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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE: A: Completely reliable. B: Usually reliable. C: Fairly reliable. D: Not usually reliable. E: Not reliable. (Applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F: Reliability cannot be judged (Applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: 1: Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2: Probably true. 3: Possibly true. 4: Doubtful. 5: Probably false. 6: Cannot be judged. Documentary: Based on original document.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY Japan REPORT NO. FJT-2518
SUBJECT Character and Political Prospects of KAYA Okinori DATE OF REPORT 10 July 1957
NO. OF PAGES 2

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. June 1957

CS-3,324,391

PLACE &

DATE ACQ Japan, Tokyo (15 June 1957)

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: Trained American observer (B); from a Japanese journalist close to members of the former Progressive Party faction in the Liberal-Democratic Party (F).
Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. KAYA Okinori is an able man, probably fundamentally more capable than Prime Minister KISHI Nobusuke. KAYA looks like, and is, a stiff, taciturn, granitic person, much like HAMAGUCHI Yuko.¹ While in Sugamo Prison, KAYA won a considerable reputation as the one Class A war criminal who studied constantly throughout his prison term.
2. KAYA would make a competent Minister of Finance, but to achieve real political influence he will have to become elected to the Diet. He intends to run in the next general election in the Third Tokyo constituency, where his election is considered a certainty.
3. One of the three seats in Third Tokyo constituency regularly goes to ~~SUZUKI~~ Mosaburo, Chairman of the Japan Socialist Party. Another traditionally goes to a right-wing Socialist; this seat was vacated by the death in 1956 of MIWA Juso. The Socialists have designated for it a woman educator who is now a member of the Tokyo Municipal Assembly.²
4. The third seat in the constituency is presently occupied by ~~HIROKAWA~~ Kozen of the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP), but ~~HIROKAWA~~ has about decided to transfer his candidacy to a Fukushima constituency,³ possibly the Third, because he believes that he will be defeated if both he and KAYA run in the Third Tokyo constituency. This belief is based on ~~HIROKAWA~~'s experience in 1953, when he lost to ~~YASUI~~ Daikichi of the YOSHIDA Shigeru faction of the LDP. ~~YASUI~~'s victory was in large part due to the fact that ~~SATO~~ Eisaku disbursed large sums of money into the right hands, and since it is believed that ~~SATO~~ would similarly manage KAYA's campaign, in fact if not in name, ~~HIROKAWA~~ fears that similar tactics would result in a repetition of his defeat.

Field Comments

1. Prime Minister from 1929 to 1931.
2. Probably MOTOJIMA Yuriko, who was mentioned in FJB-2388 from the same source as a possible candidate in the Third Tokyo district.

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Field Comment

3. HIROK/WA was born in Fukushima-ken.

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