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1. I arrived at the JAL office of Haneda at approximately 1300 hours 29 May and checked in at the ticket office. POCAPON and his secretary arrived a few minutes later and while NAKANO was checking in at the counter POCAPON was escorted up to the second floor of the terminal where he was shown into a private waiting room. NAKANO came to where I was sitting and said that he and POCAPON would board the plane ahead of everybody else and that I should take my time as they would have a seat saved for me. We boarded the plane at 1125. NAKANO had the seat next to POCAPON saved for me. On my right side was Prince TAKAMATSU who was travelling with two other Imperial Household agency officials. After take-off NAKANO came to our seats and said that in order to prevent any unnecessary questions as to my identity that the four Tokyo newspaper reporters (who were occupying seats at the rear of the plane) would be told that I was a very good friend of POCAPON's son SHIJURO who is currently studying at the FLETCHER School. POCAPON said that would be a better way of shaking off the reporters than the original story of being distantly related to one of POCAPON's secretaries. POCAPON said that NAKANO should not go out of his way to tell the reporters anything but only give out the story if they pressed for some explanation of my presence. Mr. Fukui Junichi a member of the Diet who was travelling with the POCAPON party asked NAKANO in passing who I was: the story related above was used. Evidently he relayed that on to the newspaper reporters since they did not pay any further attention to me during the entire period of the trip.

2. After a few minutes in the air the usual routine of candy, gum, tea, sandwiches etc etc began. Our seats were located just to the rear of the engines at the most stable portion of the plane as well as the noisiest part so it was difficult to carry on a sustained conversation. POCAPON had with him a copy of "Ambassador's Report" by Chester Bowles which he read from time to time during the trip. As interesting paragraphs came up he would stop and discuss them with me. I had purchased a copy of Time at the airport and asked if he wanted to glance through it. We exchanged books. POCAPON's book was a Hongkong printed book and it had in the flypage the inscription "To Taketora with compliments-Sung"

3. When he came to the picture of Gen. G. Marshall which described his short appearance at the funeral of Gen. Sumner POCAPON commented that the biggest mistake that Gen. Marshall had made during his entire lifetime, in POCAPON's estimation was his acceptance of the China post. He said that Gen. Marshall was too honest and too sincere a person to be picked at and torn apart by the Chinese. He said that in order to deal with the Chinese, be it a Communist or a Nationalist, one had to always discount more than 50% as being purely bargaining (TN; POCAPON used the term KAKEHIKI). I commented on the fact that when one got to be as important a figure as POCAPON he would naturally have to do a lot of bargaining and in the process most likely would create a number of enemies. I asked if POCAPON could recall having made any enemies during the days of the occupation. POCAPON said that he could definitely recall three such enemies who might to this day still be holding a grudge against him. His story was related in quite some detail. The first of these POCAPON said was made early in the occupation. At the time of the Japanese surrender POCAPON was the Chief Cabinet Secretary and in this capacity had to negotiate a number of things with the occupation officials. A few days after the MacArthur headquarters began functioning POCAPON said that he was ordered to report to Yokohama for discussions on newspaper censorship. At this conference which was attended by a number of high level officials of what was to become the SCAP Civil Censorship Division

