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NOMURA
MEMO, TOKYO to DEPT.

OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
Tokyo, Japan

19 June 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Ambassador

SUBJECT: Biographic Information on Admiral Nomura

Admiral Nomura is about 75 years old. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1896 with high honors for scholarship and, during his naval career of 40 years, he had several diplomatic assignments as well as sea and naval staff duty. Before World War I he served as Naval Attache in St. Petersburg, Vienna and Berlin and, from 1914 to 1918, he was Naval Attache in Washington. Subsequently, he attended the Paris Peace Conference and the Washington Disarmament Conference. In 1929, Admiral Nomura commanded the training squadron on a cruise to the United States. During his naval career, he also served as Vice-Chief of the Naval General Staff, Commander of Yokosuka Naval Base, Commander of the First and Third Fleets, and Supreme Commander of the Pacific.

Upon his retirement from active duty in 1937, Admiral Nomura became President of the Keio University. He was persuaded to accept the post of Foreign Minister in 1939 and, in 1940, was appointed Ambassador to the United States, where he remained until restricted by the outbreak of war. While the Pacific War was very active during the war, he made several speeches on broadcast to the effect and was appointed to the Privy Council in 1944.

Since 1945, he has been active as a peace advocate even before his clearance in 1951, however, he has been active in the promotion of Japanese-American and United States-Japanese Alliance. Some reports have it that he is a confidant of Frontier Politics when he advises on the subject of international relations.

Admiral Nomura has been described by our sources as a very casual, gracious and able person who knows how to get along with foreigners, particularly Americans. He made many influential friends in his earlier days in Washington and, during the Shanghai incidents in 1932, he was the only Japanese Naval Officer with whom the foreigners could come to an understanding. There is some reason to believe that, when he was Ambassador to Washington, he was duped about the Government's real intentions in the Pacific. At least it can be rather safely said that he represented a strong conservative element in the Navy which was never very enthusiastic

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about the Pacific War. In his present advocacy of Japanese rearmament, he appears to be quite sincere in a desire to see it carried out on the basis of close understanding and cooperation with the United States. With a certain amount of caution born of experience, the Admiral feels that any new Japanese armed forces must be under civilian and Parliamentary control.

Nomura is an impressive man physically, standing an extraordinary 6 feet in height. He lost an eye during the same 1932 Shanghai bombing incident in which Mr. Shigenaga lost his leg. He speaks English fairly well and is said to associate with others on terms of frankness and cordiality and complete mutual respect.