

SANKEI (1/3 Summary)

Eve., Nov. 19, 1958

Okinori KAYA Briskly Moving Behind Political Scenes

Former Finance Minister Okinori KAYA's extensive, positive moves for settlement of the current Diet confusion is attracting attention of the political world. He believes that the first thing for Japan's political leaders to do at this time is to normalize Diet proceedings, and regards the handling of the controversial Bill for Revision of the Police Duties Law as a matter of only a secondary importance. Toward this end, he stresses unity of the Liberal-Democratic Party, and calls for cooperation of all factions of the Party, particularly Mr. Mitsujiro ISHII. He obtained Prime Minister KISHI's and Finance Minister SATO's promise for full-fledged support for his plan. He met with State Minister IKEDA prior to his departure for the U.S. and asked the IKEDA faction to take a wait-and-see attitude toward the current political situation. On November 11, Mr. KAYA talked with former Prime Minister YOSHIDA and then with Mr. ISHII.

Chairman KONO of the Liberal-Democratic Party's Executive Board greatly angered at Mr. KAYA's move, as he regarded it as a plot designed to increase the influence of the IKEDA and ISHII factions while weakening the KONO and ONO groups. Meeting with Vice President ONO of the Liberal-Democratic Party on November 15, therefore, he emphasized that efforts for settling the political situation should be made from a broader viewpoint with the future of the conservative party in mind and that for this purpose, such a thing as the factional differences should be kept out of consideration.

Mr. KAYA is a staunch anti-Communist. From a geographical point of view, he rules out any possibility of Japan taking such a neutral position as India and Switzerland. From this angle, he lays major emphasis in his policy upon national defense. He thinks that Japan should study ways and means of defending herself without spending much money and that the only alternative open to Japan toward this end is to make the U.S. ensure the security of the Far East. He stresses that the Security Treaty should be revised in line with this principle.

Recently, Mr. KAYA proposed to the Prime Minister what he called a five-point key policy including revision of the Security Treaty, in which he pointed out that it is wrong to regard the stationing of the U.S. forces as humiliating to Japan and that in revising the Treaty, consideration should be given to enabling freer operations of the U.S. security forces.

Mr. KISHI owes much to Mr. KAYA for his becoming the President of the ruling party two years ago. Today, too, he is ready to extend full-scale cooperation to the Prime Minister. Mr. KAYA says that although he does not think Mr. KISHI is perfectly good, there is no person among the Liberal-Democrats who is abler than he.

Mr. KAYA is critical of the present two-party system, and emphasizes that the prerequisite to successful operation of the two-party system is that a clear-cut line be drawn between the Socialist Party and the Japan Communist Party. From this point of view, he seems to be paying keen attention to the future of the right-wing Socialists. He says that the left-wingers and the right-wingers of the Socialist Party are poles apart but that there is only a slight difference in policy between progressive-minded conservatives and moderate right-wing Socialists.

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