

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Japan	REPORT NO.	CS-37796
SUBJECT	Status of Plans for New Conservative Party	DATE DISTR.	20 May 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Retired Japanese Government official in close contact with leaders of the Progressive Party (B). Appraisal of Content: 3.

Plans to form a new conservative party around NOMURA Kichisaburo have been stalled, temporarily at least, because MATSUSHITA Konosuke, who was to talk with NOMURA about these plans, has been sick.

Washington Comment. CS-33872 reported that NARAHASHI Wataru, a leading advisor to the Progressive Party, was attempting to persuade MATSUSHITA to convince NOMURA to become the head of a new conservative party which would include elements of the Progressive, Liberal and splinter Liberal parties.

Source Comment. There is little chance that a new conservative party can be formed at this time. SHIGEMITSU Mamoru, head of the Progressive Party, has publicly stated that the Progressives will not join in a conservative party with the Liberals unless YOSHIDA steps down. There is a possibility, however, that an agreement will be reached among the three conservative parties on a temporary coalition to permit YOSHIDA to go to the United States as Prime Minister under the condition that he resign immediately upon his return to Japan. All conservative plans, of course, are dependent upon the results of the shipping scandals investigations which could easily result in the resignation of the entire Cabinet.

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