

SECRET

JUN 18 1956

File 974

Memorandum For:

From:

Ref: RI-1758

Information on Prince Higashimura is attached which should be handled confidentially.

IO/2 sbe
Distributions:
Addresses - Orig & 1
IO/2 - 2
RI - 1

201 FILE GROUP ON THE BASIS OF THIS DOCUMENT

ABSTRACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9 JUL 1956	

SECRET RI COPY

ENC.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(C) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency Date: 2405

SECRET

Prince Norihito Higashinomiya (Information as of May 1953)

Date of Birth: December 3, 1887

Place of Birth: Kyoto, Japan

Wife: Her Imperial Highness Princess Tokiko

Children: One son - Prince Norihito

Other Relatives:

Brother of Prince Field Marshal Hachirō, head of House of Katsuno and member of Japanese War Council as of 1940.

Brother of Prince General Asahi, head of House of Asahi, member of Japanese War Council since 1925.

Uncle of Regent, the Emperor and of Princess Masako, consort of Prince Major General Oda HI of the Royal House of Chosen.

Cousin of Emperor Hirohito

Politics: "Conservative-right"

Post Career:
Nov. 1905 - Established House of Higashinomiya by order of the late Emperor Meiji

1908 - Graduated from the Military Academy
Dec. 1908 - Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant assigned to 2nd Regiment of Imperial Guards

1910 - Promoted to 1st Lieutenant
Nov. 1914 - Graduated from Army War College

1915 - Married Princess Tokiko
May 1916 - Birth of son Prince Norihito
Assigned to 2nd Infantry Regiment and Headquarters of General Staff

July 1918 - Promoted to Major, Battalion Commander of 7th Infantry Division

Apr. 1920 to Jan 1927 - Served in various staff military positions
1921 - Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel
1925 - Promoted to Colonel
1926 to Nov. 1943 - Honorary President of Nippon Seisaku Kenkyū, which was dissolved in Nov. 1943.

SECRET

ENC.

SECRET

-2-

Recent Reports:

The Prince was said in May 1955 to express views typical of the group headed by Konoye, who was a close friend. He feels that the Army during the war interfered too much in political and economic affairs.

In May 1955 he is reported to have expressed support of a "gradual" approach to rearmament. He felt that the U.S. and Japanese authorities should refrain from undue pressure on the Japanese to resume in view of the antipathy of the women and young people especially to the military and felt that it would be preferable to work through the older Japanese to bring about a proper atmosphere for self-defense.

He is supposed to have been close to Yoshida.

In March 1955 he visited the U.S. Embassy with Tadashi Yonemoto, President of the Tokyo Sales Company, to discuss the State Department's leader-grant program. The latter proposed that the Prince be made head of a committee to select the Japanese grantees.

In June 1955 he published a book, Yanaka Zaihitoku (published by Yomiuri Shinbun).

He himself said in 1953 that he remains a "power" in Japanese political circles.