

Tokyo, KYODO, in Japanese and English, Aug. 17, 1955, noon edition--T

(Text)

Tokyo, Aug. 17--Fusanosuke Kuhara, 86 year old veteran politician, left with three members of his team late last night by Japan Air Lines plane for Communist China on a "national good will mission." Kuhara, known as the "sphinx" of Japan's political circles for his grandiose ideas, is chairman of the national council for restoration of diplomatic relations between Japan and Communist China and Japan and the Soviet Union. The party included Teichi Nishikawa, mining company executive and former progressive Government economic leader, and Kuhara's son and daughter. The quartet will join two other members of the party who had left ahead of them in Hong Kong and tour Communist China for about 2 months. The Japanese Govt refused permission for the Party to visit the Soviet Union from Red China as Kuhara wished. Kuhara, however, reportedly was planning to see Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan at Peking. He is said to have wired Mikoyan to come to Peking for the meeting.

Kuhara, clad in Japanese kimono, said at the airport that he has been interested in China since helping Sun Yat-sen, the late Chinese revolutionary leader, 40 years ago, and he hoped to promote Japan's reconciliation with both Russia and Red China.

He refused to say whether he would meet Mikoyan at Peking, but added in his usual mysterious way: "I go to any place where man is."

(Editors note: A KYODO Aug 17 Noon Edition dispatch from Hong Kong reported that Kuhara, upon reaching Hong Kong Aug. 17 said that it was still not known whether his party would extend its trip to Russia from Peking; that it all depended upon whether his group was asked to do so or not. He said if he visited Soviet Russia, he would discuss the peace issue freely, as a civilian.)

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