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy
(2)(D) Methods/Sources
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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POCAPON said he was asked to comment on the topic of censorship. POCAPON said that he told the assembled group that he was a newspaper man of some experience and could speak from a fairly authoritative standpoint. He said that he told Mr. Hoover who was the most high ranking of the group that POCAPON felt that censorship was an absolute necessity during wartime and that it was a military necessity as well. However, after the war was over, after Japan had indicated acceptance of unconditional surrender there was no further need for any strict censorship. POCAPON said that he advised Mr. Hoover that a censorship program by the occupation forces would merely antagonize the Japanese people and would not stop any clandestine writings by those who had any ill feelings towards the United States. POCAPON said that he could see Mr. HOOVER's face get red and he appeared in ready to bang on the table with his fists. The subject however was not pursued any further but the discussion went on to the subject of dissemination of public information and propaganda favorable to the Occupation Forces. POCAPON said that at this time he advised the assembled group that he felt that the best method would be to divide the country's news media into various categories such as Class A, B, C, newspapers, Periodicals directed at the masses, Periodicals directed at Specific groups, professional literature, etc. and then by selecting the dissemination material and doling them out to the media that had the greatest influence on any particular group. POCAPON said that he explained that readers in Japan could best be reached by directing one's efforts to specific targets rather than to the whole nation. Mr. HOOVER again opposed this and said that he felt the best way was saturation and that the Public Information Office in conjunction with the Civil Censorship Division would control all the newspapers and release all articles to all media simultaneously. POCAPON said that like a fool he continued to argue for his point until Mr. HOOVER abruptly called an end to the meeting and walked out. The last words POCAPON remembers hearing being uttered by Mr. Hoover were: "I'll get him"

4. The second major enemy that POCAPON recalls having made during the occupation was a Mr. SWOPE in Government Section of GHQ. POCAPON says that he does not know why Mr. Swope in particular should harbor any ill feelings towards him. POCAPON said that after a number of very unpleasant encounters with SWOPE he was told that he had better watch his step and not get out of line or he would be designated as a War Criminal and tried in a military court. Laughing, POCAPON said "You can see how scared I was because I was then already on the list of suspected war criminals"

5. The third enemy is Russell Brines. POCAPON said that Brines had been severely mistreated by the Japanese Kempeitai when he was in the Philippines and he appeared to be holding a grudge against all Japanese. After the Occupation began POCAPON said that he was swamped with demands by various newspapers all desiring to get an audience with the Emperor. POCAPON said that it was his job to see that the Emperor was disturbed as little as possible. With this background POCAPON pointed out that only the major news services were allowed to see the Emperor. One day while still holding the Chief Cabinet Secretary's position POCAPON said that Russell Brines walked into his office at approximately 1345 hours and asked to have an audience with the Emperor at 1400 hours, 15 minutes from then. POCAPON said that it would be impossible to arrange an audience on such a short notice and furthermore Associated Press was scheduled to meet the Emperor at that time. Brines, turning a bit flushed, said that was exactly why he wanted to see the Emperor. POCAPON said that Brines accused him of favoring another press service and while they were arguing Brines got a call from his office indicating that UP had arranged a meeting for Brines and Prince Takamatsu. POCAPON said this upset Brines somewhat but he left his

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office muttering something about getting even. POCAPON said that he sincerely believes that Russell Brines was one of the key individuals in getting POCAPON designated as a war criminal suspect. He said that it was a good thing that all people are not like Brines, otherwise this world would be filled with half the population hating the other half. During Vice President Nixon's visit to Japan, POCAPON said that Brines was one of the press party. At one of the Embassy receptions for ~~Mr. Nixon~~ Nixon Brines was present and came face to face with POCAPON but he made only a short greeting and went on to other guests. POCAPON said that this gave him a feeling more strongly than ever that Brines must have had something to do with his war criminal suspect designation so he asked Brines to come to his office. Brines refused on the grounds that he was tied up with other commitments and for the entire period of the vice presidents stay in Japan he gave the same excuse. At the airport when POCAPON went to see the Vice President off Brines did not even mention POCAPON's several invitations to meet.

