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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY: Japan  
SUBJECT: Conversation With Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: A distinguished US citizen now retired.

Lived in Japan and worked with top level Japanese professionally for years.

- Admiral Nomura came to see me today [15 Nov 53] and we talked for the better part of an hour. He is an old and good friend of mine from the old days in Japan, and he talked without apparent reserve. His command of English seems to have somewhat improved, but his pronunciation is bad, and one sometimes has to ask him to repeat a remark two or three times before getting his precise meaning.
- Admiral Nomura believes that Japan must rearm for defense and that progress along this line will develop over the next few years. The fact remains however that the present Prime Minister, Mr Yoshida, has himself taken a strong position against rearmament and helped to draft the present Constitution. He would therefore be in a difficult and embarrassing position if he now advocated a reversal of that policy. Consequently the Government is doing nothing whatever to create public awareness of the potential threat to Japan's security and to increase popular support for rearmament. This is the major obstacle to such progress.
- The authorities at West Point (which I take to mean the military occupation authorities) advocate emphasis on ground forces in Japan's future army. Nevertheless Japan's main problem is to protect its imports of food and other commodities annually, including wheat, oil, minerals, etc. The wheat comes largely from the US, the oil from Borneo and other areas. Japan could not subsist without these imports.
- No major issues currently divide the Progressive and Liberal Parties. The division is based almost entirely on personal jealousies and dislikes. Yoshida, Shigemitsu and Matoyama do not like each other and would find it difficult to combine. Nomura is not aware that any insistence of government posts is posed as the price of cooperation.
- Hayato Ikeda, like most of the members of the Government, has little personal knowledge or experience of foreign countries. He is a very able financier but narrow in out look as are most of his contemporaries. His present trip is to overcome this deficiency. Nomura does not associate his visits with Japan's rearmament or Conservative Party unity.

**NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT**

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Date: 2005

6. If Yoshida should go, Shigemitsu would be his most likely successor. Nevertheless their respective strengths in the Diet would seem to render such a change unlikely just now. A number of potential younger leaders are developing, but few of them know anything about foreign countries and most of them are narrow in outlook. He mentioned one promising member of the present Cabinet. I would recognize his name if I saw it but unfortunately I did not pin it down. It had an "n" in it.
7. Nomura feels that good relations and cooperation between Japan and Korea are most important but he appeared not to wish to touch on individual problems. He spoke of the North Koreans as being wholly under the heel of the USSR.
8. Japan's problems of defense against the USSR are very difficult, largely owing to the narrow straits north of the Hokkaido and at Tsushima. The USSR regards the Sea of Japan as a Soviet Lake.
9. Nomura expresses the greatest appreciation of the friendship of the US for Japan and emphasizes the fact that this friendship and cooperation are fundamental in Japanese thinking. He generously and perhaps illogically attributes to ( ) the retention of the Emperor and states that if the Throne had been scrapped, our occupation forces would have been faced with chaos.

- end -

174.8 3L  
113.4 3L  
103.2 3L

REQUIREMENT WAS TO TRY AND  
GET INTERVIEW W SUBJECT IF HE WAS  
STILL AVAILABLE FOR TALKS IN WASH

// 12/12-13 he was not available  
apparently has returned to Japan