

AIR FORCE **CONFIDENTIAL** DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

(Priority) (Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: **EMBASSY, TOKYO** 300

TO: **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.** DESP. NO.

June 26, 1952 DATE

REF: **817237**

ACTION	DEPT.	
For Dept. Use Only	O/LI	I N F O
REC'D	JUL 3	DOR TH EUR/X
OTHER		

SUBJECT: **Admiral Kichisaburo NOMURA, Retired**

There are enclosed copies of

1. Memorandum of Conversation with Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura, Retired, on June 20, 1952
2. Pertinent biographic information

Robert Murphy
Robert Murphy

FILE IN

REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION COPY

Retain in divisional files or destroy in accordance with security regulations.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

FOR COORDINATION WITH *State*

- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- Privacy
 - Methods/Sources
 - Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: *2005*

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Document No. 1 of
Report No. 300
dated June 25, 1952,
AMEMBART, TOKYO to DEPT.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

June 20, 1952.

Admiral Kichisaburo NOMURA, Retired, called on me today at his request. He stayed for lunch, with Vice Admiral J. J. Clark, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet; the kind of their visit was purely confidential.

After lunch Admiral Kawan drew my aside to say that he had asked to call in order to convey the following:

So said that he is in touch with a considerable number of former Japanese naval officers and was authorized by them to say that they are all exceedingly happy and grateful regarding the transfer of United States naval craft to the Japanese authorities. Naturally they are interested in the evolution of the future Japanese naval establishment and he was prepared to say that the United States could depend on his Japanese friends for loyal and effective support. They all share American views regarding the Soviet Union, he said.

He and his friends are dubious regarding the strength of the present Japanese Government to suppress the growth of Communism in Japan. Some of the members of the Government are not alert, he believes, to the potential of the Japanese Communist but they are, in his opinion, well endowed with classed means and well organized. He feels there has been too much reliance placed in Japanese circles on this subject. The same point which the Communist organization is small in numbers in certain groups is just as misleading in Japan as it has been in other countries where a small tightly-knit organization has been found more effective than a larger and more widely membership might be.

Wesley
Robert Murphy

Murphy:gs

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page 1 of Enclosure No. 2
of Despatch No. 390 dated
June 27, 1952, from
EMBASSY, 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 1898 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 War Councillor.

Upon his retirement from active duty in 1937, Admiral Nomura became President of the Pear's School. 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 repatriated after the outbreak of war. While the Admiral was not very active during the war, he made several speeches on promoting the war effort and was appointed to the Privy Council in 1944.

Since 1945, he has lived in retirement as a purgee. Even before his clearance in 1951, however, he carried on informal activities in the promotion of Japanese rearmament and a United States-Japanese Alliance. Some reports have it that he is a confidant of Premier Yoshida whom he advises on the subject of rearmament.

Admiral Nomura has been described by most sources as a very genial, 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

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page 2 of Enclosure No. 2
of Despatch No. 300 dated
June 24, 1932, from
AMBASSY, TOKYO to DEPT.

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.

Naumov 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. Shigemitsu lost his leg. He speaks English fairly well and is said to associate with others on terms of frankness and cordiality and completely without affectation.

/s/ H.H. Rolph

Lt Rolph

CONFIDENTIAL