6. A spokesman for the four newspaper reporters on the same plane handed POCAPON a pad of scratch paper and asked him to write a few comments on the current situation. POCAPON accepted the paper and pencil and continued to talk with me instead. We turned to the subject of politics and discussed the budget situation. POCAPON said that he had given ISHII, Mitsujiro the secretary general of the Liberal Party instructions to carry the ball and was leaving it up to him to pave the way for the passage of the Budget. He said that he did not feel it was a matter that he should get himself involved with so he was letting the matter be worked out at the working level as a strictly administrative matter. He added that the discussions that were going on at present in Tokyo should be concluded by 31 May insofar as the temporary budget for the month of June was concerned. He said that the talks on the overall regular budget should be concluded successfully by mid June at the latest. With respect to the Jap. Soviet negotiations which will begin in London POCAPON said that he was sure that Japan would be trapped into making a lot of commitments because the Soviets would probably begin the conferences by making a lot of goodwill gestures such as allowing the return of the Habomai and Shikotan islands. By doing this the Soviets would gain two things according to POCAPON, 1, The bait will act as a numbing influence on the naive nature of the current Prime Minister and the Chief Negotiator and 2, will get Japanese public opinion in back of the Soviets. (The Communists will be able to say Well look here, the Soviets are really a bunch of good people who only want peace, on the other hand the US still holds on to Japanese soil in the Okinawas and the Ogasawara Islands.) POCAPON says that as far as he is concerned he has taken the aloof attitude towards the Democratic party's overtures to discuss ~~on~~ this matter ~~on~~ on a supra party basis because he does not want to be associated as having been a party to the big blunder of Japan. POCAPON said that the big mistake of HATOYAMA is in the fact that they do not have any set line of policy or outer perimeter of limitations in their negotiations. He said that the Democrats would probably keep searching all avenues offered to them in the hopes of finding something but not knowing what they are looking for. This, in POCAPON's mind, is a serious ~~miscalculation~~ miscalculation because it would give the Soviets ample opportunity to play the negotiations into a propoganda and Paywar program against the Japanese.

7. POCAPON said that we would be arriving in Itazuke soon so he had better write something for the reporters. The subjects he touched on were Budget, the Japanese Soviet negotiations. The Asahi Shimbun of 30 May carried the text of what he wrote in full, however, instead of saying that the newspaper reporters got the text in writing, it was written up as an interview during flight.

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8. We arrived in Itazuka at 1505. On the airstrip which is restricted to general traffic was the JAL bus and a 1953 Buick Loadmaster. The passengers were asked to ride on the bus to the gate - POCAPON, Nakano and myself got on the Buick and were transported to the same place. (Being a friend of his son I naturally took precedence over the other Diet members travelling with POCAPON - he) At the gate there was a great delegation to meet POCAPON including about 10 or 12 press photographers. A short interview was held inside and then with me still in the Buick we departed for the Sakasya Ryokan in Fukuoka. The Buick turned out to be the property of a Mr. OKUMURA president of the Okumura Sangyo K.K. the driver said that it was at the disposal of POCAPON for the entire period he was to be in Fukuoka. At the Sakasya Ryokan another delegation of politicians friends etc. NAKANO and I were shown to adjoining rooms on the ground floor while POCAPON went on upstairs to the second floor. NAKANO introduced me to ARAMAKI and FUKUI, Junichi both of whom were Diet members who had come with POCAPON. While engaged in general conversation NAKANO produced a typed paper and gave it to me indicating that it was POCAPON'S schedule while in Fukuoka. A press interview was listed for that evening at 2030 hours. Nakano said that it was put there in that manner to make it look good - it was really a Geisha party for the newspaper reporters who had come with POCAPON. Nakano said that these "little" things had to be done right or the reporters would write with an unpleasant slant on any things they noticed while on the trip. I gave Nakano two bottles of scotch and two cartons of cigarettes and asked him to use them at the "press interview" as this would probably further enhance POCAPON'S position. It did - POCAPON thanked me for the assist next morning.

