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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

FJB-2616

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: Para. 1: American businessman in Tokyo (B); from a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official (F).

Para. 2: Political editor on influential Japanese journal (F).

Paras. 3-4: Japanese businessman (C); from a political writer of a major Tokyo newspaper (F).

Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. The death on 29 January 1956 of OGATA Taketora, president of the former Liberal Party, has raised the problem of a successor to the presidency of the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP). The original plan was to have Prime Minister HATOYAMA Ichiro the first president, then OGATA, then KISHI Nobusuke, LDP Secretary-general. Now KISHI cannot succeed HATOYAMA directly. A likely candidate as interim president is KAYA Okinori who was recently released from Sugamo Prison where he was serving a sentence as a war criminal.¹ KAYA was formerly the boss of IKEDA Hayato, LDP member of the House of Representatives, who now supports KAYA.
2. KAYA, a newcomer to the current political scene, should be watched; he is very powerful behind the scenes and is planning a political comeback. He is particularly strong in the Finance Ministry. He will probably run for the Diet at the first opportunity and be elected.
3. IKEDA reportedly distributed ¥300,000 to each of his faction at the 1955 year-end, the same amount he doled out when he was Finance Minister. IKEDA has boasted that he has enough funds to keep his faction together for two more years, even if he does not get a cabinet post. IKEDA is backed by NAGANO Mamoru.²
4. KISHI is backed by FUJIYAMA Aiichiro, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

1. Field Comment. KAYA, who was Finance Minister in the first Konoe and ~~Hojo Cabinets~~ was indicted as a top war criminal. According to the NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b) (2)(A) Privacy (2)(B) Methods/Sources (2)(C) Foreign Relations

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Japanese press he was paroled from Sugamo on 17 September 1955.

2. Headquarters Comment. According to CS-70735 (page 25) NAGANO, a former member of the House of Representatives, is a member of the National Policy Research Association, a rightist organization.

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