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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM USPOLAD, Nagoya

12

October 31, 1951

DESP. NO.

DATE

TO USPOLAD, Tokyo

ROUTINE

PRIORITY

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DESTROY AFTER USE

SUBJECT: Political Opinions of former Admiral and Ambassador Kichisaburo NOMURA

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On October 30, 1951 Admiral Kichisaburo NOMURA paid a call at this consular office on his return to Tokyo from a visit with his long-time friend Mikimoto, the well known pearl producer. Admiral Nomura has been known by the reporting officer for approximately two years and it is believed that his remarks, made in the company of Mr. Dudley G. SINGER, USPOLAD, Tokyo, and Vice Consul Henry G. KRAUSSE, Jr., USPOLAD, Nagoya, were in the spirit of friendly conversation and reflect his views accurately.

Mr. Singer stated that he had been informed by a leading industrialist in Nagoya recently that the danger of a successful communist revolution in Japan is acute and asked Admiral Nomura what his views on this subject are. Nomura replied that he does not believe communism has any chance of success in Japan and went on to state that he believes that Japan's only alternative to Soviet aggression is to side with the free nations of the west, reinforced by the defensive alliance with the United States as afforded by the Security Pact.

In discussing present Japanese politics in general Admiral Nomura criticized strongly the graft and corruption among Prime Minister YOSHIDA's political leaders, although he said Yoshida himself is not dishonest. He questioned how any political leader, especially those who had little previous experience and ability, could afford to purchase the large residences which Yoshida's henchmen apparently own after only two or three years in government service at comparatively low salaries. He implied that the progressive corruption of Yoshida's Government will cause it eventually to become as ineffectual as was Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Government of China before it capitulated to communist aggression. He stated further that Yoshida has done well as the Occupation Premier of Japan and is now at the peak of his political popularity but that recent liberal economic policies, electric power shortage, and the prevalence of corruption in the Government will cause his popularity to fall. Admiral Nomura stated that a change in Japan's political leadership is likely, but that he knows of no leader powerful enough to replace Yoshida. When asked whether HATAYAMA is a likely successor he replied that this recently depurged politician is a sick man.

In discussing economic matters Admiral Nomura said that Mr. Lodge's visit is good medicine for Japan which must suppress inflation and stabilize herself economically. He also stated that Prime Minister Yoshida, whose Liberal Party traditionally is pro-big business and seems in favor of inflation and easy money, can not be pleased with Dodge's visit.

William H. Bruns
 William H. Bruns
 American Vice Consul

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REPORTER(S)

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