9. On 30 May POCAPON started off immediately after breakfast, which he and I had together and got as far as the front entrance. A group of well wishers, petitioners, and handshakers were waiting in line. There were roughly 25 or 30 people waiting so POCAPON returned as far as NAKANO'S room where he met with a number of them - each for about 4 or 5 minutes. The lesser of the waiting group only got to see NAKANO or FUKUI. After POCAPON got off to his business, Mr. FUKUI came to my room and said that the newspaper reporters had asked POCAPON during the previous evening's party to be shown around some sights so POCAPON had arranged to have FUKUI escort them as a group to the FUTSUKAICHI Hot Springs about 30 minutes out of town and after spending the night there they would be escorted around to the DAZAIFU shrine. FUKUI said that POCAPON had indicated that if I did not mind being with the reporters that I was welcome to go. Since I do not know POCAPON'S son even if I were to come face to face with him, I felt that if the reporters should take a notion to press me for details of my acquaintance with him I would be stuck, so I declined the invitation but gave FUKUI a bottle of scotch and cigarettes and asked him to use them in the "Sake" binges which would most likely take place that evening.

10. On the morning of the 31st we were awakened at 0600 hours and informed that the ryokan had been entered by a sneak thief. Losses incurred: POCAPON about ¥15,000 from his wallet. (Coat was hanging on hook and wallet was in the breast pocket) myself, about \$2.00 in MPC from my wallet and about 5,000 yen from another breast pocket wallet. (20,000 folded and in my pants pocket had not been touched.) POCAPON came into my room at 0800 and apologized saying he hoped that my losses were not big (I told him that fortunately nothing had been taken from my room) because that would only leave a bad memory of Fukuoka. I assured him that I had none but the best of memories to take back with me. POCAPON said that two conferences had developed after his arrival in Fukuoka and he would be out all morning, he said also that he wanted to go and visit his elder brother who was ill before going out to the airport. We arranged to meet at Itazuka and parted.

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11. At 1300 I arrived at the J.A. office at NAKANO and found POCAPON already in the waiting room. He introduced me to Nakano's wife who had been Fukuoka visiting her mother and brother in Dazaifu. Mrs. Nakano in turn introduced me to her brother who is the chief priest of the Dazaifu Shrine and also the senior priest of all shrines in Fukuoka. By appearance I guessed his age to be not over 36 or 37. Again a short news interview and then POCAPON was whisked away in his car to the plane while the rest of the passengers went by bus. When I boarded the plane Nakano pointed to the seat beside POCAPON and indicated that it was being held for me. For the first half hour or so of the return trip POCAPON sat engrossed in the "Ambassador's Report"

12. POCAPON began conversing by mentioning that Los Angeles must certainly be a modern and progressive city now. He recalled only vaguely some of the major land marks since he said he had only stayed there for three days enroute to New York, Washington, etc. POCAPON said that while in Los Angeles he had stayed at the Miyako Hotel (I am acquainted with the manager) and was escorted around southern California by his old grammar school teacher who was then residing in Los Angeles. POCAPON said that the teacher himself had long since passed away but that his sons were still there. I inquired as to whom they might be and got a rather pleasant shock. POCAPON's school teacher who emigrated to the US many years ago was named HORI, Yujiro. Mr. HORI had several sons two of whom were named Tatsuo and Minoru. Both Tatsuo and Minoru were friends of our family ever since I can remember and as I grew up I was very kindly treated by these two gentlemen who by then had become leading business figures in Los Angeles. Tatsuo's son Haruo and I went to high school together while Minoru was my boss during Relocation Camp days in Manzanar Calif. POCAPON was very pleasantly surprised to know of my acquaintance with the Hori's and his attitude and manner became ever more friendly. This opened the avenue for naming a lot of other personalities of non operational nature. I turned to political figures in Japan today and got a reading on POROW. Since we had been in Kyushu in what is traditionally the seat of conservatism in present day Japanese Politics and at the same time the home of POROW's grandfather of the SATSUMA Rebellion fame I mentioned that it must be a great advantage to have such a great man as POROW remain in the Liberal Party and work in the tradition of his grandfather. POCAPON said, "Don't let the grandfathers reputation blind you, Conweck, POROW is not a great man. Neither is he a very capable politician or a valuable member of the Liberal Party. In fact it really doesn't make much difference if he's around or not. As far as his Grandfather is concerned well that's another story, however, I doubt if POROW really knows how great his grandfather ~~was~~ was." POCAPON's opinion of Japanese politicians was not very high. He said that so few of them really thought about country first; most were concerned with getting assured votes for the next election the moment they took office.

