-operative Organization relating to the Economic Rehabilitation and Industrial Development in Middle East" (abbreviatedly referred to as "Middle Economic Co-operative Organization" or "MECO") which is an international nature, open to all peoples of Asia, based on the support and endorsement of their own governments and other nations of the world, are invited to join hands widely in conformity to the ideals and desirable conditions above.

The Middle Economic Co-operative Organization is designed to be put up with the Asian states above and the extension of various nations. And for making preparations thereafter and stepping up the movement, a preliminary committee should be formed. Because up to date there is no preliminary the preliminary work are that it is a matter of Asia there to live in, and that we consider of its significant bearings on the future of Asian people.

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Another reason is that we, as a vast technologically advanced nation in Asia, can generously be contributive to the prosperity of Asia by lending to South or Southeastern Asia equipment, under the expertise understanding of the world. We generously give a substantial, long our efforts rendered may serve to repair our relations compared to the world war II.

Basic Principles:

1. Based on the principle of reciprocity and equality and in the spirit of mutual confidence, the economic rehabilitation and industrial development in certain areas shall be planned and executed under a specialized (or voluntary) cooperation program, so that it may contribute to the prosperity and peace of the world.
2. Free interchange of culture between Asia and other parts of the world shall be promoted so as to enhance the life of Asia people and through the solution of their cultural and economic poverty, it shall contribute towards the betterment of the world civilization.
3. The economic rehabilitation and industrial development projects shall be expanded through results and co-operation established among the nations concerned and shall be propelled on full scale on a consolidated effort-like program, in order that it may strengthen the economic power of Asian nations against destructive forces menacing their existence.
4. The Asia Economic Co-operative Organization shall be organized on the basis of mutual understanding and sincerity among the associated nations, and, in consolidating development and expansion of the business, it shall seek and maintain close cooperation with the United States and other organizations that have a spirit similar to that of Asia in fulfilling their missions.
5. In the nature of the organ that is ruled by the spirit of mutual understanding, credits and cooperation, AEC shall not be moved by any particular or national opinion or prejudice, or by any specific political position of a nation's government. To, this end we regard AEC's doctrine and efforts to seek influential parties and understandings rendered by respective governments of the associated nations.

Final Objectives of the Asia Economic Co-operative Organization:

The main preparations for the establishment of the Asia Economic Co-operative Organization, a preparatory association to set up in accordance with the following items:

Organization and Membership:

A number of countries be selected from among the states of government, club, business, private culture in Japan.
A number of organizations be selected in the same way as in the case of members.

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Selection of the committee shall be entrusted to the respective countries associated through their diplomatic representatives stationed in Japan, and their nomination shall be done on the recommendations of their own governments and leading private organizations. Number of the committees nominated by each country shall be two to twenty.
 Diplomatic representatives in Japan of the countries associated shall be invited as advisers.

Participants-Countries

A nation in the whole area of Asia, in general, comes under the coverage of participant-country. Under the present complicated circumstances in Asia, there may be some directions encountered in a move of getting things together on account of political reasons or ideologies: all problems exist among Asian nations. Irrespective of political considerations and from the standpoint of neighborliness and friendship, the participation of as many countries as possible shall be requested so as to bring forth a firm tie of Asian peoples through economy and culture.

Countries to be invited as participant-countries: The Republic of Korea, Chinese Republic, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaya, Singapore, Japan, Burma, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Japan.

Cooperating-Countries

Advanced nations of the world that understand Asia and are anxious about Asian peoples and their future, shall widely be requested for their cooperation with ABC.

Countries to be invited as cooperating-countries: The United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Swiss Confederation, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Egypt and South American countries.

Administrative Machinery

1. ABC's Organization Sub-Committee:
 This sub-committee shall be formed under the promotion committee to study and decide the organization and membership of ABC.
2. Directors:
 Three to five directors shall be selected from each of the participants and cooperating countries.

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1. **Committees:**

A number of committees shall be appointed from among the committee established as in the case of Directors.

1. **Honorary Advisors and Advisors:**

A number of honorary advisors and advisors respectively shall be appointed.

1. **General Meetings:**

The general meeting of ALC shall consist of Directors, consultants, honorary advisors and advisors and shall function as deliberative body of ALC. The general meeting shall be held once a year.

1. **Chairman and Vice-Chairman:**

A chairman and three (3) vice-chairmen shall be elected from among the directors and shall preside over the general meeting.

1. **The board of Directors:**

The directors shall form the board of directors with functions as executive body of ALC.

1. **General secretary and general secretaries:**

A general secretary shall be appointed and under his leadership, a general secretariat be set up for carrying on the business of ALC.

1. **Technical Committee:**

Technical committee shall be set up by experts and specialists and functions as consultative body attached to General secretary. Members of the committee shall be appointed by General Secretary.

Elimination of Executive Association Bill

When the promotion committee of ALC comes into being, the preparatory association shall hand over its business to the newly-formed committee and dissolve itself. Thus, afterwards, the promotion committee shall see to the business of establishing ALC.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, AEC

My present understanding by AEC is officially to be decided by a subsequent organ after the establishment of the cooperative organization, but the following program is set up as a provisionally-planned program and activities for promotion of AEC or for service out of AEC's objectives.

1. Increase of Japanese-Japanese overseas for exchange up the amount of economic co-operation. (It also nations and others).
2. Holding of the biannual meeting of AEC and the granting of all-Asian nations' conference on labor, energy and the development.
3. Opening of "Asian Industrial Exhibition".
4. Establishment of "Asian IC development" public organization in each of Asian countries concerned. In doing, the establishment of "Asia Economic Development Technical Skills Corporation" is proposed.
5. Establishment of the "unfederated bank of Asia".
6. Setting up of an over-all program of joint understandings and the research and study institutes.
7. Operation of joint ventures and co-operative activities.
8. Establishment of an institution of training institutions required for operation of Asian countries.
9. Establishment of "Asian Culture Research Center".
10. Establishment of grant centers in Asia and promotion of welfare and health activities in the area.

Dr. Masahiko

7-30-56