ATION INFORMATIO REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT

Views of NOMURA Kichisaburo

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on Defense Minister Appointment

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D)

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE SOURCE: American observer (B); from a close associate of NOMURA Kichisaburo (F).

NOMURA Kichisaburo believes that his failure to get the appointment as Defense Minister will eventually benefit him since remaining aloof from the present Cabinet will put him in a better position to be chosen Premier after HATOYAMA Ichiro's resignation, which NOMURA considers inevitable.

Field Comment. The Japanese press has reported that NOMURA was HATOYAMA's original choice as Defense Minister, but that HATOYAMA was forced to change the appointment to SUGIHARA Arata because NOMURA, as a former admiral, cannot hold a Cabinet post.

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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