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Source Cryptonyms

The information contained in this report was received on 10 September 1955 by from during a visit by to home. Although unable to pinpoint the connection between and IMAJURA, it is probable that they are comrades of long-standing and we have tried to indicate possible bias. Project:

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- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (2)(A) Privacy
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INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY Japan

DATE DISTR. 29 September 1955

SUBJECT Views on Position and Influence of
IKAMURA Hitechi

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED Japan, Tokyo (10 September 1955)

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GRADING OF SOURCE						COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE American observer (B); from a former Japanese army officer with a long association with IKAMURA (F). Appraisal of Content: 4

- Former General IKAMURA Hitechi, commanding general in the Southeast Pacific area during WWII, is the most respected former general in Japan. This respect is held not only by the Japanese people, but also by the Indonesian Government, its people, and by the Australian Government, as evidenced during his war crimes trial by these two governments. IKAMURA's personality and character, which commands such respect, is felt by anyone who comes in contact with him. He has a steady flow of correspondence from his former officers and soldiers and has visitors from throughout Japan.
- IKAMURA commands (sic) approximately 70,000 former soldiers who are willing to follow him on their own initiative and who look to him as their leader for rebuilding Japan and its defenses. He also has considerable popularity among the rural population. IKAMURA recently distributed tens of thousands of free booklets for building up Japanese patriotism, which seems to have completely disappeared with Japan's defeat. IKAMURA's associates have advocated that he run for the House of Councillors, but he has emphatically refused to take up a political career. If IKAMURA should choose to run for the House of Councillors, he would be elected without any effort on his part.
- In addition to his 70,000 followers, IKAMURA's popularity is steadily gaining among the war veterans of Japan, who want capable spiritual leadership. IKAMURA, who is the most popular figure in Japan aside from the Imperial family, refuses to acknowledge and take advantage of this popularity. Although IKAMURA dislikes the idea of capitalizing on his popularity for personal gain, the possibility exists that eight million veterans with the support of the rural population will demand that he lead Japan out of its destitution for the sake of the national interest and welfare.
- Field Comment. According to press reports of 3 September 1955, he was tentatively named as a member of a projected military advisory group by National Defense Agency Director-General SUGIYAMA Shigenasa. While the above estimate of IKAMURA's popularity borders on the incredible, it would appear to be of significance even if only partly true.

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