13. POCAPON said that this feeling of insecurity ran the whole length and breadth of everyone including Hatoyama. This gave me the opportunity to ask if Hatoyama would try to use the coming Soviet negotiations as a means of getting more public opinion behind him. POCAPON said that that is exactly what Hatoyama had in mind, however, the tragic part of the whole affair was in the fact that the Hatoyama cabinet as a whole looked upon the Russians as really goodhearted people who were misunderstood by the world. He said that Hatoyama was personally too complacent in his thinking towards the Soviets. I asked if anything along these lines had been discussed in their recent meeting, other than those already reported

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in the newspapers. POCAPON said that generally speaking the papers carried a good report of what went on at the meeting insofar as they were permitted to attend, however, POCAPON said that he did have a few minutes of very private conversation with HATOYAMA. HATOYAMA had enjoined POCAPON not to reveal the contents of this portion of the meeting to anyone and POCAPON asked me not to tell anyone either. The contents were as follows: POCAPON alleges that he questioned HATOYAMA as to the advisability of and or desirability of conducting negotiations with the Soviets in June. POCAPON said that he strongly differed in viewpoint with HATOYAMA as to the facility with which these peace negotiations could be carried out. POCAPON said that he told HATOYAMA that he felt JAPAN stood to lose much more than she could gain in the negotiations. HATOYAMA, in rebuttal to these remarks, is alleged to have told POCAPON that the HATOYAMA cabinet was in touch with certain high level sources on the American Side whose names he could not mention to POCAPON who were aware of the moves and aims of the HATOYAMA cabinet with respect to the Japanese-Soviet negotiations. HATOYAMA is then alleged to have continued by saying that in order to be successful in these negotiations it was necessary that the conservatives put up a unified platform with respect to foreign policy. POCAPON then turned to the subject of a trip to the US this year if he could get away.

14. POCAPON said that in order to be better informed as to the actual progress and change wrought in the America that he knew during his ASAHI newspaper days and now he wanted very much to go to the U.S. soon. He said that without first hand knowledge of the U.S. it was impossible to really get down to serious talking. POCAPON said he thought that if things went well he might like to go in the fall and travel around a bit rather than stay in Washington for the entire time he had to stay there. He said that without the ground floor vision it was hard to make any accurate estimation of the general situation. To illustrate this point he said that during the days he was Chief Cabinet secretary and deputy prime minister under YOSHIDA he was more directly aware of what was going on than he is now as head of the Liberal Party. He said that the higher one got the less details he was able to get out of his subordinates. He deplored the Japanese feeling of trying to keep the petty things from coming to the attention of the higher authorities. He said that it was refreshing to be able to talk with someone such as myself because I did not color my statements. I told him that this was only because I did not really know how to act or talk in the presence of important people and I was really probably too blunt and not subordinate enough. POCAPON said not to be worried about manners since that was the important thing.

15. Nakano who was sitting in the aisle seat next to me had dozed off to sleep. Glancing over my chest POCAPON suggested that if I had film in my camera I ought to take a picture. If it turned out well he asked to have an enlarged copy which he said he would send to Nakano's wife indicating to her as a joke

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this was an example of how strenuously Nakano worked. I took the picture and got some of POGAPON. After Nakano awoke I told him what I had done. By this time POGAPON had gone to sleep so at NAKANO's urging I took a picture of POGAPON dozing in his chair (probably the only picture of its kind)

16. Assisted by a strong tail wind we arrived at Haneda at 1630 hours 31 May. A group of about 20 people had come to the airport to see POGAPON. After a brief exchange of farewells POGAPON got into his vehicle and departed. I reclaimed my bags and proceeded on to my quarters.

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